

# A Conversation with Joe Gani

Chris Heyde

*Abstract.* Joe Gani was born in Cairo, Egypt, on 15 December 1924 and attended schools in Cairo and in Kobe, Japan. He commenced tertiary studies during World War II at the British Institute, Cairo, and continued in October 1945 at Imperial College, London, from which he graduated with a B.Sc. in 1947 and D.I.C. in 1948. He obtained his Ph.D. at the Australian National University in 1955.

His employment experience has been varied and international. He began as a science teacher in Cairo, 1942–1945. Next he was Demonstrator in Applied Mathematics, Imperial College, 1947–1948; Lecturer in Applied Mathematics, University of Melbourne, 1948–1950; and Lecturer in Mathematics, Birkbeck College, London, 1951.

He then returned to Australia and was a schoolteacher in the Victorian Education Department, 1952–1953; and Lecturer, 1953–1957, Senior Lecturer, 1957–1959, and Reader 1959–1960 in Mathematical Statistics, University of Western Australia and Senior Fellow in Statistics, Australian National University, 1961–1964. From there he went as Professor to the Department of Statistics, Michigan State University, 1964–1965, and thence to the United Kingdom where he became the first Professor of Probability and Statistics, University of Sheffield, 1965–1974, and later Director of the Manchester–Sheffield School of Probability and Statistics, 1967–1974. He returned again to Australia in 1974 and was Chief of the CSIRO Division of Mathematics and Statistics from 1974–1981. Subsequently, he was Professor and Chairman, Department of Statistics, University of Kentucky, 1981–1985, and Professor and Chairman, Statistics and Applied Probability Program (subsequently Department of Statistics and Applied Probability), University of California, Santa Barbara, 1985–1994. Currently he is a Visiting Fellow in the Stochastic Analysis Program, School of Mathematical Sciences, Australian National University.

He founded the *Journal of Applied Probability*, *Advances in Applied Probability*, *Mathematical Spectrum* and *The Mathematical Scientist*, and he created the Applied Probability Trust to publish these.

His distinguished career has been recognized by his election to Fellowship of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1966, the International Statistical Institute in 1968 and the Australian Academy of Science in 1976. He was made an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society in 1982 and an Honorary Life Member of the Statistical Society of Australia in 1983, and he was awarded the Pitman Medal of the Statistical Society of Australia in 1994.

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