

MEDIA ADVISORY@ Pearson College UWC

“From Cave Walls to Keyboards: The Paleolithic Origins of Art and Language”

**Pearson’s Global Affairs Speaker Series:
Canadian paleoanthropologist, author & engaging science
communicator Genevieve von Petzinger**

Global Affairs is Pearson College UWC’s premier speaker series that draws leading global experts from around the world and our own backyard. The Series is **free and open to all**.

Who: [Genevieve von Petzinger](#)

What: “From Cave Walls to Keyboards: The Paleolithic Origins of Art & Language”

Where: Max Bell Centre, Pearson College UWC, 650 Pearson College Dr. Metchosisin

When: 2:45 p.m. Thursday, February 27

Why: How long ago did our ancestors start to communicate? What makes human language different from that of other species? Does Paleolithic art represent the first time that ancient humans turned the verbal into the visual, and what could this tell us about [the creation of writing](#)? Combining physical anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, von Petzinger explores the relationship between the origins of language and art.

Von Petzinger, a [UVic alumni](#) (and daughter of a former Pearson teacher!), is a Canadian [paleoanthropologist](#), [author](#), speaker, explorer and a leading world expert on Ice Age art and the origins of graphic communication. Her focus is on the geometric signs found at many of these sites and how these markings can help us better understand human cognitive evolution and the development of symbolic thought and the modern mind during early prehistory. Von Petzinger is passionate about science communication, sharing her work through public speaking and media appearances (Nat Geo, CBC, TBS). Recipient of the 2016 National Geographic Emerging Explorer Award, she is a TED Senior Fellow whose [TED talk](#) has been viewed more than **6 million** times.

Good to Know:

- Pearson College UWC is closer than you think! Click [here](#) for directions.
- Parking is free & easy – there is a paved walk up a small hill from the main parking lot to the Max Bell Centre.
- Watch for updates on Pearson’s Coming Events on our [social media](#) channels.
- For more information, contact communications@pearsoncollege.ca