

Lauri Eskola

* 27.5.1940 † 11.8.2022



Professor Emeritus Lauri (Lassi) Olavi Eskola was born on 27 May 1940 in Eura and died on 11 August 2022 from Parkinson's disease. Eskola dedicated his life to working in geophysics at the Geological Survey of Finland, especially with electromagnetic prospecting methods.

Eskola matriculated from the Eura upper secondary school in 1960, studied physics at the University of Helsinki and earned his bachelor's degree in 1966. As a postgraduate student, Eskola focused on geophysics and defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Oulu in 1978. In 1966 Eskola started working as a geophysicist at what is now known as the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK), first at the Department of Exploration 1966–1979, then as state geophysicist at the Department of Geophysics 1979–1981 and as Head of Department starting from 1981. Eskola was appointed professor in 1981. He went on to serve the GTK all the way until his retirement in 2003.

He was elected as a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in 2003.

Lauri Eskola was particularly interested in potential fields and electromagnetic methods in applied geophysics, which were and still are some of the main tools used in prospecting. Eskola never compromised his skills in physics and mathematics, and expected the same from his colleagues. In 1992 he published the textbook *Geophysical Interpretation Using Integral Equations*, which provides a theoretical foundation for applying integral equations to boundary-value problems that are common in geophysics. Lauri Eskola led a group at the Geological Survey of Finland that developed interpretation and modelling methods for galvanic and electromagnetic prospecting methods. His colleagues had numerous discussions and debates with him, especially about science, but also about many other themes in life. Eskola would always defend basic research and science at the ever-changing GTK. Eskola had a passion for classical music and played the piano and had also played the trombone when he was younger.

Ilmo Kukkonen