

COLB Collegium Budapest – Institute for Advanced Study was founded in 1992 as an international research institute by a consortium of six European states and some private foundations. It is a multidisciplinary institute with a program comprising the humanities and the social sciences, as well as the theoretical natural sciences. With a small number of permanent fellows and some 35 outstanding scholars visiting each year, CB has established itself as a Centre of Excellence, and has been recognized as such by the European Commission in 2000. Recently it has become involved in two large scale FP6 Integrated Projects: EVERGROW (structure, stability and future of the internet) and ECAGENTS (possible evolution of communication between artificial agents – robots), and has built up a powerful information technology infrastructure. Last year CB won a major grant from the Hungarian National Office of Research and Technology and established a Centre of Complex Systems within the institute, with the mission of carrying out research in network data analysis including structural, stability and traffic studies in the global financial network, risk and risk governance, the power grid, and emergence, reliability and vulnerability of biological organizations. In order to carry out these programs, CB has developed close links with a number of Hungarian and foreign university groups, and has a team of about 30 additional researchers working on the projects.

Imre M. Janosi, born in 1963, MSc (physics, 1987), PhD (statistical physics, 1992), MA (European studies, 2000), associate professor at the Department of Physics of Complex Systems at Eötvös University. Author of 76 papers (44 in refereed journals). Guest research experience in Germany (3 years), Denmark (6 months), Brasil (2 months), and USA (1 months), several short visits and conference participations (over 30 occasions). Research interest: nonlinear time series analysis, geophysical fluid dynamics, statistical climatology, modeling biological systems and ecological networks, chaotic systems. Education: general physics, environmental fluid flows, nonlinear time series analysis, statistics.

Gábor Vattay, born 1965, PhD (statistical physics, 1994), full professor and head of the Department of Physics of Complex Systems at Eötvös University. He is the coordinator of the Large International Project "Cooperative Center for Communication Network Data Analysis" which includes the Complex Networks Research Center at Collegium Budapest – Institute for Advanced Study. He is board member of EXYSTENCE, a network of excellence in complex systems and subproject manager of the IST FET Complex Systems Integrated Project EVERGROW. His research interest includes modeling of dynamical systems, interdisciplinary application of statistical physics. In 2000 he funded the Communication Networks Laboratory at Eötvös University with the support of ERICSSON Research Sweden and his research interest shifted towards computer and communication networks. He published one book and about 50 per reviewed publications.

Imre Kondor is Rector of Collegium Budapest – Institute for Advanced Study, professor of physics at the Department of the Physics of Complex Systems, Eötvös University, Budapest, and titular professor of finance at Corvinus University, Budapest. In 1992 he founded Bolyai College, a school of excellence, in 1998 the Department of Market Risk Research at Raiffeisen Bank, where he held the office of director of risk management until 2002. He holds a PhD and DSc, three academic and two government prizes. He has published over 70 publications, including 65 research papers in international journals, 2 books and one e-volume. He is coeditor of Fractals, JSTAT, and review editor of Journal of Banking and Finance. His research experience includes the theory of condensed Bose systems, critical phenomena, random systems and spin glasses, and, presently, the application of statistical physics methods to problems in economics and finance (especially the theory of portfolios, risk management and risk regulation). Professor Kondor organized about 20 international conferences, the last one on Systemic Risk in the Financial Sector held in Budapest, 28-29 September 2005, has served as chairman or member on various grant committees and science policymaking bodies, including his present membership of the Technology and Research Policy Advisory Board to the Prime Minister of Hungary.