

2025 RSC COLLEGE MEETING

MAY 21-22 | MONTREAL

MCGILL
UNIVERSITY

RSC College Meeting: The Future of Academia, in Canada and Globally

May 21-22 | McGill University, Maass Chemistry Building, Room 217

Wednesday, May 21, 2025	
12:00 pm	Opening Remarks
12:15 pm	<p>Inclusive Excellence: Reflecting Upon an Institutional Responsibility</p> <p>Diversity has become an important topic of concern in many areas of human endeavour in Canada. In some institutional contexts, diversity is principally understood as a human resources issue in which activities such as hiring practices and interview processes have been subject to scrutiny and change to develop a more diverse workforce. In other contexts, diversity is thought to be achieved through consideration for and change of intended impacts upon people external to an institution (e.g., media campaigns that focus on consumers of different backgrounds for the purposes of profit). For institutions such as the Royal Society of Canada, diversity may be made complex by the multiplicity of purposes to which the RSC must minister. The RSC, and universities in Canada, are at once places for higher learning, research, and home to collectives of public intellectuals who provide their expertise that informs innovation and support of the public good. Not only is the academy in Canada concerned with the discovery of knowledge but is now rightfully concerned with how that knowledge adequately reflects those aspects of diversity that are valued in Canada.</p> <p>One way of considering how diversity may be understood in the academy is through the consideration of knowledge production and how it is often reflected in the purpose of the academic endeavour: the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. If one considers the breadth of diversity that may (and should) inform the sorts of knowledge that are studied in universities, then diversity may need to be understood within a paradigm of inclusion – the process through which an institution enables individuals of diverse backgrounds to participate in the activities of the collective in ways that are meaningful.</p> <p>This keynote address will explore the developing topic of inclusive excellence as a means of framing the responsibilities of institutions of higher learning to include diversity – broadly regarded – in their respective areas of endeavour. With a focus upon institutional priorities and culture, this address will develop an argument that necessary attention must be given not just to consideration of diversity, but the more complex conversation regarding how diversity is reflected in academic achievement and excellence. This address will close with a potential frame through which inclusive excellence may be imagined for particular institutions and communities.</p>
	<p>Speaker</p> <p>Frank Deer, Past President, RSC College, Professor of Indigenous Education, University of Manitoba</p>
1:15 pm	Interdisciplinary Working Groups Breakout Sessions – Set Up of Objectives
1:30 pm	Interdisciplinary Working Groups Breakout Sessions – Work in Breakout Rooms
3:15 pm	Return to General Session - Interdisciplinary Working Group Presentations
4:15 pm	<p>ARDA Session</p>
	<p>Speaker</p> <p>Ana Andrezza, RSC College, Professor, Departments of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Psychiatry, University of Toronto</p>
5:00 pm	Break
6:00 pm	Dinner

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Thursday, May 22, 2025	
9:00 am	Opening Remarks
9:15 am	Ecosystem for Sustainable Innovation Toward Sustainable Science and Society in 2040: The Japan Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation – 30 minutes • Q&A Session – 10-15 minutes
	Panelists Kei Kano , Science Council of Japan Ryuma Shineha , Vice-Chair, Science Council of Japan, Young Academy of Japan
10:00 am	Discussion on Collaborations Between Academies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation – 30 minutes • Q&A Session – 10-15 minutes
	Speakers Kerstin Pahl , Member of the Board, Die Junge Akademie, Germany Ruth Scherz-Shouval
11:00 am	Seeding Collaboration with Global Young Academies Group work and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes for collaborative work • Work towards building a survey of our membership on challenges faced by early/mid-career academics
	Host Audrey Moores , President, RSC College, Professor and Associate Director of the Facility for Electron Microscopy Research (FEMR)
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	Webinar What is Canadian Secularism? Canadians find ourselves at a time when the nature and demands of “secularism” in Canada are both unclear and highly contested. The most immediate and high-profile touchstone for debates about secularism in Canada is Quebec’s <i>Act respecting the laicity of the State</i> , which regulates the wearing of religious symbols in Quebec in the name of a brand of secularism, while invoking the notwithstanding clause in the <i>Charter</i> to do so — the latter being the focus of a case to be heard at the Supreme Court of Canada. But debating and wrestling with the public status of religion in Canada has a deep history that interacts with political principles or ideals like multiculturalism, pluralism, sovereignty, neutrality and equality. When this is combined with the highly indeterminate and unstable concept of “secularism” itself, we are left with a nest of difficult questions to think through. Basic among those questions is the title of this webinar: “What is Canadian Secularism?” This webinar brings together experts in religious studies, anthropology, political science, and law together to explore the different understandings of secularism at play in Canada, and various frameworks that can help us better understand the contemporary politics of religious difference in Canada.
	Panelists Ben Berger , RSC College, Professor and York Research Chair in Pluralism and Public Law, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University Allison Harell , RSC College, Professor, Department of Political Science, Université du Québec à Montréal Pamela Klassen , FRSC, Professor; Chair & Graduate Chair, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto David Koussens , RSC College, Professor, Faculty of Law, Université de Sherbrooke
2:30 pm	College Council Portfolios/Council Business
4:00 pm	Conclusion