

Arlette Baljon grew up in The Netherlands, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics and a master's degree in theoretical physics at the University of Utrecht. Her MS thesis, with G. t'Hooft as supervisor, was on black hole dyons. In 1988 she moved to the United States and enrolled in the physics PhD program at the University of Chicago. There her research interest switched to polymer physics. In 1993 she completed a PhD thesis on associating polymers with T. Witten as supervisor. This was followed by a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins, where she studied adhesion and friction by means of large-scale computer simulations of polymeric systems under the supervision of M. Robbins. Subsequently, she earned a fellowship to continue her research at the Supercomputer Center at Cornell. In collaboration with chemists, chemical engineers, and material scientists she studied the dynamics of polymers in confined spaces and the formation of polymer/silicate nanocomposites. In the summer of 1999 she joined the physics faculty at San Diego State University, where she studies the dynamics of associating polymers under the influence of a variety of externally imposed strains and stresses. In addition, she participates in several collaborative research projects in the areas of soft matter and biophysics. She is married and has three children.