

The Ernst Mayr Lecture is devoted to the life sciences and was created in 1997 by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in tandem with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW).

The lecture series was named after the honorary member of the BBAW, evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr (1904–2005), who inaugurated the eponymous series in the fall of 1997. Consistent with the title of its namesake's chief work – *The Growth of Biological Thought* – the Ernst Mayr Lecture is designed to transmit current biological views.

STEVEN PINKER

THE PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY, AND HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Further information:

Dr. Karin Elisabeth Becker

Dr. Katharina Biegger

030 / 20 370 241
becker@bbaw.de
www.bbaw.de

030 / 89 001 123
biegger@wiko-berlin.de
www.wiko-berlin.de

Free admission. Please register at:
eml@bbaw.de or at www.bbaw.de/EML18

ERNST MAYR LECTURE 2018

Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 6 p.m.

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
Academy Building – Gendarmenmarkt
Leibniz Hall, Markgrafenstraße 38, 10117 Berlin



Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY



berlin-brandenburgische
AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

» Contrary to the popular view that we are living in extraordinarily violent times, rates of violence at all scales have been in decline over the course of history.

I explore how this decline could have happened despite the existence of a constant human nature by differentiating the brain systems that incline us toward violence and those that inhibit us from violence. «



© Photo: Rose Lincoln, Harvard University (USA)

Steven Pinker is an experimental psychologist who conducts research in visual cognition, psycholinguistics, and social relations. He grew up in Montreal and earned his B.A. from McGill University (Canada) and his Ph.D. from Harvard University (USA). Currently Johnstone Professor of Psychology at Harvard, he has also taught at Stanford University and MIT. He has won numerous prizes for his research, his teaching, and his ten books – including *The Language Instinct: How the Mind Works*, *The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature*, *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*, and *The Sense of Style: A Writing Manual for the 21st Century*.

He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, and writes frequently for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and other publications. His latest book is called *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*.

**The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy
of Sciences and Humanities**

and

The Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

invite you to the

ERNST MAYR LECTURE 2018

Welcome

Martin Grötschel

President of the Academy

Introduction

Axel Meyer

Professor of Evolutionary Biology
University of Konstanz
Academy Member

**THE PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY,
AND HISTORY OF VIOLENCE**

Steven Pinker

Johnstone Professor of Psychology
Harvard University