

CARL ZIMMER
Author & Journalist
Web: carlzimmer.com

BIOGRAPHY

Zimmer is an award-winning columnist for the *New York Times* and the author of fifteen books about science. *New York* has called him “the country’s most respected science journalist.”

Zimmer began writing about science at *Discover*, where he served for five years as a senior editor. He went on to write hundreds of features for magazines including *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Time*, *Wired*, and *Scientific American*.

His journalism has earned numerous awards. 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. Zimmer has won the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers and the Stephen Jay Gould Prize, awarded by the Society for the Study of Evolution. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he contributed to the coverage that won the *New York Times* a Pulitzer Prize in 2021.

Three of Zimmer’s books have been named a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times Book Review*. One of them, *She Has Her Mother’s Laugh*, was also the best science book of year by *The Guardian*. It earned a National Academies Communication Award and the National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Award and was on the short-list for the Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction. *She Has Her Mother’s Laugh* and his 2021 book *Life’s Edge* were both finalists for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Prize. *A Planet of Viruses* was named Poland’s 2021 Smart Book of the Year.

Zimmer also has over 15 years of experience in podcasts, as a producer, host, and guest. In 2025, he produced a seven-episode podcast on the science of aging, released by Audacy. At Yale University, Zimmer is Professor Adjunct in the Department of Biophysics and Biochemistry, where he teaches science writing and lectures on biology.

EXPERIENCE

Science writer

February 1999-present

Author of fifteen books about science. *New York Times* columnist since 2013. Contribute award-winning articles, essays, data visualizations, and reviews to magazines and newspapers. Podcast host and producer. Consultant for television series, museum exhibits, and web sites.

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. 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

Researcher/Reporter, *Discover*

September 1989-August 1991

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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, 2022

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant for Public Understanding of Science and Technology, 2020

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

Pulitzer Prize, 2021 (Contributed to the coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic that eaned the *New York Times* the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service)

Online Journalism Award, General Excellence, 2021 (Awarded to *The New York Times* for a package of projects including the coronavirus vaccine tracker)

Society for News Design Award of Excellence, 2021 (Features and Single Graphics)

Honors for *Life's Edge* (2021)

New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year

PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Prize, Finalist

Best Books of 2021, *Library Journal*, *Science News*, *Smithsonian*

A Planet of Viruses (Third edition, 2021)

Smart Book of the Year 2022 (For books published in Poland, awarded by Jagiellonian University)

Choice Outstanding Academic Title, (For second edition, 2016)

She Has Her Mother's Laugh (2018)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Communication Award

The Guardian Best Science Book of the Year

New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year

National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Award

PEN/EO Wilson Literary Science Writing Award, Finalist

Baillie-Gifford Prize for Nonfiction, Shortlist

Ten Best Books of the Year, *Publisher's Weekly*

Amazon Best Science Books of the Year

Amazon Top 100 Books of the Year

Top Nonfiction Books of 2018, *Kirkus Reviews*

Best Books of 2018, *Smithsonian*

Best Books of 2018, *Prospect*

The Times Science Books of 2018

Additional honors

Online Journalism Award (explanatory reporting, for “Game of Genomes,” *Stat*), 2017

Finalist, National Magazine Award (Video, for “Science Happens,” *Stat*), 2017

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The Stephen Jay Gould Prize, 2016 (Awarded by the Society for the Study of Evolution)
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
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 (<https://carlzimmer.com/books/>)

Air-Borne: The Hidden History of the Life We Breathe. Dutton, 2025. Also published in Korea, Spain, Turkey, and UK. A history of life and death in the air, from Covid to the clouds. Serial rights: *New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, and *Newsweek*. Featured in *The Atlantic* and *Nautilus*, as well as numerous podcasts including Radiolab, The Next Big Idea, and Conversations with Tyler Cowen. Reviews in publications including *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Lancet*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, and *Associated Press* (published by hundreds of newspapers and local news websites).

Evolution: Making Sense of Life. Macmillan. Fourth edition, November 2025. Co-authored with biologist Douglas Emilen. A lavishly illustrated, up-to-date textbook about evolution, intended for biology majors, used in 400 courses.

The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2023. Harper Collins. Served as editor and wrote an introduction.

Life's Edge: The Search for What It Means to Be Alive. Dutton, 2021. Also published in UK, China, Japan, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine. Excerpts and adaptations appeared in *The New York Times* Sunday Review (front page), *Quanta*, and *Slate*. A *New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of the Year. PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Prize, Finalist. Best Books of 2021, *Library Journal*, *Science News*, *Smithsonian*.

She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity. Dutton, 2018. Also published in UK, Australia, China, Korea, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and Turkey. National Academies Communication Award. National Association of Science Writers Science in Society Award. 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, Finalist. Best non-

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fiction books of summer 2018, *Vanity Fair*. A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Amazon's Best Books of May 2018.

A Planet of Viruses. University of Chicago Press. First edition, 2011; second edition 2015, third edition 2021. Also published in China, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy Japan, Korea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and Vietnam. 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, Smart Book Awards Main Prize (Jagiellonian University & Euclid Foundation) 2021.

The Tangled Bank: An Introduction to Evolution. Macmillan. 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.

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, the Netherlands, 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, the Netherlands, and Australia. Alternate selection for Book of the Month Club, Quality 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, the Netherlands, 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, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Brazil, Poland. First serial rights, *Discover*, 1998. Named one of the best science books of 1998 by *Library Journal*.

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

The New York Times

“Life Lessons From (Very Old) Bowhead Whales,” October 29, 2025
“Fraudulent Scientific Papers Are Rapidly Increasing, Study Finds,” August 4, 2025
“Scientists Are Learning to Rewrite the Code of Life,” July 31, 2025
“Genetic Study Retraces the Origins of Coronaviruses in Bats,” May 7, 2025
“Astronomers Detect a Possible Signature of Life on a Distant Planet,” April 16, 2025
“Scientists Revive the Dire Wolf, or Something Close,” April 7, 2025 (front page)
“Could the Bird Flu Become Airborne?” February 3, 2025
“A ‘Second Tree of Life’ Could Wreak Havoc, Scientists Warn,” December 12, 2024
“Unresponsive Brain-Damaged Patients May Have Some Awareness,” August 15, 2024 (front page)
“Scientists Find an ‘Alphabet’ in Whale Songs,” May 7, 2024
“W.H.O. Broadens Definition of Airborne Diseases,” April 18, 2024
“A.I. Is Learning What It Means to Be Alive,” March 10, 2024
“Two Leading Theories of Consciousness Square Off,” July 1, 2023
“New Research Points to Wuhan Market as Pandemic Origin,” February 26, 2022
“The Secret Life of a Coronavirus,” February 28, 2021 (Sunday Review front page)
“How the Search for Covid-19 Treatments Faltered While Vaccines Sped Ahead,” January 31, 2021 (front page)
“One-Dose Vaccine Proved Effective to Fight Covid-19,” January 30, 2021 (front page)
“A New Vaccine Shows Success, With a Caveat,” January 29, 2021 (front page)
“U.S. Is Blind to Contagious New Virus Variant, Scientists Warn,” January 6, 2021
“Moderna Vaccine Is Highly Protective Against Covid-19, the F.D.A. Finds,” December 16, 2020 (front page)
“Pfizer’s Early Data Shows Vaccine Is More Than 90% Effective,” November 10, 2020 (front page)
The New York Times Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker, launched June 10, 2020 (over 26 million views)
“A New Entry in the Race for a Coronavirus Vaccine: Hope,” May 20, 2020 (front page)
“Profits and Pride at Stake, the Race for a Vaccine Intensifies,” May 2, 2020 (front page)
“Birds Are Vanishing from North America,” September 19, 2019 (front page)
“Updated Brain Map Identifies Nearly 100 New Regions,” July 20, 2016 (front page)
“Tales of African American History Found in DNA,” May 27, 2016 (front page)
“Is Most of Our DNA Garbage?” *New York Times Magazine*, March 8, 2015
“Raising Alarm, Study Finds Oceans on Brink of Wave of Extinctions,” January 15, 2015 (front page)
“In A First, Test of DNA Finds Root of Illness,” June 4, 2014 (front page)
“A Family Consents to a Medical Gift, 62 Years Later,” August 8, 2013 (front page)

Selected Additional Stories

“Viruses Finally Reveal Their Complex Social Life,” *Quanta*, April 11, 2024. (Republished by *Wired*)
“Nuclear Tests Marked Life on Earth with a Radioactive Spike,” *The Atlantic*, March 2020
“Game of Genomes,” Three-part series in *Stat*, July 2016 (Online Journalism Award)
“Breakthrough DNA Editor Born of Bacteria,” *Quanta*, February 6, 2015 (republished by *Business Insider*)
“Mindsuckers,” *National Geographic*, November 2014 (cover story)
“Secrets of the Brain,” *National Geographic*, February 2014 (cover story)
“The Girl Who Turned to Bone,” *The Atlantic*, July 2013
“Bringing Them Back to Life,” *National Geographic*, April 2013 (cover story)

Book Reviews

Volcanoland, by Tamsin Mather, *New York Times Book Review*, June 19, 2024
Different, by Frans de Waal, *New York Times Book Review*, April 5, 2022
Editing Humanity, by Kevin Davies, *New York Times Book Review*, October 7, 2020
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

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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
Virolution, 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.
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, & *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 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 book by Marilyn Roossinck.
Feathers: Displays of Brilliant Plumage. Chronicle Books, 2016. Introduction to book by Robert Clark.
The Oldest Things in the World, University of Chicago Press, 2014. Introduction to a book by Rachel Sussman.
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 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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Podcasts

“The World as You’ll Know It: The Future of Aging.” 2025, Pineapple Street Studios/Audacy. Produced, wrote, and hosted a seven-episode series on the science of aging, featuring leading experts on longevity.

“What Is Life?” 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.” 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/

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

TED-Ed 2013-2014. Created two animated videos, “How Did Feathers Evolve?” and “Where Do Genes Come From?” Both have been viewed over 800,000 times.

Tangled Bank Studios. Science consultant, 2012-2017. Advisor to film production company founded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institution. Developed award-winning science programming, consulted on productions for major network broadcasts, reviewed scripts for scientific accuracy.

“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.

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

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.

Museum Projects

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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, 2022-present. Yale Journalism Initiative Advisory Committee. Coordinate bringing speakers to campus and advise on programs designed for undergraduates interested in careers in journalism.

Yale University, 2016-present Professor Adjunct, Yale University, Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. Teach an upper-level seminar on writing about science, medicine and the environment. -teach a 200-student lecture course for biology non-majors, "Biology, the World, and Us."

Yale University, 2009-2015. Lecturer, Environmental Studies & English Department. Taught an upper-level seminar on writing about science and the environment.

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

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).

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 RADIO, PODCAST, AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES

Radiolab: December 2025, April 2025, March 2025, April 2020, February 2017, July 2015, June 2015, December 2014, October 2014, November 2012, April 2012, November 2011, October 2011, December 2010, September 2009, June 2009

The Daily (*New York Times*): May 2024, January 2024, January 2022, December 2021, November 2021, July 2021, March 2021, November 2020, March 2020, December 2018, August 2017

Fresh Air: June 2018, April 2012, February 2004

Additional appearances:

99% Invisible podcast, July 2025

The Hill (video), April 2025

Clear+Vivid podcast with Alan Alda, April 2025

Nature Magazine podcast, April 2025

The Next Big Idea, March 2025

Conversations with Tyler, March 2025

Search Engine podcast, March 2025

Ground Truths with Eric Topol, March 2025

Science Quickly (Scientific American podcast), February 2025

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First Opinions (STAT podcast), February 2025
The Commonwealth Club podcast (February 2025)
PBS Newshour, October 2024
To the Best of Our Knowledge (Public Radio International), August 2024
Science Friday (NPR), April 2021
Quirks and Quarks (CBC), April 2021
On Point (NPR), April 2021
Morning Joe (MSNBC), March 2021
The Vaccine: Conquering Covid (The Discovery Channel), February 2021
PBS ("Decoding Watson," American Masters documentary on James Watson), January 2019
BBC World Service, September 2018
Book TV, July 2018
Science Friday, July 2018
Discovery Channel TV (Invisible Killers), March 2018
BBC World Service, July 2017
Here and Now (National Public Radio), July 13, 2016
On Point, April 28, 2015
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
All Things Considered (National Public Radio), March 31, 2013
CBS This Morning, March 23, 2013
On the Media (National Public Radio), September 28, 2012
Science Friday, January 13, 2012
PBS Newshour, December 2011
Science Friday, National Public Radio, May 5, 2011
The Takeaway, National Public Radio, April 21, 2011
The Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC, New York Public Radio, January 26, 2011
The Takeaway, National Public Radio, January 25, 2011
MSNBC, January 11, 2011
The Madeleine Brand Show, KPCC, Southern California Public Radio, December 9, 2010
Word of Mouth, New Hampshire Public Radio, December 8, 2010
The Colin McEnroe Show, WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio, March 16, 2010
Coast to Coast AM, September 2009
The Takeaway, National Public Radio, June 30, 2009
The Takeaway, National Public Radio, November 11, 2008
ABC World News Tonight, October 2007
Re-Discovery 2006, Discovery Channel International Television, December 2006
On Point (National Public Radio) March 28, 2005
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, November 24, 2004
New York and Company with Leonard Lopate, WNYC, April 22, 2004
Tech Nation (National Public Radio), March 2004
BookTV, March 2004
New York and Company, WNYC, New York, January 5, 2004
KVMR Radio (89.5 FM, Nevada City, California) November 25, 2003
[Explorations with Michio Kaku](#) (Pacifica Radio) October 2003
BBC World Service. September 2, 2003
This American Life, July 2003
Explorations with Michio Kaku, November 2001
The Morning Show (National Public Radio, Los Angeles) September 2001
New York and Company (National Public Radio) September 2001
BBC Radio 4 ("Parasites") August 2001
Quirks and Quarks (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) December 2000
New York & Company (National Public Radio), November 2000
Coast to Coast AM, October 2000

SELECTED LECTURES AND ADDRESSES

(Complete list posted at carlzimmer.com/talks)

Miami Festival of Books, November 21, 2025
Charleston Literary Festival, November 12, 2025
University of Notre Dame, September 25, 2025
Harvard School of Public Health, June 24, 2025
Smithsonian Associates, April 10, 2025
Yale Library Book Talk, April 9, 2025
Anatomy Connected Keynote Lecture, March 29, 2025
St. Louis Library Favorite Author Series, February 27, 2025
Harvard Science Book Talk, February 26, 2025
92NY, February 25, 2025
Genoa Festival of Science, November 1, 2024.
New York University. The 2023 Darwin Lecture. March 20, 2023
University of Idaho, Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium Lecture, April 2022
Franke Program in Science and the Humanities Distinguished Speaker Series, Yale University, March 2022
Charleston Literary Festival, November 2021
Brooklyn Book Festival, October 2021
The Royal Institution, August 2021
Atlas Obscura, July 2021 (“The Meaning of Life,” a three-part online presentation)
Aspen Ideas Festival, June 2021
Science Journalist in Residence, University of Florida, February 2021
Charleston to Charleston Literary Festival, November 2020
National Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Book and Author Talk, April 26, 2020
Los Angeles Library Foundation, Aloud Series, February 2020
Vanderbilt University, Chancellor’s Lecture Series, December 2019
Charleston to Charleston Literary Festival, November 2019
Arts & Ideas, JCCF San Francisco, October 2019
Smithsonian Institution, September 2019
Decatur Book Festival, September 2019
University of Illinois, Thomas M. Siebel Lecture Series in Science and Society, March 2019
AAAS Topic Lecture, Washington DC, February 2019
Harvard Museum of Natural History, in conversation with author David Quammen, 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

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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 Speaker, April 17, 2010
Beaty Museum Biodiversity Lecture, Vancouver, November 18, 2008
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
Brown University, March 16, 2009
University of California, Santa Barbara, March 12, 2009
North Carolina State Museum of Natural Science, February 14, 2009
Rockefeller University, December 4, 2008
Chautauqua Institution, Public Lecture, August 19, 2008
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
University of Denver, April 15, 2008, Public Lecture
Mote Marine Laboratory, Public Lecture, March 10, 2008
University of Nebraska, February 2008
Rome Science Festival, January 17, 2008
Southern Utah University, Eccles Visiting Scholar, March 24-26, 2007
New York University School of Journalism, February 27, 2007
Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado, Public Lecture, February 13, 2007
Cornell University, University Lecture, November 8, 2006
University of Notre Dame, GLOBES Inaugural Seminar, September 21, 2006
International Conference on Research in Computational Molecular Biology, Venice. Keynote. April 4, 2006
Princeton University, Biology Department Seminar
Johns Hopkins University, 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

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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
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

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