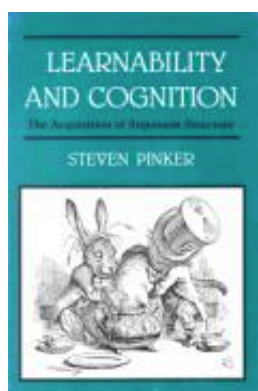
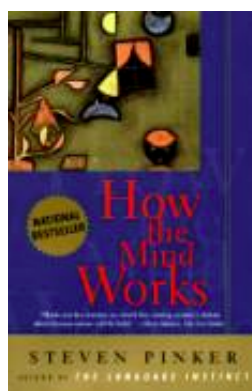
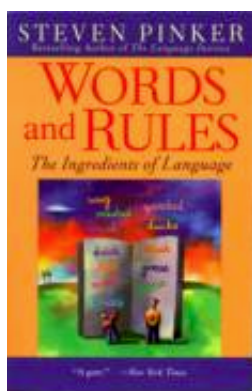
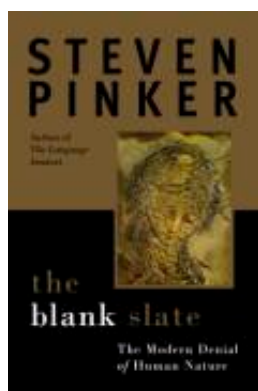


Steven Pinker



Biographical Information: Click on drawing

Books: Click on cover



◆ Selected Articles in Magazines and Newspapers

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Biographical Information:



photo credit: www.harryborden.com

Steven Pinker is Peter de Florez Professor in the [Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences](#) at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#).

[Biographical sketch](#)

[Curriculum Vitae](#)

[Summary of Current Research](#)

There is an [Unofficial Web Page about Steven Pinker](#) maintained by Gen Kuroki. It contains reviews and discussions of *The Language Instinct*, abstracts of Pinker's articles in professional journals, and other sources.

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Selected Articles in Magazines and Newspapers:

["The Game of the Name,"](#) *New York Times*, April 3, 1994.

["Grammar Puss,"](#) *The New Republic*, January 24, 1994.

["Chasing the Jargon Jitters,"](#) *TIME*, November 13, 1995.

["Evolutionary Psychology: Letter on Stephen Jay Gould's 'Darwinian Fundamentalists',"](#) *New York Review of Books*, October 9, 1997.

["Against Nature,"](#) *Discover*, October 1997.

["The Brain's Versatile Toolbox,"](#) *Natural History*, 106, September, 1997.

["Can a Computer Be Conscious?"](#) *US News and World Report*, August 18/25, 1997.

["How Much Art Can the Brain Take?"](#) *The Independent on Sunday*, February 7, 1998.

["Presidents Behaving Badly,"](#) *The New Yorker*, February 9, 1998.

["Listening Between the Lines,"](#) *New York Times*, October 7, 1998.

["Racist Language, Real and Imagined,"](#) *New York Times*, February 2, 1999.

["The Seven Wonders of the World,"](#) Convocation Address, Faculty of Science, McGill University, June 7, 1999.

["His Brain Measured Up,"](#) *New York Times*, June 24, 1999.

["Horton Heared a Who!"](#) *TIME*, Nov. 1, 1999,

["Regular Habits,"](#) *Times Literary Supplement*, Oct. 29, 1999/

["There Will Always be an English,"](#) *New York Times*, Dec. 24, 1999.

["The Irregular Verbs,"](#) *Landfall*, March 2000.

["Will the Mind Figure out How the Brain Works?"](#) *TIME*, April 3, 2000.

["Survival of the Clearest,"](#) *Nature*, 404, 441-442.

["Eulogy for Stephen Jay Gould,"](#) *Time*, May 27, 2002.

["Life in the Fourth Millennium,"](#) *Technology Review*, May/June 2000.

["Review of J. Glover's "Humanity: A Moral History of the 20th Century,"](#) *New York Times Book Review*, Oct. 29, 2000.

["Decoding the candidates,"](#) *New York Times*, Oct. 31, 2000.

["Talk of Genetics and Vice-Versa,"](#) *Nature*, Oct. 2001.

["Sibling Rivalry,"](#) *Boston Globe* Ideas section, Oct. 13, 2002.

[Debating Human Happiness](#) with Martin Seligman and Robert Wright, *Slate Magazine*, Oct. 15, 2002.

["Are Your Genes to Blame?"](#) *TIME*, Jan. 20, 2003.

["How To Get Inside a Student's Head,"](#) *New York Times*, Jan. 31, 2003.

["Better Babies?"](#) *Boston Globe* June 6, 2003.

[Letter](#) in *Skeptical Inquirer* on 9/11 and Perceptions of Risk.

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Public Lectures:

Steven Pinker is represented by the [David Lavin Agency, Ltd.](#), 1-800-762-4234.

Jan. 14, 2003, 8 PM. A public conversation with Nina Jablonski, California Academy of Science, San Francisco, CA.

Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2003, presentation at TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design Conference), Monterey, CA.

April 2003, William Hamilton Memorial Lecture, The New England Institute, University of New England

April 10-12, 2003, lecture at the conference "The Future of Human Nature," Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston University.

April 15, 2003, 6 PM, "The Blank Slate," MIT Human Rights Program, Cambridge, MA.

April 16, 2003, 4 PM, "Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language," Middlebury College, Vermont.

April 23, 2003, 7 PM, "The Blank Slate," William Hamilton Memorial lecture, University of New England.

May 13, 2003, 1:30 PM, "The Blank Slate," Fishbein Center for the History of Science, University of Chicago.

May 15, 2003, 6 PM, "Do Parents Shape Their Children?" Lesley University's Center for Children, Families & Public Policy, Cambridge, MA.

May 18, 2003, 4 PM, "The Blank Slate," Tel Aviv University. "The Blank Slate," Tel Aviv University, 4PM, May 18.

June 1, 2003, 10 AM, "The Blank Slate," Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival

June 4, 2003, 4 PM, Public conversation, The Darwin Centre, Natural History Museum, London.

June 6, 2003, 6:30 PM, "The Blank Slate," University of Sussex.

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Current and Pending Media Events:

Sept. 16, "Newsnight," BBC-TV.

Sept. 17, "Radio 5 Live" (UK), afternoon, time TBA.

Sept. 18, "Nightwaves," BBC 3, 9:45 PM.

Sept. 25, 2002, 8:30 PM. [Profile](#) half-hour television biography, BBC-4.

Sept. 26, 2002, 2:10 PM. "The Lunchtime News with Damien Kiberd." Live on Newstalk 106 radio.

Sept. 26, 2002, 3 PM. "The Open Mind," interview with John Quinn. RTE Radio 1.

Sept. 26, 2002, 3:30 PM. Agenda on TV3, interview with David McWilliams.

Oct. 1, 2002, 12:00-12:40 PM (ET). "New York and Company," WNYC (NPR).

Oct. 2, 2002, 4-5 PM (ET). "The Michael Medved Show", Salem Radio Network.

Oct. 3, 2002, 9-11 PM (CT). "Extension 720 with Milt Rosenberg," WGN-AM.

Oct. 5, 2002, midnight (ET). "Judith Regan Tonight," FOX News channel.

Oct. 6, 2002, TBA. Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

Oct. 6, 2002, midnight (ET). "Judith Regan Tonight," FOX News Channel.

Oct. 8, 2002, 9-11PM (CT). "Ext. 729 w/ Milton Rosenberg, WGN Chicago."

Oct. 9, 2002, 10-11AM (CT). "Iowa Talks," NPR Iowa City.

Oct. 10, 2002, 3-4 PM (ET). "Science Friday," NPR.

Oct. 13, 2002, TBA. "Weekend Edition—Sunday," NPR, WBUR Boston.

Oct. 15, 2002, TBA. "Morning Show," KPFA (Pacifica Network), San Francisco.

Oct. 15, 2002, 1-2 PM (ET). "Here and Now," WBUR.

Oct. 16, 2002, TBA. GRACECATHEDRAL.COM.

Oct. 16, 2002, TBA. "Airtalk," KPCC (NPR).

Oct. 17, 2002, 8-9 AM (PT). "Morning Show," KPRK (Pacifica).

Oct. 17, 2002, 8-9 AM (PT). "Dennis Prager Show," Salem Radio Network.
 Oct. 18, 2002, 9-10 AM (PT). "Weekday" KUOW-FM (NPR).
 Oct. 18, 2002, 11-12 AM (ET). "The Connection," WBUR.
 Oct. 18, 2002, 9-10 AM (PT). "Weekday," KUOW (NPR).
 Oct. 20, 2002, TBA. "Forum," KUSF, San Francisco.
 Oct. 21, 2002, 11-11:30 AM. "Golden Hours," KOPB Portland.
 Oct. 23, 2002, 6:30-8 PM (ET). "Dinnertime Sampler," WMBR 88.1 FM, MIT.
Steven Pinker will converse with host Eric Chemi and play some of his favorite music, including tracks by John Coltrane, The Weavers, Dinah Washington, Elvis Costello, Oliver Nelson, Bob Dylan, Peter Gabriel, and others.
 Oct. 24, 2002, 1-2 PM (ET). "In Pursuit of Truth," WHAT-AM Philadelphia, PA.
 Oct. 24, 2002, 8-9 PM (ET). "On Point," WBUR.
 Oct. 30, 2002, 11-12 (ET). "In Pursuit of Truth," WHAT-AM (Philadelphia).
 Oct. 30, 2002, noon (PT). "Berkeley Groks," KALX-FM (90.7) Berkeley, CA.
 Oct. 30, 2002, 1-2 PM (ET). "Odyssey with Gretchen Helfrich," WBEZ-FM, NPR Chicago.
 Oct. 30, 2002, 7-8 PM (ET). "On Point," WBUR-FM
 Nov. 2, 2002, TBA. Montreal Media with Rita Schaffer
 Nov. 6, 2002, 6 PM (**aired later on C-SPAN Book TV**). No lecture. Prof. Pinker will defend Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life* (competing against William James' *The Varieties of Religious Experience* and Owen Wister's *The Virginian* for a mock "National Book Award" of 1902 to benefit the Associates of the Boston Public Library. It will be broadcasted on Sunday, Feb 15, 2003 at 5:00 AM and 1:30 PM, and can be viewed online.
 "Our World," Voice of America, hosted by Rob Sivak.
 "The Infinite Mind," NPR. TBA.
 "National Geographic Today," National Geographic Channel, TBA.
 "Between the Lines," NPR Portland, TBA.
 BBC Series on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Discovery of DNA, 2003, TBA.
 "Agenda," BBC World Service, TBA.
 Interview by Gary Robertson, BBC Radio Scotland.
 "In Our Time," BBC Radio 4, TBA.
 "Talking Politics," BBC Radio 4, TBA.
 "Private Passions," BBC Radio 3, TBA.
 "Good Morning Sunday," BBC Radio 2, TBA.
 "Book TV," C-SPAN, TBA.
 "Plugged in with James Touchi-Peters," Bloomington Public TV
 "All Things Considered," Minnesota Public Radio.
 "Politics of Culture," KCRW (NPR).
 "Between the Lines," NPR.
 "Todd Mundt Show," Michigan Radio. Air date to come. Mostly science and history topics. Airs statewide and in a handful of markets nationwide.
 "Quebec AM," interview with Tim Belford.
 "The World Today," interview with Andrew Carter.
 R.C.I. interview Jim Craig.
 "Homerun," interview with AAnn Lagacé Dowson.
 "Découvert" with Pascal Gelin.
 "Canada Now," interview with Dennis Trudeau, CBS TV.

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Teaching:

Professor Pinker is a MacVicar Faculty Fellow at MIT, 2000-2010.

Professor Pinker is on sabbatical during the 2002-2003 academic year and will not be teaching his usual courses at MIT.

◆ Introduction to Psychology, Fall Semester, MIT.

◆ Evolution of Cognition, Alternate Spring Semesters, MIT: 1999 Syllabus

◆ Cognitive and Behavioral Genetics, MIT, 2001. Syllabus.

◆ The Brain and Cognitive Sciences II, MIT, 2001. [Syllabus](#).

Research:

Among Prof. Pinker's research projects are The MIT Twins Study and other studies of language, its development, and its neural bases. This research uses regular (*walk-walked*) and irregular (*come-came*) inflection as well-matched and easily studied examples of the two main components of language: combinatorial grammar and memorized words. Click here for a recent [bibliography](#) of this research.

◆ Summary of research.

◆ **MIT Twins Study: Web Page.** Follow this link if you are interested in language in twins, or if you are a parent of twins and might be interested in participating in the study.

◆ MIT/KIT Magnetoencephalography Laboratory

Click here for [resources in Cognitive Science, Psychology, and Linguistics](#).

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Recent Media Profiles:

[Darwin on the Mind](#), *Jerusalem Post*, May 2003.

[Harvard raids MIT for eminent professor](#), *Boston Globe*, April 4, 2003.

[Biology vs. the Blank Slate](#), *Reason*, Oct. 2002.

[We are who we are or are we?](#) *USA Today* (Kim Painter), Oct. 3, 2002.

[Haven't you heard? It's in the Genes](#), *The Guardian*, Sept. 25, 2002.

[Scientist at Work: Steven Pinker](#), *New York Times* Science section, Sept. 17, 2002.

[Questions for Steven Pinker](#), *New York Times Magazine*, Sept. 14, 2002.

[Lunch with FT](#) Interview, *Financial Times*, Sept. 12, 2002.



Cover story, [Maclean's](#) (Canada's newsmagazine), May 1, 2000.

Interview by John Koch, [Boston Globe Sunday Magazine](#), Jan 23, 2000.

"Steven Pinker: The Mind Reader," Profile in [The Guardian](#), November 6, 1999.

"Gould, Pinker, Lewontin, Wilson: Who's the Fittest Evolutionist of them All?," [Lingua Franca](#), Nov. 1999.

"Pinker on the Brain," profile in [Scientific American](#), July 1999.

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Recent Academic Publications (Under Construction):

Pinker, S. & Ullman, M. T. (2002). "The past and future of the past tense." [Trends in Cognitive Science](#).



Rhee, J., Halgren, E., & Pinker, S. (2003) Neural time course of English past-tense generation: Combined fMRI and MEG analyses. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, New York, March 30-April 1.

Sahin, N. T., Pinker, S., Van der Kouwe, A., Greve, D., Dale, A., & Halgren, E. (2003) Dissection of the components of inflectional morphology using event-related fMRI. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, New York, March 30-April 1.

Sahin, N. T., Halgren, E., Dale, A., Busa, E., & Pinker, S. (2003) Inflectional morphology of nouns and verbs shows fMRI activation of Broca's and related areas. Human Brain Mapping Conference, New York, June 19-22.

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Films featuring Steven Pinker:

[Profile](#), half-hour program to air on BBC-4 the week of September 23, 2002.

[How the Mind Works](#) and [Steven Pinker: In Depth](#). Filmed lecture and interview. [Click here](#) for the brochure text. Into the Classroom Media, 10573 W. Pico Blvd. #162, Los Angeles CA 90064. 800-732-7946

[The Seven Wonders of the World II](#). One of seven half-hour BBC programs in which a scientist or author describes seven wonders of the world. [Christopher Sykes Productions](#).

[Me and Isaac Newton](#). Feature film on seven scientists. [Clear Blue Sky Productions](#). Available for purchase as a [video](#) or [DVD](#) from Amazon.com.

[The Ingredients of Language](#). Streaming video lecture on [www.boxmind.com](#).

Short video interview with [John Brockman](#) on [www.edge.org](#), Nov. 2002.

"[The Blank Slate](#)" at MIT: Streaming Video

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Silly:

[Project Steve](#)

[MIT News Office Feature](#), Nov. 25, 2002.

[Cartoon on How the Mind Works](#)

[Cartoon on books by Steves](#)

[Lingua Franca](#) poster updating Raphael's "The School of Athens." Click here for a [detail](#). Click here for a [legend](#) identifying the characters.

[Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club for Scientists: Highlighting the Heads of Science](#).

[Mulltelovers.com](#): Regular men, page 3, column 3, row 5.