

Dr Mahsa McCauley



Computer Engineer and Associate Professor at AUT

Chair of the AI Forum New Zealand

Commissioner for the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

Fulbright Scholar

New Zealand of the Year finalist

Topic: AI Under One Sky: Rethinking Education and the Future of Work



Dr. Mahsa McCauley is a globally recognised leader in artificial intelligence, known for her pioneering research, strategic influence, and unwavering commitment to diversity in technology. Her journey into computing began at age seven, when she helped her father build a computer, igniting a lifelong passion for technology. This early curiosity led her to pursue a PhD at Massey University, where she developed a groundbreaking hybrid machine translation system for English and Persian, combining statistical and linguistic techniques to improve translation accuracy.

As an Associate Professor at Auckland University of Technology, Mahsa blends academic leadership with real-world impact. She has supervised over 70 research projects and authored more than 80 publications across AI, machine learning, cybersecurity, and natural language processing. Her recent work includes the development of the Scaffolded AI Literacy (SAIL) framework for education and advancements in neural networks for sound event detection.

Mahsa's influence extends beyond academia. She serves as Chair of AI Forum NZ and holds board positions with NZTech, EdTech, and the AI Research Association, shaping national AI policy and research. Internationally, she contributes as a Fulbright Scholar at North Carolina A&T State University, collaborating on AI applications in agriculture and cybersecurity.

In 2014, Mahsa founded She Sharp, a non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering women and non-binary individuals in technology. Under her leadership, She Sharp has grown to over 2,000 members and hosted more than 80 events, partnering with organisations like Google, Microsoft, and Xero to inspire the next generation of tech leaders. Mahsa's contributions have been recognised with numerous accolades, including the 2023 Unsung Hero Award at the Women in Security Awards, the 2020 Massey University Distinguished Alumni Award, and the 2019 YWCA Equal Pay Champion Award. A sought-after speaker and media commentator, Mahsa has addressed over 60 conferences and events, and regularly appears on platforms like TVNZ, The AM Show, and Radio NZ, discussing topics ranging from AI ethics to the future of work.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mahsa is an avid participant in the Iron Māori triathlon and enjoys home decorating and spending quality time with her family. She believes that taking a complete break from work allows her to return with fresh ideas and perspectives. Dr. Mahsa McCauley's remarkable leadership, expertise in AI, and unwavering dedication to empowering women in technology make her a highly influential figure in academia and the tech community.



www.mahsamccauley.com



mahsa.mohaghegh@aut.ac.nz



021 435 595



Dr Mahsa McCauley (Mohaghegh)