

Steven Pinker

Date of Birth: September 18, 1954. Citizenship: Canada & US.

Education

Diploma of College Studies, Dawson College, 1973.

Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors in Psychology), McGill University, 1976.

Doctor of Philosophy (Experimental Psychology), Harvard University, 1979.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Cognitive Science, MIT, 1979-80.

Academic Positions

2003- Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

1982-2003 Asst., Assoc., Peter de Florez Professor, Dept. of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT

1981-1982 Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Stanford University

1980-1981 Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Harvard University

Selected Honors and Awards

Humanist of the Year, Humanists International, 2020.

Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy, Simon Fraser University, 2019.

Global Leadership Award, Global Canada, 2019.

Carl Sagan Award, Council of Scientific Society Presidents, 2018

William James Award for Lifetime Achievement, Association for Psychological Science, 2016.

Ramon y Cajal Award, International Neuropsychiatric Association, 2013

Cundill Recognition of Excellence Prize in History, 2012 (for *The Better Angels of Our Nature*)

George A. Miller Prize, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, 2010.

Honorary President, Canadian Psychological Association, 2008.

Harvard College Professorship, 2008-2013.

Humanist of the Year, American Humanist Association, 2006.

Henry Dale Prize, The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 2004.

Finalist, Pulitzer Prize, 2003 (*The Blank Slate*), 1998 (*How the Mind Works*)

William James Book Prize, American Psychological Association, 2003, 1999, 1995

Public Interest Award, Linguistics Society of America, 1997.

School of Science Teaching Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, MIT, 2001.

Troland Research Award, National Academy of Sciences, April 1993.

Graduate Student Council Teaching Award, MIT, 1986.

Boyd R. McCandless Young Scientist Award, American Psychological Association, 1986.

Distinguished Early Career Contribution, American Psychological Association, 1984.

Elected Fellowships in Scholarly Societies

National Academy of Sciences; Linguistic Society of America; The American Academy of Political and Social Science; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Neurosciences Research Program; American Psychological Association; Association for Psychological Science; American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Honorary Doctorates

McGill University, 1999; Tel Aviv University, 2003; University of Surrey, 2003; University of Newcastle, 2005; Albion College, 2007; University of Tromsø, 2008; Mt. Allison University, 2012; Simon Fraser University, 2014; University of Reading, 2017; University of Bucaramanga, 2020.

Selected Professional Activities

Chair, Usage Panel, *American Heritage Dictionary*, 2008-2018.

Jury, Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Excellence in the Literature of Diversity, 2002- .

Executive Associate Editor, *Cognition: International Journal of Cognitive Science*, 1985-2006.

Books

Language Learnability and Language Development. Harvard University Press, 1984. New ed. 1996.

Learnability and Cognition: The Acquisition of Argument Structure. MIT Press, 1989. New ed. 2013.

The Language Instinct. HarperCollins, 1994. New ed. 2007.

How the Mind Works. Norton, 1997. New ed. 2009.

Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language. HarperCollins, 1999. New ed. 2011.

The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature. Penguin, 2002. New ed. 2016

The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature. Penguin, 2007.

The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined. Penguin, 2011.

Language, Cognition, and Human Nature: Selected Articles. Oxford University Press, 2013.

The Sense of Style: A Writing Manual for the 21st Century. Penguin, 2014.

Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress, Penguin, 2018.

Selected Publications in Scholarly Journals

Pinker, S. (1979). Formal models of language learning. *Cognition*, 7, 217-283.

Pinker, S. & Prince, A. (1988) On language and connectionism: Analysis of a parallel distributed processing model of language acquisition. *Cognition*, 28, 73-193.

Tarr, M. J. & Pinker, S. (1989) Mental rotation and orientation-dependence in shape recognition. *Cognitive Psychology*, 21, 233-282.

Pinker, S. & Bloom, P. (1990) Natural language and natural selection. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 13, 707-784.

Pinker, S. (1991) Rules of language. *Science*, 253, 530-535.

Marcus, G., Pinker, S., Ullman, M., Hollander, M., Rosen, T. J. & Xu, F. (1992) Overregularization in language acquisition. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 57.

Pinker, S. & Jackendoff, R. (2005) What's special about the human language faculty? *Cognition*, 95.

Sahin, N. T., Pinker, S., Cash, S. S., Schomer, D., & Halgren, E. (2009) Sequential processing of lexical, grammatical, and articulatory information within Broca's area. *Science*, 326, 445-449.

Lee, J. J., & Pinker, S. (2010) Rationales for indirect speech: The theory of the strategic speaker. *Psychological Review*, 117, 785-807.

Pinker, S. (2010) The cognitive niche: Coevolution of intelligence, sociality, and language. *PNAS*, 8893-8899.

Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., Haque, O. S., & Pinker, S. (2014) The psychology of coordination and common knowledge. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 107, 657-676.

Hartshorne, J. K., Tenenbaum, J. B., & Pinker, S., (2018) A critical period for second language acquisition: Evidence from 2/3 million English speakers. *Cognition*, 77 (2018): 263-277.

De Freitas, J., Thomas, K. A., DeScioli, P., & Pinker, S. (2019) Common knowledge, coordination, and strategic mentalizing in human social life. *PNAS*. 116, 13751–13758.

Mehr, S. et al. (2019) Universality and diversity in human song. *Science*, 366, 970.