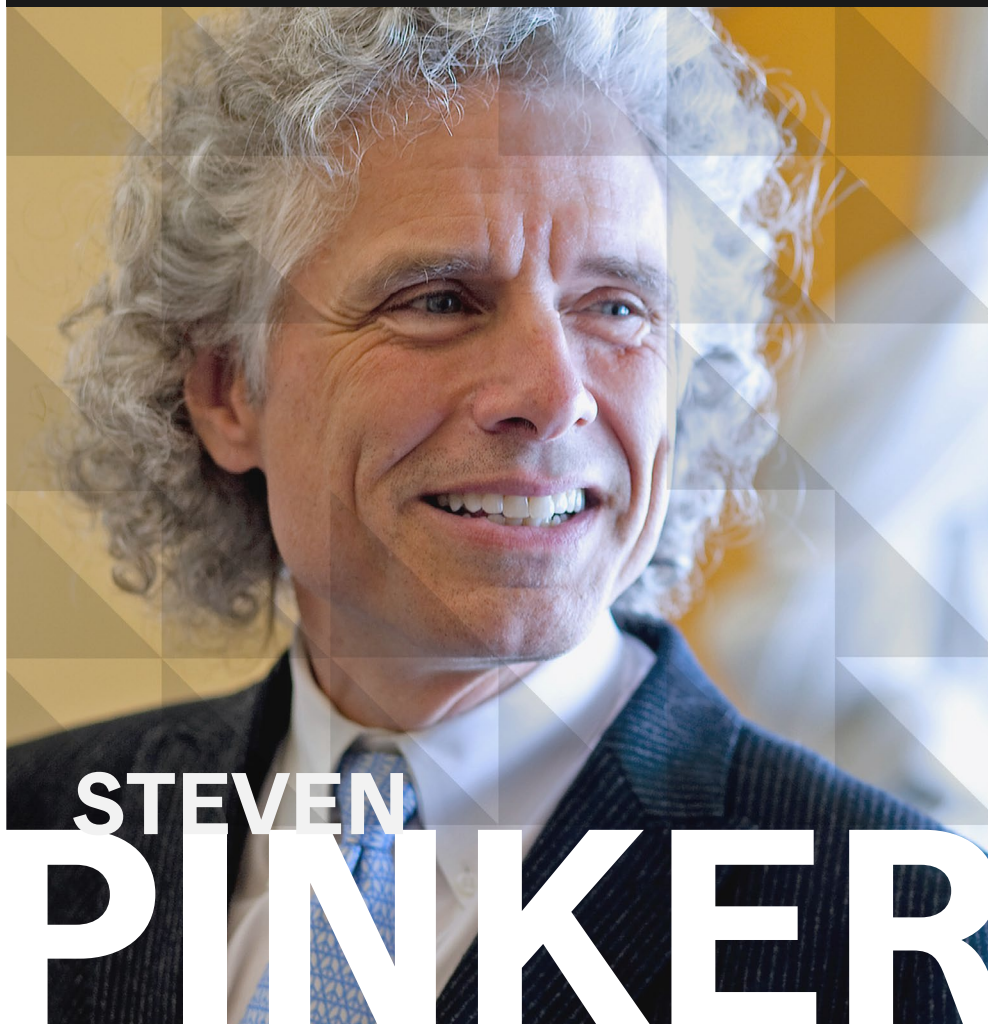THE 2020 BEATTY LECTURE PRESENTS

STEVEN
PINKER

PROGRESS AND ENLIGHTENMENT
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Wed, Sep 23, 2020 | Virtual

CBC
MONTREAL

McGill

BIOGRAPHIES

STEVEN PINKER — Born and raised in Montreal, Steven Pinker studied cognitive science at McGill, where he received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1976. He then earned his doctorate in experimental psychology at Harvard in 1979, where he is now the Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology. Pinker's groundbreaking research on visual cognition and the psychology of language have earned him accolades, including being named Humanist of the Year by the American Humanist Association, one of *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People in the World, and one of *Foreign Policy*'s 100 Global Thinkers. He is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. An influential writer with a global readership, Pinker's books never fail to ignite the cultural conversation and have earned him two Pulitzer Prize nominations. His latest book, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress,* published in 2018, presents the provocative premise that life on earth — including our health, prosperity, safety and happiness — is improving and not getting worse as a direct result of 17th century Enlightenment ideals.

SEAN HENRY — Award-winning journalist Sean Henry anchors CBC News Montreal at 11. He is also a regular news journalist, radio newsreader and assignment producer. Sean joined the Montreal newsroom in August 2012 after seven years at CBC Windsor. While in Windsor, Sean regularly anchored for both CBC-TV and Radio, worked as a court reporter and video-journalist. In 2011, Sean won the Dave Rogers Award for Long Feature in a Medium Market for his series on a social worker/plain-clothes police officer team that helps the city's mentally ill. One of the highlights of Sean's time in Windsor was covering civil rights activist Rosa Parks' funeral in Detroit. Prior to moving to Windsor, Sean reported from the Quebec City courthouse and the National Assembly for Global Quebec. He also worked at 940 News in Montreal, Youth News Network, *West Island Chronicle* and *Doctors Review* magazine. In his spare time, Sean practices jiu jujitsu, yoga and circus disciplines including aerial silks and aerial straps. He grew up in Lasalle, and now calls the city's east end home.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Remarks
Sean Henry
Lecture Emcee and Host, CBC Montreal

Words of Welcome
Suzanne Fortier
Principal and Vice-Chancellor, McGill University

Introduction of Beatty Lecture
Martha Crago
Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation, McGill University

Introduction of Steven Pinker, Beatty Lecturer
Sean Henry

Progress and Enlightenment in the 21st Century
Steven Pinker
Beatty Lecturer

Moderated Q&A Session
Steven Pinker
Sean Henry

Closing Remarks
Inez Jabalpurwala
President, McGill Alumni Association

#Beatty2020

Steven Pinker in the 7th floor lounge of
the Stewart Biological Sciences Building in 1976

*" My best memories of being a student at McGill are of how little
I felt like a student. Commuting to a downtown campus meant
that the entire downtown was my campus — the jazz clubs,
coffee houses, boîtes à chansons, repertory movie theaters, and
other delights of a cosmopolitan metropolis. And the Psychology
Department merged the students into their scientific community
— we hung out in the same lounge, had easy access to labs and
offices, and socialized with them in cafes and cultural events."*
— Steven Pinker

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