

WINNER OF *CARL SAGAN PRIZE FOR SCIENCE POPULARIZATION* ANNOUNCED

SAN FRANCISCO — Wonderfest, the 24-year-old Bay Area Beacon of Science, announced today that psychologist Dr. Alison Gopnik has won the 2021 *Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization*.

Wonderfest's Sagan Prize is presented specifically to recognize and encourage researchers who "have contributed mightily to the public understanding and appreciation of science." Past Sagan Prize winners include UC Berkeley gene editor Jennifer Doudna, SETI Institute astronomer Jill Tarter, and Stanford Nobel Laureate Paul Berg. The prize includes a \$5000 cash award.

"Wonderfest was born in 1997, just a few months after the death of researcher and popularizer Carl Sagan," notes the organization's founding executive director, Tucker Hiatt. "Wonderfest's work has been dedicated to Sagan's memory ever since. Sagan would be proud to know that Alison Gopnik, so renowned for her research and her outreach, has received Wonderfest's Sagan Prize for 2021."

Wonderfest is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to informal science education and popularization, particularly among adults in the San Francisco Bay Area. When pandemic constraints allow, Wonderfest produces in-person science events — and their online videos — in an effort to "enlarge the concept of scientific community." Wonderfest also produces "Science Envoy" workshops to develop the science communication skills of Bay Area PhD students.

Gopnik is Professor of Psychology and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. She earned her bachelor's degree from McGill University, and her PhD from Oxford University, UK.

Having written over 100 technical articles, Gopnik is globally known for her research in cognitive science, particularly the study of children's learning and development. She is a fellow of the Cognitive Science Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and she is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Gopnik is a dedicated science communicator. She has written some five popular books including *The Scientist in the Crib*, *The Philosophical Baby*, and, most recently, *The Gardener and the Carpenter: What the New Science of Child Development Tells Us About the Relationship Between Parents and Children*. She also writes the "Mind and Matter" column for the Wall Street Journal, and her TED talk has been viewed nearly five million times.

Additional information: <http://wonderfest.org/sagan-prize>

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