

Maydianne C.B. Andrade PhD, FRCGS



Biology Researcher
Equity Educator
Science communicator
Public Speaker

BioSketch

Maydianne C.B. Andrade is an award-winning Biologist, Professor, and the Dean of Science at York University. Her research examines how social and environmental variables shape organismal traits and species diversity, with a focus on the influence of mating behaviour in black widow spiders. She has increased inclusive practice in science as co-founder and inaugural President of the Canadian Black Scientists Network, founder and Co-Chair of the Toronto Initiative for Diversity and Excellence. A sought-after speaker and science communicator, Professor Andrade's dedication to public engagement includes a podcast, interviews and panels on CBC radio, and creative work on and off screen in nature documentaries.

Maydianne Andrade (she/her/they) is a biologist whose research examines the evolution of species diversity across variable environments, with a focus on studies of social and sexual traits of black widow spiders.

Her expertise in ecology, evolution, entomology (insect biology) and arachnology (spider biology) has been recognized by election to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and she has been named a Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society, and of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Professor Andrade is a Professor and Dean of Science at York, following a 25 year career at the University of Toronto, where she was promoted to its highest academic rank: University Professor.

Dedicated to fostering more inclusive academic cultures, Professor Andrade is founder of the Toronto Initiative for Diversity and Excellence, a group dedicated to peer-to-peer, practical education on equity and inclusion. At a national level, she is a co-founder and was inaugural President of the Canadian Black Scientists Network/ Réseau Canadien des Scientifiques Noirs. Professor Andrade's impactful leadership has led to profiles on her work as a Changemaker in University Affairs and in Nature magazine. Most recently, she received the Trailblazer Award from the Canadian Science Policy Centre and the President's Award for Excellence in Societal Engagement from the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution.

Professor Andrade is a sought-after science communicator who has prioritized public engagement throughout her career. Her most recent creative outputs include a podcast on navigating the pandemic lockdown (*The New Normal*), and panel discussions and interviews on CBC Radio (*Ideas, Quirks & Quarks*). Comfortable on and off camera, Professor Andrade's involvement in three episodes of *The Nature of Things* includes work as cast, and most recently as concept creator and story editor (*Bug Sex: It's Complicated*, 2023).

