

Allison Sekuler

Associate Vice President and Dean, Graduate Studies at McMaster University

Hamilton, ON, CA

Dr. Sekuler is a Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour with expertise in vision, aging, higher education, & diversity issues.

Biography

Dr. Allison Sekuler completed her BA, double majoring in Mathematics and Psychology at Pomona College, 1986; and her PhD in Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, 1990. She was the first Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience (2001-2011), and is a Professor, Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour at McMaster University.

Her current research is funded by NSERC and CIHR, and focuses on vision science, aging, cognitive neuroscience, neural plasticity, learning, face perception, and neurotechnology. Dr. Sekuler has conducted foundational, applied, and clinical research (including research in schizophrenia and autism).

Dr. Sekuler is also an expert in broader areas of higher education, including interdisciplinarity, internationalization, professional development training, and equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI); and she has won numerous national and international awards for research, teaching and leadership.

Dr. Sekuler has over a decade of experience in University-level administration, serving as McMaster's first Associate Vice-President (Research), as Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Studies, and twice as the interim Vice-President (Research). Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Sekuler spearheaded McMaster's unique Indigenous Undergraduate Summer Research Scholar Program; supported interdisciplinary academic and research programs, including creation of the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute; and led development of MyGradSkills.ca, a free online professional skills training program for graduate students. She currently is leading development of @mentorsWISE, a virtual mentoring program for women in science and engineering.

Dr. Sekuler is committed to knowledge translation, serving as President of the Royal Canadian Institute for the advancement of science; creating video columns for Discovery Channel; developing public outreach programs, such as Science in the City; popularizing international programs like Café Scientifique and the 3 Minute Thesis in Canada; and co-founding the successful #ScienceSunday platform.

She has served on and chaired provincial, federal, and international grant review panels and boards related to her research and to education. She currently serves on the Board of Governors for Hillfield Strathallan College; the Governing Board for the Ontario Council of Universities (co-Chair, Academic Colleagues); and NSERC's Committee on Discovery Research (Chair, Fellowships & Scholarships).

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Social Media, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Aging, Face and Object Recognition, Perceptual Organization, Pattern Vision, Motion Perception, Autism, Learning, Neural Plasticity, Neuroimaging, Neurotechnology, Higher Education, Professional Development Training , Women in Science and Engineering, Interdisciplinarity, Internationalization, Graduate Studies

Affiliations

Professor of Psychology Neuroscience & Behaviour McMaster University, Member McMaster Integrative Neuroscience Discovery & Study Graduate Program McMaster University, Member School of Computational Science and Engineering Graduate Program McMaster University, Adjunct Member Centre for Vision Research York University

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. Psychology

Pomona College

B.A. Mathematics and Psychology

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