



LINDAU NOBEL LAUREATE MEETINGS

Lindau, 14 April 2021

Book Release: Nobel Life

Conversations with 24 Nobel Laureates on their life stories, advice for future generations and what remains to be discovered

“When I won, my grandma, who lives in Fargo, North Dakota, wanted to see it. I was going to visit so I decided I’d bring my Nobel Prize. You’d think that carrying around a Nobel Prize would be uneventful, and it was until I tried to leave Fargo with it and went through the X-ray machine. I could see they were puzzled. It was in my laptop bag. It’s made of gold, so it absorbs all the X-rays – it’s completely black. And they’d never seen anything completely black.”

This description by Brian Schmidt, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics, is just one of countless, equally entertaining, episodes that Lindau Alumnus Stefano Sandrone talks about with 24 Nobel Laureates.

Sandrone’s participation in the 64th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting was the starting point for *Nobel Life*, as this experience inspired the neuroscientist and current Senior Teaching Fellow at Imperial College London to follow up his exchange with the “stars of science” in the extensive form of a book.

The range of topics discussed on the more than 200 pages is extremely versatile as these examples show: Experiences with difficulties not only in science but also existential hardships in life in general – ideas on the meaning of life/the quest for the sense of life – basic science vs. applied science – ideas vs. technology – interdisciplinarity – competition vs. collaborative science – successful teams of scientists – mentoring – publishing/assessment criteria – funding – democratizing science (economically) – fake news – and even metaphysics of some sort.

As well as various cross references of science: science diplomacy – science communication – science and politics – science and society – science serving humanity – women in science – science and art/music – science and school – science and a family – online science/teaching.

In addition, readers also find suggestions for many more books and other media about science. And they find a number of practical career tips in this book. Scientists in particular get first-hand advice from Nobel Laureates on what to do when a call from Stockholm wakes you up – whether it’s in business class on an intercontinental flight or after taking a sleeping pill to purposely miss that very call.

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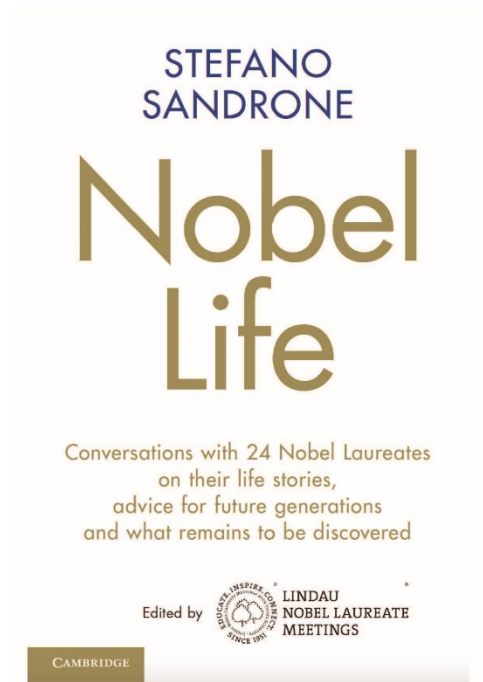
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Stefano Sandrone:
Conversations with 24 Nobel
Laureates on their life stories,
advice for future generations and
what remains to be discovered.

225 pages

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High-resolution cover:
download as [pdf](#) or [jpg](#) file

First Reviews/Advanced Praises

“Stefano Sandrone’s wonderful gift to the readers of this book is an opportunity to spend a few precious private moments with 24 Nobel Prize winners. There is wisdom and valuable advice in each chapter but it is the insights into each Nobelist as a real person, with real life stories that makes this book very special.”

Magdalena Skipper, Editor in Chief of Nature

“*Nobel Life* offers tantalising glimpses into the Nobel Prize winners’ works, their ideas and their personalities. Showing the humanity of some and the humanness of all, we see curiosity and creativity, collaboration and competition, selfishness and generosity, graciousness and haughtiness.

Shirley M. Malcom, Head of Education and Human Resources Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

“In these touching conversational portraits of Nobel laureates the reader is invited to follow their scientific quest and personal life trajectories, often marked by unexpected turns. Stefano Sandrone succeeds in revealing the human side of brilliant scientists who emerge as individuals with their passions and quirks, yet humble and with a sense of social responsibility.”

Helga Nowotny, Former President of the European Research Council



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“No interviews have ever discussed all the facets of the lives of these explorers of unknown territories in the sciences and medicine. The author has formulated intelligent questions to intelligent people.”

Anders Bárány, Former Deputy Director of the Nobel Museum

Description/Blurb (Source: [Cambridge University Press](#))

Few people have changed the world like the Nobel Prize winners. Their breakthrough discoveries have revolutionised medicine, chemistry, physics and economics. *Nobel Life* consists of original interviews with twenty-four Nobel Prize winners. Each of them has a unique story to tell. They recall their eureka moments and the challenges they overcame along the way, give advice to inspire future generations and discuss what remains to be discovered. Engaging and thought-provoking, *Nobel Life* provides an insight into life behind the Nobel Prize winners. A call from Stockholm turned a group of twenty-four scientists into Nobel Prize winners. This is their call to the next generations worldwide.

Nobel Laureates Interviewed and Titles of the Chapters

Peter Agre: Eureka and Disney World – Françoise Barré-Sinoussi: I'll Show You What a Woman Can Do – Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Hamilton O. Smith: Christmas and Carol – Martin Chalfie, Hamilton O. Smith and Johann Deisenhofer: Mentoring – Aaron Ciechanover and Edmond H. Fischer: Toys' Story – Richard R. Ernst: Flying High – Roald Hoffmann: The Periodic Table – Tim Hunt: Clarity – Daniel Kahneman: Words and People – Eric R. Kandel and Torsten N. Wiesel: Memory and Vision – Allan Penzias, Hamilton O. Smith and David J. Gross: The Big Bang Practice – John C. Mather: Houston, We Have a Solution and Many Questions – Kary B. Mullis: Rocket Science – Roger B. Myerson: Leadership and Society – Venkatraman Ramakrishnan: Know Thyself – Randy W. Schekman: Impact Factors – Brian P. Schmidt: À la Recherche of Space and Time – Robert M. Solow: Of Kings and Cabbages – Roger Y. Tsien: A Stroke of Colour

About the Author

Dr Stefano Sandrone is an Italian neuroscientist working at Imperial College London. He was selected as a young scientist at the 64th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Physiology and Medicine. He was awarded the Julia Higgins Award and the President's Award from Imperial College London, the Science Educator Award presented by the Society for Neuroscience, and the H. Richard Tyler Award, the Lawrence C. McHenry Award and the A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award from the American Academy of Neurology.



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About the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

Since their foundation in 1951, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings have developed into a unique international scientific forum. The annual Meetings provide an opportunity for an exchange between different generations, cultures and disciplines. The theme of the Lindau Meetings alternates between Physics, Chemistry or Physiology and Medicine – the three Nobel Prize scientific disciplines. Every five years an interdisciplinary Meeting takes place, while the Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences is held every three years. Through the medium of various declarations (2020 for Open Sciences, 2015 on Climate Change, 1955 against the Use of Nuclear Weapons,) the scientists have repeatedly joined in the public debate with political appeals.

It was the Lindau physicians Franz Karl Hein and Gustav Wilhelm Parade who approached Count Lennart Bernadotte af Wisborg with the idea of a conference of Nobel Laureates and proceeded to jointly implement this with him – since 1953 with the participation of young scientists. Some 35,000 students, PhD candidates and post-docs have since taken part. Their experience of the Meeting may be literally once-in-a-lifetime, but they remain permanent members of the Lindau Alumni Network and ambassadors for scientific dialogue.

All year long the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings continue to pursue their “Mission Education” aimed at emphasising the importance of science and advocating science and research. This is also the purpose for which the online mediatheque is being developed into a learning platform which includes teaching materials for schools.

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