

Nicolas Rashevsky

Nicholas Rashevsky (1899-1972) was a Ukrainian-American theoretical biologist who pioneered mathematical biology.^[1]

He was trained as a theoretical physicist in Russia and immigrated to the USA in 1924, where he worked for Westinghouse Research Labs in Pittsburgh where he got interested in the physics of cell division. In 1934 he went to the University of Chicago on a Rockefeller Fellowship and became an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology. In 1938 he published the first edition of his magnum opus *Mathematical Biophysics* and in 1939 founded the *Bulletin of Mathematical Biophysics*.

His later efforts focused on topology of biological systems and the formulation of fundamental principles in biology and hierarchical organization of organisms and human societies.^[2]

However his ideas found little support amongst practicing biologists, and in 1954 the budget for his Committee of Mathematical Biology was drastically cut.

Notes & References

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[1] Evelyn Fox Keller *Making Sense of Life* pp82-89

[2] Planet Math page (<http://planetmath.org/encyclopedia/NicolasRashevsky.html>)

Links

- Books by Rashevsky (<http://openlibrary.org/a/OL2010564A/Nicolas-Rashevsky>)

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