

# The city of words cbc massey lectures (2023)

Power Shift Out of the Sun Blood The Return of History The Truth about Stories All Our Relations A Short History of Progress Player One Becoming Human Reset In Search of A Better World Payback Winter The Universe Within The City of Words Beyond Fate The Triumph of Narrative Designing Freedom Nostalgia for the Absolute More Lost Massey Lectures Prisons We Choose to Live Inside The Real World of Technology Belonging Therefore Choose Life The Wayfinders The Educated Imagination Biology As Ideology The Malaise of Modernity Race Against Time History's People The Ethics of Authenticity The Image of Confederation The Elsewhere Community Necessary Illusions The Unconscious Civilization The Rights Revolution More Lost Massey Lectures The Real World of Technology Seven Fallen Feathers Payback

## Power Shift

2019-09-17

bestselling author journalist and human rights activist sally armstrong argues that humankind requires the equal status of women and girls the facts are indisputable when women get even a bit of education the whole of society improves when they get a bit of healthcare everyone lives longer in many ways it has never been a better time to be a woman a fundamental shift has been occurring yet from toronto to timbuktu the promise of equality still eludes half the world s population in her 2019 cbc massey lectures award winning author journalist and human rights activist sally armstrong illustrates how the status of the female half of humanity is crucial to our collective surviving and thriving drawing on anthropology social science literature politics and economics she examines the many beginnings of the role of women in society and the evolutionary revisions over millennia in the realms of sex religion custom culture politics and economics what ultimately comes to light is that gender inequality comes at too high a cost to us all

## Out of the Sun

2021-09-28

an insightful exploration and moving meditation on identity art and belonging from one of the most celebrated writers of the last decade what happens when we begin to consider stories at the margins when we grant them centrality how does that complicate our certainties about who we are as individuals as nations as human beings through the lens of visual art literature film and the author s lived experience out of the sun examines black histories in art offering new perspectives to challenge us in this groundbreaking reflective and erudite book two time scotiabank giller prize winner and internationally bestselling author esi edugyan illuminates myriad varieties of black experience in global culture and history edugyan combines storytelling with analyses of contemporary events and her own personal story in this dazzling first major work of non fiction

## Blood

2013-09-28

selected for the globe 100 books in 2013 with the 2013 cbc massey lectures bestselling author lawrence hill offers a provocative examination of the scientific and social history of blood and on the ways that it unites and divides us today blood runs red through every person s arteries and fulfills the same functions in every human being the study of blood has advanced our understanding of biology and improved medical treatments but its cultural and social representations have divided us perennially blood pulses through religion literature and the visual arts every time it pools or spills we learn a little more about what brings human beings together and what pulls us apart for centuries perceptions of difference in our blood have separated people on the basis of gender race class and nation ideas about blood purity have spawned rules about who gets to belong to a family or cultural group who enjoys the rights of citizenship and nationality what privileges one can expect to be granted or denied whether you inherit poverty or the right to rule over the masses what constitutes fair play in sport and what defines a person s identity blood the stuff of life is a bold meditation on blood as an historical and contemporary marker of identity belonging gender race class citizenship athletic superiority and nationhood

## **The Return of History**

2016-09-17

in the 2016 cbc massey lectures former special advisor to the un secretary general and international relations specialist jennifer welsh delivers a timely intelligent and fascinating analysis of twenty first century geopolitics in 1989 as the berlin wall crumbled and the cold war dissipated the american political commentator francis fukuyama wrote a famous essay entitled the end of history which argued that the demise of confrontation between communism and capitalism and the expansion of western liberal democracy signalled the endpoint of humanity s sociocultural and political evolution and the path toward a more peaceful world but a quarter of a century after fukuyama s bold prediction history has returned arbitrary executions attempts to annihilate ethnic and religious minorities the starvation of besieged populations invasion and annexation of territory and the mass movement of refugees and displaced persons it has also witnessed cracks and cleavages within western liberal democracies as a result of deepening economic inequality the return of history argues that our own liberal democratic society was not inevitable but that we must all as individual citizens take a more active role in its preservation and growth

## ***The Truth about Stories***

2003

winner of the 2003 trillium book award stories are wondrous things award winning author and scholar thomas king declares in his 2003 cbc massey lectures and they are dangerous beginning with a traditional native oral story king weaves his way through literature and history religion and politics popular culture and social protest gracefully elucidating north america s relationship with its native peoples native culture has deep ties to storytelling and yet no other north american culture has been the subject of more erroneous stories the indian of fact as king says bears little resemblance to the literary indian the dying indian the construct so powerfully and often destructively projected by white north america with keen perception and wit king illustrates that stories are the key to and only hope for human understanding he compels us to listen well

## **All Our Relations**

2018-11-06

tanya talaga the bestselling author of seven fallen feathers and the 2017 2018 atkinson fellow in public policy calls attention to an urgent global humanitarian crisis among indigenous peoples youth suicide

## **A Short History of Progress**

2004

each time history repeats itself so it s said the price goes up the twentieth century was a time of runaway growth in human population consumption and technology placing a colossal load on all natural systems especially earth air and water the very elements of life the most urgent questions of the twenty first century are where will this growth lead can it be consolidated or sustained and what kind of world is our present bequeathing to our future in his 1 bestseller a short history of progress ronald wright argues that our modern predicament is as old as

**2023-08-08**

**3/12**

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civilization a 10 000 year experiment we have participated in but seldom controlled only by understanding the patterns of triumph and disaster that humanity has repeated around the world since the stone age can we recognize the experiment s inherent dangers and with luck and wisdom shape its outcome

## **Player One**

2022-10-18

now available in a new edition with a cover designed by the author douglas coupland s cbc massey lectures is an innovative exploration of the modern crises of our time five disparate people are trapped inside an airport cocktail lounge during a global disaster karen a single mother waiting for her online date rick a down on his luck bartender luke a pastor on the run rachel a cool hitchcockian blonde incapable of true human contact and finally a mysterious voice known as player one slowly over the course of the five hour story each reveals the truth about themselves while the world as they know it comes to an end acclaimed novelist and visual artist douglas coupland probes human identity society religion macroeconomics and the afterlife in the inventive 2010 cbc massey lectures asking as many questions as it answers player one will leave readers with no doubt that we are in a new phase of existence as a species and that there is no turning back

## **Becoming Human**

2008

in this deeply compassionate work jean vanier shares his profoundly human vision for creating a common good that radically changes our communities our relationships and ourselves he proposes that by opening ourselves to others those we perceive as weak different or inferior we can achieve true personal and societal freedom the 10th anniversary edition includes a new introduction by the author

## **Reset**

2020-09-29

in the 2020 cbc massey lectures bestselling author and renowned technology and security expert ronald j deibert exposes the disturbing influence and impact of the internet on politics the economy the environment and humanity digital technologies have given rise to a new machine based civilization that is increasingly linked to a growing number of social and political maladies accountability is weak and insecurity is endemic creating disturbing opportunities for exploitation drawing from the cutting edge research of the citizen lab the world renowned digital security research group which he founded and directs ronald j deibert exposes the impacts of this communications ecosystem on civil society he tracks a mostly unregulated surveillance industry innovations in technologies of remote control superpower policing practices dark pr firms and highly profitable hack for hire services feeding off rivers of poorly secured personal data deibert also unearths how dependence on social media and its expanding universe of consumer electronics creates immense pressure on the natural environment in order to combat authoritarian practices environmental degradation and rampant electronic consumerism he urges restraints on tech platforms and governments to reclaim the internet for civil society

## In Search of A Better World

2017-09-09

a work of memoir history and a call to action the cbc massey lectures by internationally renowned un prosecutor and scholar payam akhavan is a powerful and essential work on the major human rights struggles of our times renowned un prosecutor and human rights scholar payam akhavan has encountered the grim realities of contemporary genocide throughout his life and career he argues that deceptive utopias political cynicism and public apathy have given rise to major human rights abuses from the religious persecution of iranian bahá'ís that shaped his personal life to the horrors of ethnic cleansing in yugoslavia the genocide in rwanda and the rise of contemporary phenomena such as the islamic state but he also reflects on the inspiring resilience of the human spirit and the reality of our inextricable interdependence to liberate us whether from hateful ideologies that deny the humanity of others or an empty consumerist culture that worships greed and self indulgence a timely essential and passionate work of memoir and history in search of a better world is a tour de force by an internationally renowned human rights lawyer

## Payback

2008

explores debt as a central historical component of religion literature and societal structure while examining the idea of humanity's debt to the natural world

## Winter

2012-11-08

winter takes us on an intimate tour of the artists poets composers writers explorers scientists and thinkers who helped shape a new and modern idea of winter we learn how literature heralds the arrival of the middle class how snow science leads to existential questions of god and our place in the world how the race to the poles marks the human drive to imprint meaning on a blank space offering a kaleidoscopic take on the season winter is a homage to an idea of a season and a journey through the modern imagination

## The Universe Within

2012-09-05

with the universe within's deeply thoughtful reflections on the place of science in society on the need to educate the underserved and on plenty of other topics rarely addressed in this sort of book turok takes you where no physicist has gone before it's well worth making the journey with him time magazine winner of the lane anderson award longlisted for the charles taylor prize shortlisted for the libris award for non fiction and selected as an amazon.ca best book the most anticipated nonfiction book of the season this year's massey lectures is a visionary look at the way the human mind can shape the future by world renowned physicist neil turok every technology we rely on today was created by the human mind seeking to understand the universe around us scientific knowledge is our most precious possession and our future will be shaped by the breakthroughs to come in this personal visionary and fascinating work neil turok director of the perimeter institute for theoretical physics explores the transformative scientific discoveries of the past three centuries from classical mechanics to the nature of light to the bizarre world of

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the quantum and the evolution of the cosmos each new discovery has over time yielded new technologies causing paradigm shifts in the organization of society now he argues we are on the cusp of another major transformation the coming quantum revolution that will supplant our current dissatisfying digital age facing this brave new world turok calls for creatively re inventing the way advanced knowledge is developed and shared and opening access to the vast untapped pools of intellectual talent in the developing world scientific research training and outreach are vital to our future economy as well as powerful forces for peaceful global progress elegantly written deeply provocative and highly inspirational the universe within is above all about the future of science of society of ourselves

## ***The City of Words***

2008

and yet stories even the best and truest can't save us from our own folly stories can't protect us from suffering and error from natural and artificial catastrophes from our own suicidal greed the only thing they can do is offer consolation for suffering and words to name our experience stories can tell us who we are and suggest ways of imagining a future that without calling for comfortable happy endings may offer us ways of remaining alive together on this much abused earth based on canada's 2007 cbc massey lectures to be broadcast in australia by abc radio national in april 2008 alberto manguel's the city of words takes a fresh look at the rise of violent intolerance in our societies we strive to build societies with sets of values all citizens can agree on but something has gone wrong race riots in france political murder in the netherlands bombings in britain and bali are these symptoms of a multicultural experiment gone awry why is it so difficult for us to live together when the alternatives are demonstrably horrifying with his trademark wit and erudition alberto manguel suggests a fresh approach we should look at what visionaries poets novelists essayists and filmmakers have to say about building societies perhaps the stories we tell hold secret keys to the human heart from cassandra to jack london the epic of gilgamesh to the computer hal in 2001 a space odyssey don quixote to atnarjuat the fast runner manguel draws fascinating and revelatory parallels between the personal and political realities of our present day world and those of myth legend and story

## **Beyond Fate**

2002

many people today are afflicted with a sense that they cannot change things for the better they feel helpless constrained caught in a word fatalistic beyond fate examines why in her characteristically lively prose margaret visser investigates what fate means to us and where the propensity to believe in it and accept it comes from she takes an ancient metaphor where time is seen and spoken of as though it were space and examines how this way of picturing reality can be a useful tool to think with or on the other hand how it may lead people into disastrous misunderstandings by observing how fatalism expresses itself in one's daily life in everything from table manners to shopping to sport the book proposes ways to limit its influence beyond fate provides a timely and provocative perspective on modern life both personal and social

## **The Triumph of Narrative**

1999-01-01

narrative has been central to human life for millennia and the twentieth century has been preeminently the age of the story mass culture and mass leisure have enabled us to spend far more time absorbing stories real and imaginary than any of our ancestors whether or not this has been to our benefit is one of the questions raised by journalist and 1999 cbc massey lecturer robert fulford narrative fulford points out is how we explain how we teach how we entertain ourselves often all at once it is the bundle in which we wrap truth hope and dread it is crucial to civilization fulford writes engagingly and energetically about narrative history narrative in news coverage the rise of electronic narrative and narrative as it flourishes in the form of gossip the folk art version of literature revealing to us the mystery power and importance of story in all our lives

## ***Designing Freedom***

1993-11-18

distinguished cyberneticist stafford beer states the case for a new science of systems theory and cybernetics his essays examine such issues as the real threat to all we hold most dear the discarded tools of modern man a liberty machine in prototype science in the service of man the future that can be demanded now the free man in a cybernetic world designing freedom ponders the possibilities of liberty in a cybernetic world

## ***Nostalgia for the Absolute***

1997

the decline of formal religious systems has left a moral and emotional emptiness in western culture george steiner internationally renowned thinker and scholar pursues this and examines the alternative mythologies of marxism freudian psychology l vi straussian anthropology and fads of irrationality

## ***More Lost Massey Lectures***

2008

a broadcasting fixture for more than 45 years and canada s preeminent public lecture series the cbc s massey lectures feature provocative talks on pressing topics by major contemporary thinkers some of the series finest lectures have been lost for many years unavailable to the public in any form until now more lost massey lectures presents recently rediscovered talks nobel prize winner willy brandt discusses the dangerous inequities between developing and industrialized nations while barbara ward explains the origin and predicament of underdeveloped countries and frank underhill speaks on the deficiencies of the canadian constitution george grant s talk on the worsening predicament of the west through an examination of friedrich nietzsche is joined by claude levi strauss on the nature of myth and its role in human history not only of considerable historical significance these lectures remain hugely relevant in the 21st century also included is an introduction by veteran cbc producer bernie lucht

## ***Prisons We Choose to Live Inside***

1992-08-01

in her 1985 cbc massey lectures doris lessing addresses the question of personal freedom and individual responsibility in a world increasingly prone to political

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rhetoric mass emotions and inherited structures of unquestioned belief the nobel prize winning author of more than thirty books doris lessing is one of our most challenging and important writers

## ***The Real World of Technology***

1999-06-01

in this expanded edition of her bestselling 1989 cbc massey lectures renowned scientist and humanitarian ursula m franklin examines the impact of technology upon our lives and addresses the extraordinary changes since the real world of technology was first published in four new chapters franklin tackles contentious issues such as the dilution of privacy and intellectual property rights the impact of the current technology on government and governance the shift from consumer capitalism to investment capitalism and the influence of the internet upon the craft of writing

## **Belonging**

2014-09-19

never has the world experienced greater movement of peoples from one country to another from one continent to another these seismic shifts in population have brought about huge challenges for all societies in this year s massey lectures canada s twenty sixth governor general and bestselling author adrienne clarkson argues that a sense of belonging is a necessary mediation between an individual and a society she masterfully chronicles the evolution of citizenship throughout the ages from the genesis of the idea of the citizen in ancient greece to the medieval structures of guilds and class from the revolutionary period which gave birth to the modern nation state to present day citizenship based on shared values consensus and pluralism clarkson places particular emphasis on the canadian model which promotes immigration parliamentary democracy and the rule of law and the first nations circle which embodies notions of expansion and equality she concludes by looking forward using the bhutanese example of gross national happiness to determine how we measure up today and how far we have to go to bring into being the citizen and the society of tomorrow

## **Therefore Choose Life**

2017-09-09

this recently discovered and very timely 1970 massey lectures by nobel prize winning scientist george wald now in print for the first time ever where did we come from who are we and what is to become of us these questions have never been more urgent than as now the world is facing major political and social upheaval from overpopulation to nuclear warfare to environmental degradation and the uses and abuses of technology using scientific fact as metaphor nobel prize winning scientist george wald meditates on our place and role on earth and in the universe he urges us to therefore choose life to invest in our capabilities as human beings to heed the warnings of our own self destruction and above all to honour our humanity

## **The Wayfinders**

2009

many of us are alarmed by the accelerating rates of extinction of plants and animals but how many of us know that human cultures are going extinct at an even more



shocking rate while biologists estimate that 18 percent of mammals and 11 percent of birds are threatened and botanists anticipate the loss of 8 percent of flora anthropologists predict that fully 50 percent of the 7 000 languages spoken around the world today will disappear within our lifetimes and languages are merely the canaries in the coal mine what of the knowledge stories songs and ways of seeing encoded in these voices in the wayfinders wade davis offers a gripping and enlightening account of this urgent crisis he leads us on a fascinating tour through a handful of indigenous cultures describing the worldviews they represent and reminding us of the encroaching danger to humankind s survival should they vanish

## **The Educated Imagination**

2002-01-01

what good is the study of literature does it help us think more clearly or feel more sensitively or live a better life than we could without it written in the relaxed and frequently humorous style of his public lectures this remains of northrop frye s many books perhaps the easiest introduction to his theories of literature and literary education

## **Biology As Ideology**

1996-10-23

r c lewontin is a prominent scientist a geneticist who teaches at harvard yet he believes that we have placed science on a pedestal treating it as an objective body of knowledge that transcends all other ways of knowing and all other endeavours lewontin writes in this collection of essays which began their life as cbc radio s massey lectures series for 1990 scientists do not begin life as scientists after all but as social beings immersed in a family a state a productive structure and they view nature through a lens that has been molded by their social experience science like the church before it is a supremely social institution reflecting and reinforcing the dominant values and vices of society at each historical epoch in biology as ideology lewontin examines the false paths down which modern scientific ideology has led us by admitting science s limitations he helps us rediscover the richness of nature and appreciate the real value of science

## **The Malaise of Modernity**

1991-11-01

in malaise of modernity charles taylor focuses on the key modern concept of self fulfillment often attacked as the central support of what christopher lasch has called the culture of narcissism to taylor self fulfillment although often expressed in self centered ways isn t necessarily a rejection of traditional values and social commitment it also reflects something authentic and valuable in modern culture only by distinguishing what is good in this modern striving from what is socially and politically dangerous taylor says can our age be made to deliver its promise

## **Race Against Time**

2005-10-01

i have spent the last four years watching people die with these wrenching words diplomat and humanitarian stephen lewis opens his 2005 cbc massey lectures lewis s determination to bear witness to the desperate plight of so many in africa and

elsewhere is balanced by his unique personal and often searing insider's perspective on our ongoing failure to help lewis recounts how in 2000 the united nations millennium summit in new york introduced eight millennium development goals which focused on fundamental issues such as education health and cutting poverty in half by 2015 in audacious prose alive with anecdotes ranging from maddening to hilarious to heartbreaking lewis shows why and how the international community is falling desperately short of these goals this edition includes an afterword by lewis covering events after the lectures were delivered in fall 2005

## **History's People**

2015-09-08

part of the cbc massey lectures series in history's people internationally acclaimed historian margaret macmillan gives her own personal selection of figures of the past women and men some famous and some little known who stand out for her some have changed the course of history and even directed the currents of their times others are memorable for being risk takers adventurers or observers she looks at the concept of leadership through bismarck and the unification of germany william lyon mackenzie king and the preservation of the canadian federation franklin delano roosevelt and the bringing of a unified united states into the second world war she also notes how leaders can make huge and often destructive mistakes as in the cases of hitler stalin and thatcher richard nixon and samuel de champlain are examples of daring risk takers who stubbornly went their own ways often in defiance of their own societies then there are the dreamers explorers and adventurers individuals like fanny parkes and elizabeth simcoe who manage to defy or ignore the constraints of their own societies finally there are the observers such as babur the first mughal emperor of india and victor klemperer a holocaust survivor who kept the notes and diaries that bring the past to life history's people is about the important and complex relationship between biography and history individuals and their times

## **The Ethics of Authenticity**

2018-08-06

everywhere we hear talk of decline of a world that was better once maybe fifty years ago maybe centuries ago but certainly before modernity drew us along its dubious path while some lament the slide of western culture into relativism and nihilism and others celebrate the trend as a liberating sort of progress charles taylor calls on us to face the moral and political crises of our time and to make the most of modernity's challenges the great merit of taylor's brief non technical powerful book is the vigor with which he restates the point which hegel and later dewey urged against rousseau and kant that we are only individuals in so far as we are social being authentic being faithful to ourselves is being faithful to something which was produced in collaboration with a lot of other people the core of taylor's argument is a vigorous and entirely successful criticism of two intertwined bad ideas that you are wonderful just because you are you and that respect for difference requires you to respect every human being and every human culture no matter how vicious or stupid richard rorty london review of books

## **The Image of Confederation**

1967

from 18th century grand tours to today's planet wide internet journeys this book is a fascinating exploration of man's desire for knowledge and the inevitable quest for

an elsewhere that results

## **The Elsewhere Community**

2000

argues that the media serves the needs of those in power rather than performing a watchdog role and looks at specific cases and issues

## **Necessary Illusions**

1989

in this intellectual tour de force john ralston saul argues that our society is only superficially based on the individual and democracy and the west now toils unconsciously in the grip of a stifling corporatist structure that serves the needs of business managers and technocrats as it promotes the segmentation of society into competing interest groups and ethnic blocks

## ***The Unconscious Civilization***

2012-11-06

with an updated preface by the author since the proclamation of the universal declaration of human rights in 1948 rights have become the dominant language of the public good around the globe indeed rights have become the trump card in every argument long standing fights for aboriginal rights the issue of preserving the linguistic heritage of minorities and same sex marriage have steered our society into a full blown rights revolution this revolution is not only deeply controversial in north america but is being watched around the world are group rights jeopardizing individual rights when everyone asserts their rights what happens to responsibilities can families survive and prosper when each member has rights is rights language empowering individuals while weakening community michael ignatieff confronts these controversial questions head on in the rights revolution defending the supposed individualism of rights language against all comers for ignatieff believing in rights means believing in politics believing in deliberation rather than confrontation compromise rather than violence

## **The Rights Revolution**

2008-12-01

the cbc massey lectures canada s preeminent public lecture series are for many of us a highly anticipated annual feast of ideas however some of the finest lectures by some of the greatest minds of modern times have been lost for many years unavailable to the public in any form this is the second volume of recovered lectures a follow on to the lost massey lectures and features nobel peace prize recipient willy brandt on the dangerous inequities between developing and industrialized nations in dangers and options the matter of world survival george grant on the worsening predicament of the west through an examination of the thought of friedrich nietzsche in time as history claude levi strauss on the nature and role of myth in human history in myth and meaning frank underhill on the deficiencies of the canadian constitution in the image of confederation and barbara ward in the very first massey lecture on the origin and predicament of underdeveloped countries in the rich nations and the poor nations more lost massey lectures includes an introduction by bernie lucht who has been the executive producer of cbc radio s ideas and the massey lectures since 1984

## More Lost Massey Lectures

2008-09-19

the groundbreaking and multiple award winning national bestseller work about systemic racism education the failure of the policing and justice systems and indigenous rights by tanya talaga over the span of eleven years seven indigenous high school students died in thunder bay ontario they were hundreds of kilometres away from their families forced to leave home because there was no adequate high school on their reserves five were found dead in the rivers surrounding lake superior below a sacred indigenous site using a sweeping narrative focusing on the lives of the students award winning author tanya talaga delves into the history of this northern city that has come to manifest canada s long struggle with human rights violations against indigenous communities

## The Real World of Technology

1990

available in a new edition and with an introduction by margaret atwood payback delivers a surprising look at the topic of debt a subject that continues to be timely legendary novelist poet and essayist margaret atwood delivers a surprising look at the topic of debt a subject that continues to be timely during this current period of economic upheaval in her intelligent and imaginative approach to the subject atwood proposes that debt is like air something we take for granted and never think about until things go wrong this is not a book about practical debt management or high finance although it does touch upon those subjects rather it goes far deeper into an investigation of debt as a very old very central motif in religion literature and the structure of human societies by looking at how debt has informed our thinking from preliterate times to the present day through the stories we tell to our concepts of revenge and sin to the way we structure our social relationships atwood shows that this idea of what we owe in other words debt is possibly built into the human imagination as one of its most dynamic metaphors in the final section atwood touches upon not only our current global financial situation but also the concept of our debt to nature and how our ideas of ownership and debt must be changed if we are to find a new way to interact with our natural environment

## Seven Fallen Feathers

2017-09-30

## Payback

2007-03-15