

SICSA was delighted to welcome Professor Gregory Chaitin to Scotland as a distinguished visitor for two weeks at the end of August 2011. Prof. Chaitin is currently emeritus researcher at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center and also a visiting professor at the Computer Science Department of the University of Auckland.

An Argentine-American mathematician and computer scientist by background, Prof. Chaitin is an internationally leading researcher who has made profound and lasting contributions to Computer Science as a founder of Algorithmic Information Theory. He has written 12 books on AIT including the canonical text. He is particularly well known for his synthesis of classic computability theory with probability, his characterisation of randomness and his elaboration of the Omega number. His work has had outstanding impact and he has been honoured by the USA, Argentina, New Zealand, Belgium and Brazil. He was awarded the Leibniz Medal by the Wolfram Foundation in 2007.

As part of his fellowship with SICSA, Prof. Chaitin gave 5 one-day seminars at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities during his stay to a wide audience, including attendees who had come from as far afield as the Netherlands to hear him speak. The seminar topics, strongly linked to the SICSA themes of Complex Systems Engineering and Modelling and Abstraction, covered 'The Halting Probability Omega', 'Turing as a biologist', 'Algorithmic Info Theory Landscapes', 'Meta-Biology Landscapes' and 'Life as Evolving Software'.

The SICSA Distinguished Visitor Fellowship offers support to eminent researchers who wish to visit Scotland and lead workshops and seminars at SICSA institutions. There are usually three calls for applications for Distinguished Visitor funding per year and the current deadline for applications is 31 October 2011. If you are an academic working within a SICSA institution and wish to propose a distinguished visitor please contact admin@sicsa.ac.uk for further details.