

Professor Joe Gani (1924-2016), mathematical statistician

Professor Joseph Gani was born in 1924, in Cairo, Egypt. He studied at Imperial College, London, and earned a BSc (hons) in 1947 and a DIC in 1948. He obtained a PhD in statistics from the Australian National University in 1955. In 1970 he was awarded a DSc from London University. Professor Gani moved to Australia in 1948 and worked as a lecturer in applied mathematics at the University of Melbourne from 1948 to 1950. From 1953 to 1960 he was associated with the University of Western Australia. In 1961 Professor Gani became a senior fellow in statistics at the ANU, where he stayed until 1964. For the next ten years he worked overseas, initially at the University of Michigan, USA, and subsequently, and primarily, as the first professor in Probability and Statistics at the University of Sheffield and as the founder of the Applied Probability Trust and editor of the *Journal of Applied Probability*. He returned to Australia in 1974 as chief of the CSIRO Division of Mathematics and Statistics. In 1981 he departed CSIRO and Australia again, for the USA. There, he was professor of statistics at the University of Kentucky (1981-1985) and professor of statistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara (1985-1994). In 1994 he retired and returned to Canberra as a visiting fellow to the School of Mathematical Sciences at ANU. His research areas over the years have included applied probability and statistics, epidemic modelling, biological models, statistical linguistics and inference on stochastic processes.