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"Asimov" redirects here. For other uses, see [Asimov \(disambiguation\)](#).

## Isaac Asimov



Photo 1959

<b>Born</b>	c. January 2, 1920 <a href="#">[a]</a> <a href="#">Petrovichi</a> , Russia
<b>Died</b>	April 6, 1992 (aged 72) New York City, New York, U.S.
<b>Occupation</b>	Writer, professor of <a href="#">biochemistry</a>
<b>Citizenship</b>	United States
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">Columbia University</a> ( <a href="#">BS</a> , <a href="#">MA</a> , <a href="#">PhD</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science fiction<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">hard SF</a></li><li>• <a href="#">social SF</a></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Genre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">mystery</a></li><li>• <a href="#">popular science</a></li></ul>
<b>Subject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Popular science</a></li><li>• science <a href="#">textbooks</a></li><li>• essays</li><li>• <a href="#">history</a></li><li>• <a href="#">literary criticism</a></li></ul>
<b>Literary movement</b>	<a href="#">Golden Age of Science Fiction</a>
<b>Years active</b>	1939–1992 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gertrude Blugerman</li></ul>
<b>Spouse</b>	

- ( 1942; 1973)
- [Janet Opal Jeppson](#)

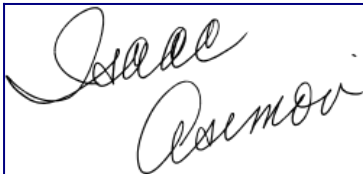
( 1973)

**Children**            2

**Relatives**

- [Stanley Asimov](#) (brother)
- [Eric Asimov](#) (nephew)

**Signature**



### Scientific career

<b>Fields</b>	<a href="#">Biochemistry</a>
<b>Institutions</b>	<a href="#">Boston University</a>
<b><u>Thesis</u></b>	<i><a href="#">The kinetics of the reaction inactivation of tyrosinase during its catalysis of the aerobic oxidation of catechol</a></i> (1948)
<b><u>Doctoral advisor</u></b>	Charles Reginald Dawson
<b>Other academic advisors</b>	<a href="#">Robert Elderfield</a> (post-doctoral)

**Isaac Asimov** (/ˈæzɪmɒv/ *AZ-im-ov*;[b]lc] c. January 2, 1920[a] – April 6, 1992) was an American writer and professor of [biochemistry](#) at [Boston University](#). During his lifetime, Asimov was considered one of the "Big Three" [science fiction](#) writers, along with [Robert A. Heinlein](#) and [Arthur C. Clarke](#).[2] A prolific writer, he wrote or edited more than 500 books. He also wrote an estimated 90,000 letters and [postcards](#).[d] Best known for his [hard science fiction](#), Asimov also wrote [mysteries](#) and [fantasy](#), as well as [popular science](#) and other [non-fiction](#).

Asimov's most famous work is the [Foundation](#) series,[3] the first three books of which won the one-time [Hugo Award](#) for "Best All-Time Series" in 1966.[4] His other major series are the *Galactic Empire* series and the [Robot](#) series, which include major works such as [The Caves of Steel](#) and "The Naked Sun", both written in the mid-1950s. The *Galactic Empire* novels are set in the much earlier history of the same fictional universe as the *Foundation* series. Later, with [Foundation and Earth](#) (1986), he linked this distant future to the *Robot* series, creating a unified "[future history](#)" for his works.[5] He also wrote [more than 380 short stories](#), including the [social science fiction](#) novelette "[Nightfall](#)", which in 1964 was voted the best short science fiction story of all time by the [Science Fiction Writers of America](#). Asimov wrote the [Lucky Starr](#) series of [juvenile](#) science-fiction novels using the pen name Paul French.[6]

Most of his popular science books explain concepts in a historical way, going as far back as possible to a time when the science in question was at its simplest stage. Examples include [Guide to Science](#), the three-volume [Understanding Physics](#), and Asimov's *Chronology of Science and Discovery*. He wrote on numerous other scientific and non-scientific topics, such as [chemistry](#), [astronomy](#), [mathematics](#), [history](#), [biblical exegesis](#), and [literary criticism](#).

He was the president of the [American Humanist Association](#).<sup>[7]</sup> Several entities have been named in his honor, including the [asteroid \(5020\) Asimov](#),<sup>[8]</sup> a [crater](#) on [Mars](#),<sup>[9][10]</sup> a [Brooklyn elementary school](#),<sup>[11]</sup> [Honda's humanoid robot ASIMO](#),<sup>[12]</sup> and [four literary awards](#).