

CARL ZIMMER

Author & journalist

carlzimmer.com

@carlzimmer

BIOGRAPHY

Zimmer is the award-winning author of thirteen books about science and a columnist for the *New York Times*. He first began writing about science at *Discover*, where he served for five years as a senior editor, and has gone on to write hundreds of features for magazines including *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Time*, *National Geographic*, and *Scientific American*. He has also served as a scientific editor for television documentaries, consulted on museum exhibits, and contributed his writing to major science web sites.

Zimmer is a two-time winner of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Communication Award and a three-time winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences Science Journalism Award. In 2015, Zimmer won the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers, and in 2016, he won the Stephen Jay Gould Prize, awarded by the Society for the Study of Evolution. In 2018, Zimmer's book *She Has Her Mother's Laugh* was named by *Publisher's Weekly* one of the ten best books of the year. *The Guardian* named it the best science book of 2018 and *The New York Times Book Review* chose it as a Notable Book of the Year. It was short-listed for the Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction and a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Prize. His articles have been anthologized in both *The Best American Science and Nature Writing* series and *The Best American Science Writing* series. In addition, Zimmer has won fellowships for his books from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Zimmer lectures frequently at universities, museums, and scientific conferences. In 2019, he released the eight-episode podcast, "What Is Life?" and he is a familiar voice on radio programs such as *Radiolab*. At Yale University, he is Professor Adjunct in the Department of Biophysics and Biochemistry, where he teaches science writing.

EXPERIENCE

Science writer

February 1999-present

Author of thirteen books about science. *New York Times* columnist. National Correspondent, Stat. Contribute award-winning articles, essays, and reviews to magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *Scientific American*, *Wired Time*, *Discover*, *Natural History*, *Science*, and *Nature*. Consultant for television series, museum exhibits, and web sites.

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Senior Editor, *Discover*

September 1994-February 1999

Wrote award-winning features and news articles for leading general-interest science magazine. Edited features and columns by both journalists and leading scientists. Organized special issues of the magazine. Generated ideas and assigned articles. Consulted on creation of the magazine's web site, and a television series on the Discovery Channel based on the magazine.

Associate Editor, *Discover*

August 1991-September 1994.

Wrote features and news articles. Edited features by journalists and commentaries by scientists.

Researcher/Reporter, *Discover*

September 1989-August 1991.

Wrote over 50 articles. Fact-checked articles on all subjects.

EDUCATION

Yale University

B.A. in English, magna cum laude, with distinction in the major, 1987

FELLOWSHIPS

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, 2017

Osher Fellowship, California Academy of Sciences, 2014

Poynter Fellowship, Yale. Invited speaker, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, 2010

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, 2006

Poynter Fellowship, Yale University, 2005. Invited speaker, Psychology.

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 2002

HONORS

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Communication Award, 2019 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

The Guardian Best Science Book of the Year, 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

PEN/EO Wilson Literary Science Writing Award, 2018 Finalist (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year, 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction, 2018 Shortlist (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Ten Best Books of the Year, *Publisher's Weekly*, 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Amazon Best Science Books of the Year, 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Amazon Top 100 Books of the Year, 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Top Nonfiction Books of 2018, *Kirkus Reviews* (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Best Books of 2018, *Smithsonian* (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

Best Books of 2018, *Prospect* (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)

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The Times Science Books of 2018 (*She Has Her Mother's Laugh*)
Online Journalism Award (explanatory reporting, for "Game of Genomes," Stat), 2017
Finalist, National Magazine Award (Video, for "Science Happens," Stat), 2017
The Stephen Jay Gould Prize, 2016 (Awarded by the Society for the Study of Evolution)
Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2016 (for *A Planet of Viruses*)
National Association of Biology Teachers Distinguished Service Award, 2015
AAAS Kavli Journalism Award, 2012 (for articles in *The New York Times*)
Byron H. Waksman Award for Excellence in Public Communication of Life Sciences, 2012
Booklist Editor's Choice, 2011 (for *A Planet of Viruses*)
Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2010 (for *The Tangled Bank*)
AAAS Kavli Journalism Award, 2009 (for articles in *The New York Times*)
Transforming Lives Through Science Journalism Award, 2009 (SUNY Downstate)
Finalist, Los Angeles Times Science Book Prize, 2009 (for *Microcosm*)
John Wesley Powell Memorial Lecture, Invited Speaker, AAAS-SWARM, 2009
Longlisted for the 2008 Royal Society Prize for Science Books (for *Microcosm*)
New York Times Publisher's Award, November, 2008
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Communication Award, 2007 (for articles for *The New York Times*)
Scientific American's Science and Technology Web Awards, 2005 (for *The Loom*)
National Academies Communication Award, finalist, 2005.
New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year, 2004 (for *Soul Made Flesh*)
AAAS Science Journalism Award, 2004 (for *The Loom*)
Best Books of 2004, Top Ten Editor's Picks: Science, Amazon.com (for *Soul Made Flesh*)
Best Books of 2002, *New Scientist* (for *Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea*)
Best Books of 2001, *Discover* (for *Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea*)
Pan-American Health Organization Award for Excellence in Health Reporting, 1999
American Institute of Biological Sciences Media Award, 1997
Everett Clark Award, for science journalism, 1994
Editor's Fiction Award, *Columbia: A Magazine of Poetry and Prose*, 1989

PUBLISHED WORK

Books

She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity. Dutton, 2018. A history of heredity, examining its current transformation through biotechnology. Also published in UK, Australia, China, Korea, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and Turkey. National Academies Communication Award, 2019. Best Science Book of the Year, *The Guardian*. *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of the Year. Ten Best Books of the Year, *Publisher's Weekly*. Top Nonfiction Books of the Year, *Kirkus Reviews*. Best Science Books of 2018, *The Times*. Best Books of the Year, *Smithsonian*. Best Books of 2018, *Prospect*. Amazon Best Science Books of the Year, 2018. Amazon Top 100 Books of the Year. Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction, 2018 Shortlist. PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award, 2018 Finalist. Best non-fiction books of summer 2018, *Vanity Fair*. *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Amazon's Best Books of May 2018.

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A Planet of Viruses. University of Chicago Press. First edition, 2011; second edition 2015. Also published in China, France, Japan, Korea, Poland, Russia, and Turkey. Based on a National Institutes of Health-funded project to educate students about new research in virology. *Booklist* Editor's Choice 2011, *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2016.

Evolution: Making Sense of Life. Macmillan. First edition, 2012; second edition, 2015, third edition to be published 2019. Co-authored with evolutionary biologist Douglas Emlen. A lavishly illustrated, up-to-date textbook about evolution, intended for biology majors, used in 400 courses.

The Tangled Bank: An Introduction to Evolution. Macmillan. First edition, 2009; second edition, 2013. The first non-majors textbook on evolution. Also published in France, Italy, and Japan. Excerpted in *The New York Academy of Science Magazine*, *Discover*, and NOVA Online. First edition selected as a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title for 2010.

More Brain Cuttings: Further Explorations of the Mind. Scott & Nix, 2011. An ebook collection of articles about the brain.

Science Ink: Tattoos of the Science Obsessed. Sterling, 2011. Introduction by Mary Roach. A collection of tattoos from scientists, and the stories behind them. Starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. Featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, *National Public Radio*, *The Guardian*, PBS Newshour, *The Toronto Star*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Irish Times*, *New Scientist*, and MSNBC.

Brain Cuttings: Fifteen Explorations of the Mind. Scott & Nix, 2010. An ebook collection of articles about the brain. Featured on MSNBC, *The Atlantic*, and *Public Library of Science*.

Microcosm: E. coli and the New Science of Life. Pantheon, 2008. A natural (and unnatural) history of *Escherichia coli*. Also published in UK, Japan, Korea, and China. Longlisted for the 2008 Royal Society Prize for Science Books. Finalist for the 2009 *Los Angeles Times* Science Book Prize. Selected as one of the best books of the year by *Granta*, *Seed*, and *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*. Top Ten Editor's Picks: Science, Amazon.com. Best Sci-Tech Books, 2008, *Library Journal*. Serial rights, *New York Times*.

The Descent of Man: The Concise Edition. Dutton, 2007. With a foreword by primatologist Frans de Waal. An edited selection of excerpts from Darwin's classic book on human evolution with extensive commentary.

Smithsonian Intimate Guide to Human Origins. Smithsonian Books, 2005. A lavishly illustrated overview of human evolution. Also published in Germany, Holland, Denmark, and Australia.

Soul Made Flesh: The Discovery of the Brain and How It Changed the World. Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2004. Also published in UK, Japan, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Brazil, and Korea. A *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of the Year, 2004; Best Books of 2004, Top Ten Editor's Picks: Science, Amazon.com.

Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea. Harper Collins, 2001. Reissued with a new introduction, 2006. A companion volume to a major public television series. Also published in UK, Japan, China, Korea, Brazil, Holland, and Australia. Alternate selection for Book of the Month Club, Quality

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Paperback Book Club, History Book Club, Library of Science Book Club, and Natural Science Book Club. Main Selection, the Softback Preview (UK). Named one of the best books of 2001 by *Discover*. British edition named one of the best books of 2002 by *New Scientist*.

Parasite Rex: Inside the Bizarre World of Nature's Most Dangerous Creatures. Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2000. Reissued with a new epilogue, February 2011. Also published in Germany, Holland, Czech Republic, Australia, Japan, Korea, and Spain. Serial rights, *Discover* and *Natural History*, 2000. Named one of *Library Journal's* top science books of 2000. Books for the Teen Age, New York Public Library, 2001.

At the Water's Edge: Macroevolution and the Transformation of Life. Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 1998. Also published by UK, Germany, Japan, Holland, Taiwan, Brazil, Poland. First serial rights, *Discover*, 1998. Named one of the best science books of 1998 by *Library Journal*.

Selected Articles

(Complete archive at carlzimmer.com/category/articles/)

“Wired Bacteria Form Nature’s Power Grid,” *The New York Times*, July 1, 2019

“Scott Kelly Spent A Year In Orbit. His Body Is Not Quite The Same,” *The New York Times*, April 11, 2019

“Beyond a Gut Feeling,” *The New York Times*, January 29, 2019

“How Did We Get to Be Human?” *The New York Times*, November 20, 2018

“Before Arguing About DNA Tests, Learn About the Science Behind Them,” *The New York Times*, October 18, 2018

“A Blended Family: Her Mother Was Neanderthal, Her Father Something Else Entirely,” *The New York Times*, August 22, 2018

“Was a Tiny Mummy in the Atacama an Alien? No, but the Real Story Is Almost as Strange,” *The New York Times*, March 22, 2018 (Front page)

“Scientists Are Designing Artisanal Proteins for Your Body,” *The New York Times*, December 26, 2017

“A ‘Sonic Attack’ on Diplomats in Cuba? These Scientists Doubt It,” *The New York Times*, October 5, 2017

“Oldest Fossils of Homo Sapiens Found in Morocco, Altering History of Our Species,” *The New York Times*, June 7, 2017

“A Virus, Fished Out of a Lake, May Have Saved A Man’s Life — And Advanced Science,” *Stat*, December 7, 2016

“Game of Genomes,” Three-part series in *Stat*, July 2016 (Online Journalism Award)

“Updated Brain Map Identifies Nearly 100 New Regions,” *The New York Times*, July 20, 2016 (Front page)

“Tales of African-American History Found in DNA,” *The New York Times*, May 27, 2016 (Front page)

“Inside the Drive to Collect DNA from 1 Million Veterans and Revolutionize Medicine,” *STAT*, November 11, 2015

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- “Why Do We Have Allergies?” Mosaic, April 7, 2015. (Republished in Discover, *The Independent*, BBC Future, io9, Ars Technica, Gizmodo)
- “Is Most of Our DNA Garbage?” *New York Times Magazine*, March 8, 2015
- “Breakthrough DNA Editor Born of Bacteria,” Quanta, February 6, 2015 (Republished in Business Insider)
- “Raising Alarm, Study Finds Oceans on Brink of Wave of Extinctions,” *The New York Times*, January 15, 2015 (front page)
- “Mindsuckers,” *National Geographic*, November 2014 (cover story)
- “Our Microbiome May Be Looking Out for Itself,” *The New York Times*, August 14, 2014
- “Why Do We Have Blood Types?” Mosaic, July 15, 2014 (Republished in Business Insider, The Independent, Pacific Standard, io9, Gizmodo, Ars Technica, BBC Future)
- “In A First, Test of DNA Finds Root of Illness,” *The New York Times*, June 4, 2014 (front page)
- “The Oldest Rocks on Earth,” *Scientific American*, March 2014
- “Secrets of the Brain,” *National Geographic*, February 2014 (cover story)
- “The Quest to End the Flu,” *The Atlantic*, December 2013
- “A Family Consents to a Medical Gift, 62 Years Later,” *The New York Times*, August 8, 2013 (front page)
- “The Girl Who Turned to Bone,” *The Atlantic*, July 2013
- “Bringing Them Back to Life,” *National Geographic*, April 2013 (cover story)

Book Reviews

- The Pandemic Century*, by Mark Honigsbaum, *New York Times Book Review*, June 5, 2019
- How to Clone a Mammoth*, by Beth Shapiro, *Wall Street Journal*, May 22, 2015
- Neanderthal Man*, by Svante Paabo, *New York Times*, April 20, 2014
- Permanent Present Tense*, by Suzanne Corkin, *Wall Street Journal*, June 14, 2013
- Brilliant Blunders*, by Mario Livio, *New York Times Book Review*, June 7, 2013
- The Forever Fix*, by Ricki Lewis, and *The Epigenetics Revolution*, by Nessa Carey, *Wall Street Journal*, March 10, 2012
- Virovolution*, by Frank Ryan, *Wall Street Journal*, June 18, 2011
- First Contact*, by Mark Kaufman, *Wall Street Journal*, April 23, 2011
- The 4% Universe*, by Richard Panek, *Washington Post*, January 28, 2011
- Your Inner Fish*, by Neil Shubin. *Nature*, January 17, 2008.
- Avoid Boring People*, by James Watson. *Publisher's Weekly* (Signature Review), July 30, 2007
- Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code*, by Matt Ridley. *Bioscience*, January 2007
- Field Notes from A Catastrophe*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, and *The Weather Makers*, by Tim Flannery. *New York Times Book Review*, March 12, 2006
- The Ancestor's Tale*, by Richard Dawkins, *New York Times Book Review*, October 17, 2004
- The God Gene*, by Dean Hamer, *Scientific American*, October 2004
- Devil in the Mountain*, by Simon Lamb, *New York Times Book Review*, July 25, 2004
- Alchemy of the Mind*, by Diane Ackerman, *Washington Post Book World*, June 13, 2004
- Sea of Glory*, by Nathaniel Philbrick, *Newsday*, January 6, 2004
- The Story of Life*, by Richard Southwood. *Nature*, April 22, 2003
- The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey*, by Spencer Wells. *New York Times Book Review*, March 12, 2003.

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Darwin: The Power of Place, by Janet Browne. *Newsday*, September 22, 2002.
Mapping Human History by Steve Olson and *The Molecule Hunt*, by Martin Jones. *Discover*, July 2002
Digital Biology: How Nature is Transforming Technology and Our Lives, by Peter J. Bentley. *New York Times Book Review*, March 10, 2002.
A Gap in Nature, by Tim Flannery, *Discover*, January 2002
Aquagenesis: The Origin and Evolution of Life in the Ocean, by Richard Ellis. *New York Times Book Review*, October 14, 2001.
Terrible Lizard, by Deborah Cadbury, and *The Dragon Seekers*, by Christopher MacGowan. *Scientific American*, June 2001.
The Evolution Explosion, by Stephen R. Palumbi. *New York Times Book Review*, May 27, 2001.
Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health, by Laurie Garrett. *Newsday*, August 20, 2000.
What Remains to Be Discovered, by John Maddox. *Nature*, November 12, 1998.

Textbook Contributions

Biology, by Neil Campbell (7th edition). Benjamin Cummings, 2005. Wrote chapters comprising the “Diversity” unit.

Trade Book Contributions

Alice and Bob Meet the Wall of Fire: The Biggest Ideas in Science from Quanta. MIT Press, 2018. Edited by Thomas Lin.
Virus: An Illustrated Guide. Princeton University Press, 2016. Introduction to a book by virologist Marilyn Roossinck.
Feathers: Displays of Brilliant Plumage. Chronicle Books, 2016. Introduction to a book of photographs by Robert Clark.
The Oldest Things in the World, University of Chicago Press, 2014. Introduction to a book of photographs by Rachel Sussman.
This Explains Everything: Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works, edited by John Brockman. Harper Perennial, 2013.
Earth Before Dinosaurs. Indiana University Press, 2013. Foreword to English translation.
The Princeton Guide to Evolution. Princeton University Press, 2013. Chapter on evolution in media.
In Light of Evolution: Essays from the Laboratory and the Field. Roberts and Company Publishers, 2010. Chapter on experimental evolution.
T. Rex and the Crater of Doom, by Walter Alvarez. Princeton University Press, 2009. Foreword.
Seventy Mysteries of the Natural World, Edited by Michael Benton. Thames and Hudson, 2009. Chapter on evidence for evolution.
Best of the Brain from Scientific American: Mind, Matter, and Tomorrow’s Brain. Dana Press, 2007.
Dictionary of the History of Ideas. Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005. Entry on “Mind.”
A Field Guide for Science Writers. (Second edition). Oxford University Press, 2005. Chapter on writing science books.
Insect Symbiosis. Edited by Thomas Miller and Kostas Bourzitis. CRC Press, 2003. Preface.
The Greatest Inventions of the Past 2,000 Years: Today’s Leading Thinkers Choose the Inventions That Shaped Our World. Edited by John Brockman. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

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Online Writing

“The Loom” (carlzimmer.com/category/blog/) Launched September 2003, hosted by *Discover* 2008-2012 and *National Geographic* 2012-2017. Write an award-winning blog on new developments in evolutionary biology, biotechnology, neurology, and related fields. Awarded the AAAS Online Journalism Award and *Scientific American’s* Science and Technology Web Awards. Named one of the top five science blogs on the Internet by *Nature*. Linked by Arts & Letters Daily, MSNBC.com, Slashdot, Metafilter, Daily Dish, etc.

“Download the Universe” (downloadtheuniverse.com) 2012-2014. An online science e-book review. Published two to three new titles each week, along with interviews, essays, and roundtable discussions on advances in digital publishing. Oversees work from twelve regular contributors. Covered by *The Atlantic*, *Endgadget*, *New Scientist*, *American Scientist*, *ReadWriteWeb*, and *Arts & Letters Daily*.

“Understanding Evolution” (evolution.berkeley.edu) Launched 2004. Wrote a 25-part history of biology for University of California-based web site intended to serve as the definitive site for web-based information on evolution for K-12 teachers and students. Funded by the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Foundation.

Podcasts

“What Is Life?” (carlzimmer.com/podcasts/) 2019. An eight-episode podcast based on a series of live conversations with experts on the origin and nature of life. Supported by the Simons Foundation.

“Meet the Scientist.” microbeworld.org/mts September 2009-December 2010. Hosted a bi-weekly podcast for the American Society for Microbiology.

Television & Video

“The Code.” April 2018. Special correspondent for a three-part video series about genetics. Produced by Retro Report, published by Stat. retroreport.org/series/the-code/

Tangled Bank Studios. Science consultant, May 2012-present. Advisor to film production company founded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institution. Develop award-winning science programming, consult on productions for major network broadcasts.

“Science Happens.” November 2015-September 2017. A series of videos about cutting-edge biomedical research, published on Stat. A National Magazine Award finalist.

“Curiosity.” 2011. Science advisor to a major television series about the great questions of life, produced by the Discovery Channel. Develop scripts, evaluate scientific importance and accuracy of content, consult with web site developers.

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“Evolve.” 2008. Scientific editor on a multi-part science series on the History Channel.

Museum Projects

Exploring Evolution. Opened Fall 2005 Wrote legends for National Science Foundation-funded exhibit on current research in evolutionary biology and contributed to companion book. Appeared at eight state science museums. explore-evolution.unl.edu/index.html

TEACHING

Yale University, 2015-present Professor Adjunct, Yale University. Teach an upper-level seminar on writing about science, medicine and the environment. Teach science writing workshops for graduate students.

Yale University, 2009-2014. Lecturer, Environmental Studies & English Department. Teach an upper-level seminar on writing about science and the environment.

New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, 2009-2011. Visiting Scholar at the Science, Health, and Environment Reporting Program.

Cornell University, 2009-2010. Taught a week-long college-credit summer course on science writing at Shoals Marine Laboratory (Cornell University).

Yale University, 2006-present. Teach an annual workshop for science graduate students on writing about science for the public.

Guest speaker, 2002-present. Columbia School of Journalism, Yale University (Department of Psychology, Department of Biophysics and Biochemistry), MIT Writing Program, Knight-Ridder Fellows (MIT/Harvard), New York University School of Journalism, Johns Hopkins School of Journalism, Boston University School of Journalism, Princeton University, Cornell University, University of British Columbia School of Journalism, etc.

SELECTED LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

(Complete list posted at carlzimmer.com/talks)

Charleston to Charleston Literary Festival, November 2019

Arts & Ideas, JCCF San Francisco, October 2019

Smithsonian Institution, September 2019

Decatur Book Festival, September 2019

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University of Illinois, Thomas M. Siebel Lecture Series in Science and Society, March 2019
AAAS Topic Lecture, Washington DC, February 2019
ETH Zurich, December 2018
Mount Holyoke College, October 2018
Colorado State University, Murray Honors Visiting Scholar Lecture, October 2018
Denver Museum of Nature and Science, June 2018 (Broadcast on BookTV/C-SPAN)
Aspen Ideas Festival, June 2018
World Science Festival, June 2018
Columbia University School of Journalism, May 2018
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Plenary Lecture, January 2018
Distinguished Lecture in Virology, University of Oxford, November 2017
Aspen Ideas Festival, June 2017
Brooklyn Book Festival, September 18, 2016
National Society of Genetics Counselor Annual Education Conference, Keynote Speaker, October 24, 2015
National Affairs Lecture Series, Iowa State University, September 17, 2015
Festival Centro Historico, Mexico City, March 31, 2015
Osher Fellow Lecture, California Academy of Sciences, November 6, 2014
New Haven Arts & Ideas Festivals, June 26, 2014
Lee Hellman Lecture, University of Maryland, April 30, 2014
Director's Series Lecture, Harvard University, Arnold Arboretum, March 24, 2014
Rochester Arts & Lectures Series, March 20, 2014
York Distinguished Lecture, Auburn University, February 25, 2014
The Flexner Discovery Lecture, Vanderbilt University, October 3, 2013
Association of Medical Illustrators, Keynote Lecture, June 20, 2013
TEDYouth, New York, November 17, 2012
International Conference on Systems Biology, Keynote Lecture, Toronto, August 20, 2012
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, Keynote Lecture, Yale, June 11, 2012
Genomics of Energy and the Environment, Keynote Lecture, March 22, 2012
Tucson Festival of Books, March 11, 2012
Philadelphia Science Festival, April 29, 2012
U.S. Science & Engineering Festival, April 28, 2012
New York Academy of Sciences, January 24, 2012
Harvard Museum of Natural History, December 13, 2011
"Science on Screen," Coolidge Theatre, Brookline, MA, December 12, 2011
O.C. Marsh Fellows Program, Yale University, November 15, 2011
"Viral Time." The Long Now Foundation, San Francisco CA, June 6, 2011.
World Science Festival, New York, June 2-3, 2011
Joint Summits on Translational Science, Keynote lecture, San Francisco. March 8, 2011
Provost Lecture Series, Stony Brook University, February 11, 2011
Yale Medical School, December 16, 2010
Koshland Science Museum, Washington DC. October 14, 2010
World Science Festival, New York, June 2010
President's Forum, American Society for Microbiology, May 25, 2010
Massachusetts Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Keynote Peaker, April 17, 2010
Beaty Museum Biodiversity Lecture, Vancouver, November 18, 2008

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Cornell University, November 14, 2009
Peabody Museum, Yale University, November 12, 2009
Caltech, November 1, 2009
Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken NJ, September 18, 2009
Northeast Conference on Science and Skepticism, September 12, 2009
World Science Festival, June 12, 2009
John Wesley Powell Memorial Lecture, March 29, 2009: "What Is Life?"
Brown University, March 16, 2009: "Science Meets Talk"
University of California, Santa Barbara, March 12, 2009: "Soul Made Flesh"
North Carolina State Museum of Natural Science, February 14, 2009: "Darwin and Beyond"
Rockefeller University, December 4, 2008: "The Darwin Beat: Reporting from the Frontiers of Evolution"
Chautauqua Institution, Public Lecture, August 19, 2008. "Darwin, Linnaeus, and Microbes."
American Society of Parasitologists, June 28, 2008. Invited speaker: "Parasitology: Public Awareness Through Literature, Art, and Film."
Field Museum, Chicago, May 18, 2008
Microsoft Research, June 3, 2008
Town Hall, Seattle, June 3, 2008
Zocalo Festival, Los Angeles, June 25, 2008
World Science Festival, May 31, 2008
SUNY Downstate Medical Center, May 20, 2008, Public Lecture, "The Evolution of Mind"
University of Denver, April 15, 2008, Public Lecture, "Soul Made Flesh"
Mote Marine Laboratory, Public Lecture, March 10, 2008. "Back to the Water: The Origin of Whales."
University of Nebraska, February 2008. "Darwin Among the Microbes."
Rome Science Festival, January 17, 2008. Invited Lecture "Towards A Sixth Mass Extinction"
Southern Utah University, Eccles Visiting Scholar, March 24-26, 2007.
New York University School of Journalism, "Crossing Media Platforms," February 27, 2007
Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, Public Lecture, "The Descent of Man: From Darwin to DNA," February 13, 2007
Cornell University, University Lecture, "Possessed: The Strange Biology of Parasite Manipulation." November 8, 2006
University of Notre Dame, GLOBES Inaugural Seminar, "The Darwin Beat: Reporting on Evolution in a Controversial Age." September 21, 2006
RECOMB 2006: International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology, Venice. Keynote Lecture: "An Outsider's View of the Genome." April 4, 2006
Princeton University, Biology Department Seminar: "Evolution in the News." February 6, 2006
Johns Hopkins University: "Possessed: The Biology of Parasite Manipulation." January 26, 2006
American Anthropology Association, Executive Panel on Evolution, December 3, 2005
Yale School of Medicine, October 6, 2005
Swarthmore College, September 28, 2005
National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference, Keynote speaker, April 1, 2005
Joseph Carroll University, Cleveland, September 21, 2004
Brown University, May 6, 2004
Museum of Science and Technology, Oxford University, April 2004
Virginia Book Festival, March 25-26, 2004

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American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, San Antonio, Texas, March 12, 2004. Invited plenary session speaker, "Medicine and Media"
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, March 4, 2004
Stanford University Center for Biomedical Ethics and the Stanford Brain Research Institute, February 23, 2004 (Broadcast on BookTV/C-SPAN)
New York Public Library Science, Industry and Business Branch, January 27, 2004
92nd St. Y, Makor Center, New York January 20, 2004
University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley. November 3, 2003
University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse. November 4, 2003
National Association of Biology Teachers, Plenary lecture, Cincinnati OH, October 2002
Brighton Book Festival (UK), May 2002
American Institute of Biological Sciences, Washington DC, March 2002
National Science Teachers' Association, San Diego, March 2002
Florida Museum of Natural History, February 2002
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting. "Evolution and the Media."
Invited speaker, Anaheim, California, January 2002
Geological Society of America, Boston, December 2001
American Museum of Natural History, October 2001
Smithsonian Institution, October 2001
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 2001
University of Washington, Seattle, October 2001
University of Kansas, Kansas City, October 2001
New York University, Biology Department, February 2001
Miami Book Fair, November 2000
American Museum of Natural History, October 2000
Smithsonian Institution, October 2000
Complexity and Complex Systems lecture series, University of Virginia, October 1999.
Conservancy of Southwest Florida, February 1999
California Academy of Natural Sciences, October 1998
American Museum of Natural History, April 1998
Smithsonian Institution, April 1998
"Dinosaurs and the Media." Symposium panel, North American Paleontological Conference, Washington, DC, July 1996.

SELECTED RADIO, PODCAST, AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES

PBS ("Decoding Watson," American Masters documentary on James Watson), January 2019
The Daily (*New York Times*), December 2018
BBC World Service, September 2018
Book TV, July 2018
Science Friday, July 2018
Fresh Air, June 2018
Stuff to Blow Your Mind, June 2018
Discovery Channel TV (*Invisible Killers*), March 2018
The Daily (*New York Times*), August 2017
BBC World Service, July 2017

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Radiolab, February 2017
Here and Now (National Public Radio), July 13, 2016
Radiolab, July 30, 2015
Radiolab, June 6, 2015
On Point, April 28, 2015
Radiolab, December 23, 2014
Radiolab, October 20, 2014
Radio Times (National Public Radio), October 15, 2014
TED-Ed, September 22, 2014 (“Where Do Genes Come From?”)
All Things Considered (National Public Radio), December 29, 2013
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