

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 | 2001 McGill College Avenue

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 McGill University 2001 McGill College Avenue, Room 735		
12:00 pm	Opening Remarks	
12:15 pm	Inclusive Excellence: Reflecting Upon an Institutional Responsibility	
	<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>	
	Speaker	Frank Deer, Past President, RSC College, Professor of Indigenous Education, University of Manitoba
1:15 pm	Interdisciplinary Working Groups Breakout Sessions - Set Up of Objectives	
	1. Ask Canada: Toward stronger quantitative social science in Canada	
	2. Ableism and Disabilities Dialogues (WADD)	
	3. Research Languages and Cultures as Liminal Spaces and Research Tools	
	4. The State of Knowledge of Trans and Non-binary Youth Wellbeing	
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	ARDAA Session	
	Speaker	Ana Andrezza, RSC College, Professor, Departments of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Psychiatry, University of Toronto
5:00 pm	Break	
6:00 pm	Dinner	

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Thursday, May 22, 2025 McGill University 2001 McGill College Avenue, Room 461		
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 minutesQ&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 minutesQ&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 workWork 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	Benjamin 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	

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Interdisciplinary Working Groups Breakout Sessions

The College Interdisciplinary Working Groups will have an opportunity to meet in parallel sessions and discuss matters of importance to them. All participants will be encouraged to join one of the groups depending on their interest and participate in the discussions.

1. Ask Canada: Toward stronger quantitative social science in Canada

Ask Canada led by Kate Sherren: This 2025-created IRG will be meeting for the first time. Their focus is on addressing the gap we have in Canada in quantitative social research methods (e.g., surveys, social media). In many fields, we suffer from inadequate data infrastructure (e.g., sampling frames), inattention to policy settings to support academic research (e.g., open data, API access), and typically small, atomized academic teams that experience significant transaction costs in deploying the tools that do exist. In this breakout session we hope to recruit people who are using quantitative social methods in Canada (particularly those focused on population-level research) to serve as IRG members and/or provide expert insight.

2. Ableism and Disabilities Dialogues (WADD)

Working group on Ableism and Disabilities Dialogues (WADD) led by Emilio Alarcon and Prévost Jantchou: This 2025-created IRG is starting within the College an important discussion on the topic of Ableism and Disabilities. This break out room will be an opportunity to recruit new and diverse members and plan first actions.

3. Research Languages and Cultures as Liminal Spaces and Research Tools

Languages of research, liminal spaces and dialogues led by Nicole Nolette (bilingual session): This IRG will use the break out room to continue the work on the write up of an article on the topic.

4. The State of Knowledge of Trans and Non-binary Youth Wellbeing

The State of Knowledge of Trans and Non-binary Youth wellbeing led by Annie Pullen-Sansfaçon: This IRG will use the break out session to discuss accomplishment and plan future activities.