

# GIREP medal 2016 to Laurence Viennot

for significant and durable  
contributions at all levels to  
the physics education  
community



Laurence Viennot is an emeritus professor at Denis Diderot University. After five years of research in astrophysics, she moved to didactics of physics in 1971. She contributed in preparing new curricula in physics for secondary schools in France (1995-2000). She was a member of the first executive board of the European Science Education Research Association. She founded and headed a master in Didactics of Scientific Disciplines in the physics department of Diderot University in Paris. Her professional interest is in the quality of the teaching learning process, and has led her into research on common ways of reasoning in physics, design and evaluation of sequences and teachers' reaction to innovative interventions.

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She was partner in the European project Science Teacher Training in an Information Society (STTIS 1997-2001, resp. R. Pinto) together with Jon Ogborn and Elena Sassi. Contributed into the launch of the EPS-PED **MUSE project** (More Understanding with Simple Experiments) with Gorazd Planinsic, Elena Sassi and Christian Ucke, the under the auspices of the Physics Education Division of European Physical Society.

A large part of Laurence Viennot's research is synthesised in two books, *Reasoning in Physics* (Kluwer 2001, also in Spanish: *Razonar en fisica*, 2002, Antonio Machado) and *Teaching Physics* (Kluwer 2003).

Laurence Viennot was awarded the medal of International Commission of Physics Education in 2003 and of GIREP medal this year in WCPE in Sao Paolo.

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More recently, the links between conceptual understanding, critical reasoning and intellectual satisfaction became her main topic of research.

Her last books, *Thinking in Physics* and *The pleasure of Reasoning and Understanding* (Springer 2014), are widely inspired by this concern.

She offers to PER significant contributions in

10 books

44 international selected paper books

43 papers in important international peer review journals

45 papers in other peer review journal

More than 100 other publications