

James Binney graduated with a BA from Cambridge University in 1971, and with a doctorate from Oxford University in 1975. From 1975–1979 he was a Fellow by Examination of Magdalen College, Oxford. During 1976 he was a Lindemann Fellow at Princeton University, whither he returned in 1979 as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Astrophysical Sciences. In 1981 he became University Lecturer, and in March 1990 Ad Hominem Reader in Theoretical Physics at Oxford University. In July 1996 he became Professor of Physics at Oxford University. From 1981 he has been a Fellow and Tutor in Physics of Merton College, Oxford.

He has been a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society since 1973 and a Member of the American Astronomical Society since 1976. In 2000 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

During 1971/2 he was a DAAD Stipendiat at the Albert Ludwigs Universität, Freiburg i. Breisgau. During 1983 he was a Fairchild Distinguished Scholar and the California Institute of Technology. From 1984 – 1993 he was a regular visitor to the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, and has been a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University on several occasions.

During 1994–7 he was President of both Commission 33 and Division VII of the International Astronomical Union. He is currently a member of the Organizing Committee of Commission 28 of the IAU.

He was a member of the Theory Panel of the SERC (1986/8). For PPARC he has served on the Theoretical Research Assessment Panel (1997/9), the Joint Infrastructure Board (1999/2000), the Advanced LIGO oversight Committee (2003–2007), and the Astronomy Grants Panel (2005–2008), as well as several ad-hoc panels.

He has served Nottingham University, Leicester University, University College Dublin, and the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft as an assessor or review-committee member. He has been external examiner of PhD theses for the Universities of Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Ghent, Göteborg, Leiden, Marseilles, Paris, Princeton, Rutgers, and the Australian National University.

He was awarded Maxwell Prize and Medal by the Institute of Physics, London in 1986 and received the 2003 Brouwer Award of the American Astronomical Society.

His research concerns the structure, dynamics and formation of galaxies.

Books:

Galactic Astronomy, by Dimitri Mihalas and James Binney, Freeman 1981.

Galactic Dynamics, by James Binney and Scott Tremaine, Princeton University Press, 1988.

Pick for Humans by James Binney & Mark Newman, McGraw-Hill, 1990.

The Theory of Critical Phenomena by J. J. Binney, N. J. Dowrick, A. J. Fisher & M. E. J. Newman, Oxford University Press, 1992.

Galactic Astronomy, by James Binney and Michael Merrifield, Princeton University Press, 1998.