



MIT
COMMENCEMENT

20
26

MIT School of Science

Advanced Degree Ceremony

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

3:00 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium

Lord Swraj Paul PC '52 and Angad Paul '92 Theater

2026 Commencement Speaker

Alison Gopnik

Alison Gopnik is professor of psychology and affiliate professor of philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley, and a member of the Berkeley AI Research Group. She received her BA from McGill University



and her PhD from Oxford University. She is a leader in cognitive science, particularly the study of learning and development. She was a founder of the field of “theory of mind”, an originator of the “theory theory” of cognitive development, and the first to apply Bayesian models to children’s learning. She has received the APS Lifetime Achievement, Cattell, and William James Awards, the SRCD Lifetime Achievement Award, the APA Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award, the Bradford Washburn and Carl Sagan Awards for Science Communication, and the Rumelhart Prize for Theoretical Foundations of Cognitive Science. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Cognitive Science Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Guggenheim Fellow. She was 2022-23 President of the Association for Psychological Science.

She is the author of more than 160 journal articles and several books including the bestselling and critically acclaimed popular books *The Scientist in the Crib*, 1999, *The Philosophical Baby*, 2009, and *The Gardener and the Carpenter*, 2016. She has written widely about cognitive science and psychology for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and *The Atlantic*, among others. Her TED talk has been viewed more than 5.6 million times.

Welcome

Dean Nergis Mavalvala

Curtis (1963) and Kathleen Marble Professor of Astrophysics

Commencement address

Alison Gopnik

Professor of Psychology and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy,
University of California at Berkeley

Conferring of degrees

Master's recipients

Department of Biology

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by Mary Gehring, David Baltimore Chair in Biomedical Research and Professor of Biology

Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by James DiCarlo, Peter de Florez Professor of Neuroscience; Director, Siegel Family Quest for Intelligence; Investigator, McGovern Institute for Brain Research

Department of Chemistry

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by Matthew Shoulders, Department Head and Class of 1942 Professor of Chemistry

Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by David McGee, Department Head and William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences; Director, Terrascope First-Year Learning Community

Department of Mathematics

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by Michel Goemans, Department Head and RSA Professor of Mathematics

Department of Physics

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by Scott Hughes, Interim Associate Department Head, Professor of Physics; Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow

MIT–Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Doctoral recipients

- Investiture by Mick Follows, Rudge (1948) and Nancy Allen Professor of Oceanography, Professor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, MIT Director of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program

Diplomas

Please visit commencement.mit.edu for a list of degree recipients. For more information about diplomas, please visit: registrar.mit.edu/transcripts-records/diplomas.

Accessibility

Accessible seating and accommodations provided by MIT Disability and Access Services. Scan this QR code for a closed caption stream provided by MIT Audiovisual Services.

