

DEBORAH LEIGH BLUM

Deborah Blum, a Pulitzer prize-winning science journalist, author, and blogger, is director of the Knight Science Journalism Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*She is the author of six books, including *The Poison Squad* (2018) and *the Poisoner's Handbook* (2011), a *New York Times* best seller. Previous books include *Ghost Hunters: William James and the Scientific Search for Life after Death* (2006); *Love at Goon Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection*, a 2002 finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize; *Sex on the Brain* (1997), and *The Monkey Wars* (1994). She is co-editor of two editions of *A Field Guide for Science Writers* and of *A Tactical Guide to Science Journalism* (Oxford University Press, 2022). I was also guest editor of *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014* (Houghton Mifflin)*

*Blum was author of a monthly public health and toxicology blog for *The New York Times* called *Poison Pen* as well as an environmental chemistry blog for *Wired*; her blog *Elemental* was named one of the top 25 blogs of 2013 by *Time* magazine. She has written for a wide range of other publications including *Scientific American*, *Slate*, *Tin House*, *The Atavist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *Discover*. She is currently publisher of a digital magazine, *Undark*, under the auspices of the *Knight Science Journalism Program*.*

*Before joining MIT in the summer of 2015, she was the Helen Firstbrook Franklin Professor of Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, following a position as a staff science writer for *The Sacramento Bee*, where she won the Pulitzer in 1992 for her reporting on ethical issues in primate research. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Science Writing*, *Best American Nature Writing*, and *Best Science On-Line*.*

She is a past president of the National Association of Science Writers and a former board member of the World Federation of Science Journalists. She currently sits on the board of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing and the advisory board of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. She is a fellow of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science and a lifetime associate of the National Academy of Sciences, both in recognition of her work in public understanding of science. She is currently under contract with Penguin Press for a book about female poisoners.

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EDUCATION:

1972-76 University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, double-minor in anthropology and political science; press intern for U.S. Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA); editor of student newspaper, *The Red and Black*. Graduated Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board

1981-82 University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Master of Arts in Journalism
UW-Fellow, Poynter Foundation fellow,
Outdoors Writers of America fellow

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2015-present, director, Knight Science Journalism Program at MIT

1997 -2015- Professor of Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Helen Firstbrook Franklin chair, since 2005

1984-97 Science writer, The Sacramento Bee, Sacramento, California.

1982-84 Science writer, The Fresno Bee, Fresno, California.

1979-81 General assignment reporter (city hall, police, education), The St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Florida

1977-79 General assignment reporter (police, courts, education), The Macon Telegraph, Macon, Georgia

1976-77 General assignment reporter (police, fire, parks and recreation, religion), The Times, Gainesville, Georgia.

Books:

Under contract, Penguin Press, book about the history of female poisoners, due to publisher in 2024.

Co-editor, "A Tactical Guide to Science Journalism", Oxford University Press, June 2022.

The Poison Squad: One Chemists Single-Minded Quest for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century, Penguin Press, September 2018, paperback, September 2019.

Best American Science and Nature Writing, guest editor, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, published October 2014.

Angel Killer, e-book, The Atavist, October 2012

"The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz-Age New York, Penguin Press, February 2010; paperback published, January 2011

Ghost Hunters: William James and the Scientific Search for Life After Death, The Penguin Press, August 2006; paperback, Penguin, July 2007

Love at Goon Park, (Perseus Books), October 2002; paperback (Berkely) 2004.

Sex on the Brain (Viking) 1997; Penguin paperback, 1998.

A Field Guide for Science Writers, co-editor (Oxford University Press) 1997. Paperback, 1998

The Monkey Wars (Oxford University Press) 1994; paperback, 1995.

Other publications:

Publisher, Undark Magazine: undark.org (2015-)

Poison Pen, The New York Times (2013-2014) -
<https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/category/poison-pen>

Blog: Elemental, Wired Science blogs. 2011-2013
<http://wired.com/wiredscience/elemental/>

Media Critic/MIT Knight Science Journalism Tracker
<http://ksj.mit.edu/tracker>

Reviewer/Founding Editor: Download the Universe:
www.downloadtheuniverse.com

Selected additional freelance articles (1988-2023)

2023:

Book Review: [They Overcame Hazards – And Doubters – To Make Botanical History](#),
The New York Times, May 23, 2023

2022:

Book Review: [The Recluse Who Confronted the Universe](#), The New York Times, July
15, 2022

Book Review: [When Does Science Go Too Far?](#), The New York Times, November 14,
2022

“Born of Eugenics, Can Standardized Testing Escape Its Own History?” [Undark
magazine](#), December 14, 2022

2021:

Essay: Science Journalism Grows Up, Science, April 23:
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6540/323>

Book Review: Researchers Behaving Badly, Science, July 16:
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/373/6552/288/tab-article-info>

2020:

Book Review, The New York Times, “Remembering the Time Meat Fell from the Sky”, July 21: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/21/books/review/the-identified-colin-dickey.html>

2019:

Book Review, The New York Times, “A Sympathetic Look at Spiritualism Past and Present”, October 25: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/25/books/review/the-in-between-mira-ptacin.html>

Book Review, Science, “The Ongoing Quest for Pure Foods”, December 20: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6472/1459.abstract>

2017:

The Great Soy Formula Experiment, Undark magazine, August 2: <https://undark.org/2017/08/02/soy-formula-babies-endocrine-disruptor/>

2013:

“Arsenic Tainted Rice is Harmful to Humans,” Discover, December 16, <http://discovermagazine.com/2014/jan-feb/72-arsenic-tainted-rice-is-harmful-to-humans#.UxYQvPRdVe0>

A Trace of Arsenic, Discover, September-October issue, <http://discovermagazine.com/2013/oct/13-food-at-risk#.UxYRjvRdVe0>

Toxin Found in U.S. Rice Causes Genetic Damage, Discover guest blog, August 2, <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/crux/?p=3361#.UdTepBzaFd5>

Bad Blood (edit), Matter, April 2013: <https://www.readmatter.com/a/bad-blood-the-life-and-death-of-alexander-litvinenko/>

Q&A on science writing for The Guardian, April 24, <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/apr/24/deborah-blum-science-writing>

Book Review, “The Lady and Her Monsters” by Roseanne Montillo, The New York Times, February 1, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/03/books/review/the-lady-and-her-monsters-by-roseanne-montillo.html?_r=0

2012:

“Chemical Free Nonsense”, Los Angeles Times, January 22,
<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jan/22/opinion/la-oe-blum-chemicals-20120122>

“Foods That Last Forever,” TIME, March 12,
<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2108051,00.html>

“How to Stop Science Alienation Syndrome”, Slate, June 20
http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2012/06/science_education_should_be_split_into_two_tracks.html

“A Woman Against Death: Why Alice C. Evans is My Hero,” Txchnologist, July 9
<http://www.txchnologist.com/2012/a-woman-against-death-why-microbiologist-alice-c-evans-is-my-hero>

“Angel Killer: A True Story of Insanity, Cannibalism and Detection in Depression-Era New York”, The Atavist, October 20: <https://www.atavist.com/stories/angel-killer/>

2011:

“The Mystery of Kisses,” review of Sheril Kirshenbaum book, The Science of Kissing, New Scientist, January 10

“Bring Back the Poison Squad”, Slate, March 2, <http://www.slate.com/id/2286976/>

“An Itch to Remember,” Los Angeles Times, June 26,
<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jun/26/opinion/la-oe-blum-poison-ivy-20110626>

A Miracle Drug’s Dark Side, review of Howard Markel’s An Anatomy of Addiction, The Wall Street Journal, July 23,
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303812104576440421156784588.html>

“Death in the Pot”, Lapham’s Quarterly, Summer issue,
<http://www.laphamsquarterly.org/essays/death-in-the-pot.php?page=all>

“A View to a Kill in the Morning”, guest post, Scientific American, August 2:
<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2011/08/02/a-view-to-a-kill-in-the-morning-carbon-dioxide/>

"The Radium Girls," *Wisconsin People and Ideas*, summer issue, pp. 24-29

"The Scent of Your Thoughts," *Scientific American*, October,
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-scent-of-your-thoughts>

Guest editor, *The Browser*, October 29: <http://thebrowser.com/profiles/deborah-blum>

"About Pepper Spray," guest post, *Scientific American*, Nov. 21:
<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2011/11/21/about-pepper-spray/>

2010:

"Civilization on a Fault Line," *The New York Times*, opinion page, January 14

"Poison and Progress," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 23,
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703699204575016971709814644.html>

"Will Science Take the Field?" *The New York Times*, opinion page, February 4

"The Chemist's War," *Slate*, February 19, <http://www.slate.com/id/2245188>

"In Search of the Sound of Silence," (book review), *New Scientist*, May 4

"The Raw Milk Deal", *Slate*, July 19, <http://www.slate.com/id/2260389/>

"From Savage to Savvy: A New Understanding of Chimps", *The Wall Street Journal*, July 24,
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703467304575383104013069616.html>

"The Descent of Man," (book review), *New Scientist*, August 14

"Jon Cohen's *Almost Chimpanzee*", book review, *The Washington Post*, September 12,
<http://bit.ly/dh4SHm>

Forensic Science was Not Always CSI-Style Teamwork, guest blog, *The Guardian*, September 23, <http://bit.ly/bdVDqs>

"Can the Biology of Being Gay Combat Bigotry?", review of Simon LeVay book, *New Scientist*, October 27.

"Arsenic and Tom Turkey", *The Los Angeles Time*, November 24,
<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/nov/24/opinion/la-oe-blum-turkey-arsenic-20101124/3>

2009

"Sex in Shades of Gray", (book review) New Scientist, 2009

2008

Book Review of Bonk, by Mary Roach: New Scientist, April 26, 2008

"Twin Fates", Science News, May 10, 2008, pp. 24-28

Book Review of The Animal Research War, by Michael Conn and James Parker, New Scientist, July 16, 2008

Book Review of The Score, by Faye Flam, New Scientist, July 17

Book Review of The Black Hole War, Leonard Susskind, The Minneapolis Star Tribune, August 10.

2007:

"Who Killed Fido? We All Did." New York Times, Opinion Page, March 28

"Lethal Cough Syrup," May 30, 2007, The Huffington Post

"TB and the Question of Evolution," The Huffington Post, May 31, 2007

"Skin Cancer, Wealth, Poverty and Journalism done Badly," The Huffington Post, June 12, 2007

"Should there be a science of the paranormal?" Cosmos, 2007

"Give Medical Epidemiologists a Break," The Huffington Post, September 20,

"The Verdict on 'Apple a Day', Science & Spirit, November-December 2007

2006:

"A Pox on Stem Cell Research," NYT, Opinion Page, August 1, 2006

Putting Faith in Science, "On Wisconsin", Summer issue

"The Primatologist (review of Dale Peterson's book about Jane Goodall, "The Woman Who Redefined Man"), NYT Book Review, November 26, 2006

"Ghosts in the Machine", NYT, Opinion Page, December 30, 2006

also: wrote an op-ed for The Los Angeles Times, "Science and Ghosts", Opinion Page, October 6, 2006, a piece for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Today's Chicago

Woman, and the fall issue of "Science Writers", a publication of the National Association of Science Writers.

"Ghost World," Science & Spirit (magazine published by the Templeton Foundation), Sept-Oct. 2006, pp. 54-61

2005: "Solving for XX", The Boston Globe, Ideas section, February 6, 2005

"Why don't men ever get it? Los Angeles Times, Opinion Section, February 26

2004 – Love at Goon Park (paperback), Berkley, New York, February; "Counting Crows", Los Angeles Times opinion section, June 28.

2003 – "From Space, It's Earth that Beckons," Opinion section, Los Angeles Times, February 9; "Love Lessons", Science & Spirit, March-April; "The Dark Magic of Depleted Uranium Bullets," Opinion section, Los Angeles Times, June 1; "Pods, Packs and Prides," Science & Spirit, September-October.

2002: "Reproductive Wrongs," Opinion section, Los Angeles Times, May 12; "Killer Bees Move North", Opinion Section, Los Angeles Times, July 14, Investigative Science Writing, The Nieman Reports, fall 2002, "Young Brains Shaped by Abuse," Opinion section, Los Angeles Times, October 6.

2001: "Folkman's War: A Scientist's Fight to be Heard," book review, Minneapolis Star-Tribune, February 7, E-1; "Friendship Matters," Muse magazine, pp. 8-17, April; "Is Our Fate Written in the Length of Our Fingers?", Opinion section, Los Angeles Times, July 8.

2000: nerve.com, Testosterone debated: With Anne Fausto Sterling, Brown University, June 2000; discovery.com, Animal Social Complexity and Intelligence, August 22-25, 2000; Be Well/Family Circle, "Sex and Health," September 18, 2000; book review, "A Biography of Water," Minneapolis Star-Tribune, September 10, 2000.

1999: "Attention Deficit", Mother Jones, January-February 1999; "Daycare Counts," Mother Jones, March-April 1999; Review of Natalie Angier's "Woman", Minneapolis Start-Tribune, April 25, 1999; "Boy? Girl? How Hormones Determine Your Behavior", Life, July 1999 cover story; "Resilient Woman," More magazine, October 1999; "The Bully Factor," Parents, November 1999; "Forced to Choose" (an essay on influence of books), American Scientist, November-December 1999 "Pick of the Literati," Minneapolis Star Tribune, December 26, 1999.

Contributed book chapter: "Reporting on the Changing Science of Human Behavior," pp. 155-166, in "Communicating Uncertainty," Friedman, Dunwoody, Rogers, Erlbaum, Associates, NJ, 1999

1998: Review of Jeremy Rifkin's "The Biotech Century", in The New York Times Book Review; March 22, 1998, p. 34; "A man's body - his hormones count too", Be Well/Family Circle, Spring 1998, p. 12; "What Made Troy Gay", Health magazine, April 1998, pp. 82-86; "Finding Strength: How to Overcome Anything", "Tabloid Science," Madison magazine, May 1998, pp. 19-20; Psychology Today, May-June 1998; "The Gender Blur, the Utne Reader, September-October 1998; "Reading Faces," Psychology Today, October 1998;

1997: "On the Wings of Dopamine", Psychology Today, August-September issue; review of Roger Fouts "Next of Kin", in the New York Times Book Review, October 12, 1997; opinion piece, "The Subtler Side of Testosterone," The Washington Post, October 19, 1997, p. C-3

1996 Op-ed piece, "Could We Be Importing the Ebola Virus?" The New York Times, April 20, 1996

1993-1995: "Nuclear Detectives", Discover magazine, February 1994; book review of Natalie Angier's "Beauty of the Beastly", The Baltimore Sun, June 25, 1995; "The Monkey Wars" anthologized in The New Science Journalists, edited by Ted Anton and Rick McCourt, Ballantine Books, New York, 1995

1988-92 Two chapters, "Voyage Through the Universe" series, Time-Life Books; article on Earthquake Hazards, California Journal; article on superconductivity, The Scientist.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

2021 – Distinguished Service Award, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2018 – Endocrine Society Award for Excellence in Science and Medical Journalism

2015 – winner of the Grady-Stack Award for Communicating Chemistry to the Public from the American Chemical Society

2014 – Selected as the guest editor for Best American Science and Nature Writing; recipient of the Chancellor's Award to Outstanding Midwestern author, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; winner of the Public Outreach award from the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association.

2013 – Winner of the Institute of Food Technologists national award for best consumer reporting for “Foods that Last Forever” in Time magazine, <http://www.ift.org/newsroom/news-releases/2013/july/17/consumer-journalism-award-winner.aspx>

Elemental blog named one of the top 25 of the year by Time magazine: <http://techland.time.com/2013/08/05/the-25-best-bloggers-2013-edition/slide/deborah-blum-elemental/>

Elemental blog named one of the top ten science blogs by Real Clear Science: http://www.realclearscience.com/lists/top_10_science_bloggers/3_deborah_blum.html

2012: “A View to Kill in the Morning”, Scientific American guest blog, selected for Best Science Writing On-Line anthology, Scientific American Books, September

2011 –

“The Trouble with Scientists”, a blog for PLoS, is anthologized in “Best American Science Writing, 2011”, Houghton Mifflin

“The Chemist’s War”, an article for Slate, is anthologized in “Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011, Mariner Books

The Poisoner’s Handbook is a finalist for two murder mystery awards, the Agatha and the Macavity.

The Poisoner’s Handbook is named Best Non-Fiction book of the year by the Midland Authors Association

The Poisoner’s Handbook is named an Outstanding Book of the Year by the Wisconsin Library Association

2010 – “The Poisoner’s Handbook named one of the “100 Best Books of the Year” by Amazon.

2008- named National Associate, lifetime, of the National Academy of Sciences, for work in science communication.

2007- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation fellow for writing about chemistry in The Poisoner’s Handbook

2003 – Love at Goon Park winner of The Banta Award for literary achievement; Wisconsin Library Association; named a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and a best book of the year by Publisher's Weekly, Library Journal, Discover magazine and NPR's Science Friday.

1997-1998: Sex on the Brain named a New York Times Notable Book and an Outstanding Achievement Book by the Wisconsin Library Association.

1996 National Award for Non-Deadline Reporting, Society of Professional Journalists; first place, feature writing, Central Valley Society of Professional Journalists; best series, second place, Best of the West, for a series on behavioral biology.

1994-1995: The Monkey Wars named a Best Sci-Tech book by Library Journal. Outstanding Alumni Award, Henry W. Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia.

1992-93 Pulitzer Prize, beat reporting for a series on primate research; Clarion Award, national reporting; AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Award for Large Newspapers; Central California Hospital Association Award; regional Sigma Delta Chi Award, President's Award, Society for Neuroscience; first place, environment and natural resources reporting, Best of the West; C. Everett Koop Media Award from the American Heart Association, California division; Ralph O. Nafziger Award, for achievement to a recent graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Sacramento YWCA Woman of the Year in Science and Technology.

1988-89 First place, news feature writing, Central Valley Society of Professional Journalists; First place, feature writing, Central Valley Society of Professional Journalists; Best of the West, second place, series on prenatal development. Sacramento YWCA Woman of the Year in Communications.

1986-87 National Reporting Award, the Livingston Foundation; the Olive Branch Award, New York University; investigative reporting, Associate Press/California-Nevada for a series on nuclear weapons; honorable mention, best series on protection of natural resources, The Press Club of San Francisco.

1984-85 UPI-California-Nevada, best series, second place; Associated Press, California-Nevada for investigative reporting; awards from the American Leukemia Association, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, for a series on chronic disease.

1982-84 Central Valley Sigma Delta Chi, first place, feature writing. Honorable mention, Thomas L. Stokes Award for environmental writing.

1976-78 Georgia UPI awards, papers under 20,000: first place feature writing; second place, news writing; third place, photography. Georgi
1976-79 American Education Association; School Bell Award for education writing. IRE citation for investigative reporting.

SPEECHES, SEMINARS, AND INSTRUCTION:

2023:

Podcast guest, “This Podcast Will Kill You”, January 20, 2023

Presentation about Knight Science Journalism, MIT-SHASS workshop for northern California alumni, January 27, 2023

Virtual lecture about The Poison Squad (food safety history), Food Law class, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 8, 2023

Moderator, book talk about Amy Marcus’s book, We the Scientists, Brookline Booksmith, February 15, 2023

Discussant, Buddy Levy’s book, Empire of Ice and Snow, Virtual event for The Mark Twain House and Museum, February 21, 2023

Moderator, Doctors Who Write book event, MIT Museum, March 22, 2023

Virtual Lecture, The Poisoner’s Handbook, history class, SUNY-Stonybrook, April 10 and 11, 2023

Virtual lecture, history of food safety, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Partnerships, April 12, 2023

Lecture on communicating chemistry, The Home Commercial Products Association, Washington DC, May 5, 2023

2022:

“Lessons in Science Journalism from the Covid-19 Pandemic”, virtual, India Science Festival, January 16, 2022

“How to Improve Covid Coverage”, [moderated webinar](#) for the University of Texas-Austin, January 27, 2022

“The Poisoner’s Handbook”, The Peculiar Book Club, January 27, 2022

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“The Poison Squad”, Food Law, University of Wisconsin School of Law, virtual, February 9, 2022

Discussant, Porter Square Books, virtual event with Andrea Pitzer, author of Icebound, March 8, 2022

Moderator of panel on paranormal research, at the University of Virginia, South by Southwest, Austin, TX March 15, 2022

Keynote on Covid-19 coverage, Tresca-RETHINK conference, virtual, Italy, March 21, 2022

American Magazine Awards Ceremony, Brooklyn, NY, Undark magazine finalist in small magazine feature category, April 5, 2022

Journalism and ethics, panel moderator, Boston University School of Communication, April 27, 2022

Panel on dioxin journalism, moderator and discussant, National Press Club, Washington D.C., May 19, 2022

“Lessons for Science Journalists from the Pandemic”, University of Geneva (virtual), June 27, 2022

“The Poison Squad”, Food Safety Magazine podcast, August 24, 2022

“The Poison Squad and Other Ways to Communicate About Toxicology,” Annual Congress of American Clinical Toxicologists, Keynote, September 16, 2022, San Francisco

“Reporting on Covid-19 Origins”, moderator of panel, National Association of Science Writers annual conference, October 22, 2022, Memphis, TN

“The Poisoner’s Handbook,” virtual event, Malaprop’s Book Store, Asheville NC, November 3, 2022

Presentation on journalism training, Wendy and Eric Schmidt Award in Science Communication, National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C., November 12, 2022

2021:

“Love at Goon Park”, Attachment theory podcast, February 3, 2021

“Journalism, Science and Policy: Communicating Risk”, panelist, virtual panel, Purdue University, February 11, 2021

“Covid-19: Navigating the World’s First Infodemic”, panelist, virtual panel, Knight Media Forum, March 2, 2021

“Howard W. Davenport Lecture in the Medical Humanities”, virtual, University of Michigan, April 19, 2021

“Science Journalism Lessons from the Covid-19 Pandemic”, virtual, Samsung Press Foundation conference, April 19, 2021

Book event with author Mary Roach, Seattle Center for the Arts, May 9, 2021

New models for digital journalism, European Science Journalism conference, panelist, virtual, May 12, 2021

Book event with Lauren Aguirre, Harvard Book store, virtual, June 22, 2021

Science writing class unit, virtual, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 1, 2021

Book event with Dean Jobbs, Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT, July 14, 2021

“The Poison Squad”, virtual presentation to Office of Food Safety, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, July 16, 2021

Animal ethics, The Scientist Podcast, BBC, July 27, 2021

The Bradford Poisoning Case, The Alarmist Podcast, August 30, 2021

“Twelve Lessons for Science Journalists from the Pandemic”, Science Journalism Forum (virtual), September 1, 2021

“How and Why to Pitch a Story that Happened 100 Years Ago”, National Association of Science Writers meeting (virtual), October 8, 2021

“My Favorite Poison”, Mark Twain House and Museum author event, October 27, 2021

Poison Squad talk, FDA Office of Food Safety (virtual), November 5, 2021

Twelve Lessons for Science Journalists from the Covid-19 Pandemic, Festival Gabo, Colombia (virtual), November 15, 2021

Wicked Words podcast, Kate Dawson, November 16, 2021

“Risk Reporting in the Covid-19 Pandemic”, School of Intensive Science Communication, University of Pavia, Italy (virtual), November 19, 2021

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2020:

Film Screening, Poison Squad documentary, New York, NY, January 15, 2020

“The Poison Squad”, webinar, St. Andrews University, January 23, 2020

“The Poison Squad”, virtual book club, Chicago, IL, May 19, 2020

“Covering Covid-19”, panel moderator, virtual, International Society of Journalists, July 21, 2020

New Models for Science Journalism, virtual, European Conference of Science Journalists, August 1, 2020

Five Ways to Build and Improve on Today’s Science Journalism, virtual, Science Journalism Forum, August 24, 2020

“The Poison Squad”, keynote, virtual, SQF Global Conference, October 27, 2020

Careers in Science Journalism, panelist, virtual, Columbia University, NY, November 21, 2020

Three talks to Latin American science journalists, virtual, Inquire First program, November 23-December 8, 2020

2019:

“The Poison Squad”, presentation at the New York Public Library, Midtown branch, New York City, NY, January 30, 2019

“Science journalism in the 21st century”, presentation to the Boston University science journalism program, Boston, MA, February 5th, 2019.

“The Poison Squad and American Food Policy”, presentation at Tufts Medical School, Boston, MA, February 27, 2019

“KSJ and the importance of science journalism”, presentation to the MIT Partners Symposia, MIT, Cambridge, MA, March 1, 2019

BAHfest judge, Kresge Auditorium, MIT, Cambridge, MA, March 31, 2019

“An overview of fact-checking and narrative writing”, Health and science reporting workshop organized by Inquire First, Mexico City, April 2, 2019

“Science Journalism in the Age of Denial,” presentation at Fresno State University, Fresno, CA, April 10, 2019

“The Poison Squad,” presentation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD, April 12, 2019

“The Poison Squad”, presentation at the Food and Science Festival, Mantua, Italy, May 19, 2019

“The Poison Squad,” presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, Atlanta, GA, June 24, 2019

Moderator, opening panel on science journalism, World Conference of Science Journalists, Lausanne, Switzerland, July 2, 2019

“The Poison Squad”, presentation at ChemEd, Naperville, IL, July 22, 2019

“The Poison Squad”, presentation at New England Association of Chemistry Teachers annual meeting, Concord, MA, July 29, 2019

“The Poison Squad”, presentation at John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY, New York, New York, September 5, 2019

“The Poison Squad,” presentation at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Greenbelt, MD, September 25, 2019

“The Poison Squad,” presentation for UW-Madison’s Big Read program, Madison, WI, October 15, 2019

Panel on evaluating evidence in science journalism, Wisconsin Science Festival, Madison, WI, October 16, 2019

“The Story-telling Brain,” panel, Society for Neuroscience annual conference, Chicago, IL, October 20, 2019

Book and Author Society meeting, panelist, Detroit, MI, October 21, 2019

“The Poison Squad,” presentation at Ann Arbor Public Library, Ann Arbor, MI, October 22, 2019

2018: “The Poisoner’s Guide to Science Communication”, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI, February 6, 2018

Journalism and fact-checking, moderator, Kavli Conference on Science Journalism, Austin, TX, February 20, 2018

MIT Unconference, moderator of pitch session, Stata Center, March 10, 2018

Sloan Business School Panel on Environmental Communication, panelist, June 12, 2018, MIT, Cambridge

Presenter on science communication, Bessensap conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 15, 2018

Workshop on Science Writing, panelist, June 27-28, 2018, Athens, Georgia

Kavli Workshop on Science Editing (organizer), July 8, 2018, Toulouse, France

“Cross Cultural Differences in Technology Reporting, (panel organizer), July 10, 2018, Toulouse, France

“Fact-Checking Science”, panel organizer, Euroscience Open Forum, Toulouse, France, July 12, 2018

Kavli Workshop on Science Editing (organizer), Austin, TX, September 11-12, 2018

“The Poison Squad”, Museum of Science, Boston, September 26, 2018

“The Poison Squad”, Harbor Springs Festival of the Book, Harbor Springs, Michigan, September 28, 2018

“The Poison Squad”, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC, October 10, 2018

“Who’s the Monster”, Frankenstein-Post Show discussion, Central Square Theatre, Cambridge, MA, October 24, 2018

FAIL-MIT presentation, November 7, 2018

“The Poison Squad,” Club Book, St. Paul, Minnesota, November 14, 2018

2017:

Science Journalism workshops and media appearances, Ljubljana, Slovenia, November 27-29.

Panelist, America Academy of Ophthalmology, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 13

Program chair and plenary moderator, World Conference of Science Journalists, San Francisco, October 26-30.

Speaker at high school chemistry teacher meeting, American Chemical Society, Washington D.C. August 20.

Organizer, Kavli Foundation workshop on Science Editing, Palo Alto, CA October 24-26

Program in Science Journalism, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 24-30.

2016:

“Science Journalism in the Age of Denial”, Broad Institute, September
Public Communication of Science and Technology conference, Istanbul, April
European Science Journalists Association meeting, Manchester, UK, July

2015:

Council of Journal Editors, Denver, CO

2014:

Edgerton Book and Film Festival, Edgerton, WI, September 26

“How to Catch a Poisoner,” Victoria College Lyceum Lecture Series, Victoria, TX
September 7

“A History of Arsenic,” International Sustainability Summit on Arsenic, Mount Desert
Biological Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, August 13

Tribute to Bassam Shakashiri, American Chemical Society National Meeting, San
Francisco, August 11

MFA Summer Program Writer in Residence, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, July 15

“A Guided Poison Tour,” World Science Festival, New York City, June 7

“How to Catch a Poisoner”, Jacksonville section of the American Chemical Society,
Jacksonville, FL, Feb. 21

2013:

“The Poisoner’s Guide to Life,” presentation at Dartmouth University, February 11

“The Poisoner’s Guide to Life”, talk for the Westerville Public Library, Columbus, OH, April 4

Keynote speech for the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of Sciences, Findley, OH, April 5-6

Panel on e-book publishing, American Society of Journalists and Authors, New York City, April 25

Keynote, environmental chemistry, World Conference of Science Journalists, Helsinki, Finland, June 27

The Poisoner’s Handbook, event for the Wisconsin Alumni Association and Wisconsin Public Television Association, Red Crown Lodge, Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin, July 24

“How to Catch a Poisoner”, public talk, University of Kansas, August 27

Invitation only attendee at Massachusetts Institute of Technology symposium on new innovations in science communication, Cambridge, MA September 15

“The Poisoner’s Guide to Life,” presentation at the Wisconsin Science Festival, September 28

Keynote speech, Wisconsin Library Association annual conference, Green Bay, WI, October 24-25

Organizer and moderator of “The XX Issue”, a symposium on women in science writing at the National Association of Science Writers, Gainesville, FL, Nov. 2

Poisoner’s Handbook event for Wisconsin Public Television, Madison Club, Nov. 13

Taught narrative writing workshop at Victoria University and gave a formal presentation to the Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington, NZ, November 22-28

“Science Book Picks for 2013,” Science Friday, National Public Radio,
<http://www.sciencefriday.com/guests/deborah-blum.html#page/full-width-list/1>
2012:

Narrative Writing, Science OnLine, Raleigh, N.C., January 30

The Poisoner’s Handbook/Communicating Science, Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, Arizona, March 6,

cv 21

ACS Webinar, "How to Catch a Poisoner", August 30

Communicating Science, Jubilee Seminar on Science, Committee on Science Communication, Helsinki, Finland – September 12

The Poisoner's Handbook (book of the year), Rutgers Preparatory Academy, Rutgers, N.J. September 23

The Poisoner's Handbook, South Dakota Book Festival, September 25

Scienzafestival, Bergamo Italy, National Association of Science Writers, Raleigh, N.C.,

The Poisoner's Handbook, Ted Youth, December 6, New York City

2011 –

Panelist, Science Communication in the Americas conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 2-4

Panelist (communicating science) and session moderator, National Association of Science Writers, Flagstaff, AZ, October 14-18

University of Oklahoma, History of Science Department, September 15

American Chemical Society, Denver, Colorado, session on communicating chemistry, national meeting, August 30

World Chemistry Congress, San Juan, Puerto Rico, session on communicating chemistry, August 2

Science Writing Workshop, U.S. Embassy, Cairo, Egypt, July 5

History as a Tool for Science Writers, World Conference of Science Journalists, Doha, Qatar, June 28

Narrative Story Telling and Writing About Animal Research, University Research Magazine Association meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas, May 15-16

The Poisoner's Handbook book tour included talks in New York City; Fairbanks, Alaska; Calgary, Canada; Los Angeles, California; Norman, Oklahoma; Madison, WI; Milwaukee, WI; Washington, D.C., and the Central Florida Book Festival.

2010 –

International Science Journalism, workshop organizer and moderator, November 6, National Association of Science Writers, New Haven, CT

Spirits and Spirituality, talk about Ghost Hunters, October 6, Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT

Workshop on Reporting Renewable Energy, July 25-30, Amman, Jordan, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

The Poisoner's Handbook book tour (cities including New York, Boston, Madison, CT, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Ga, San Francisco, CA, Seattle, WA, Tucson, AZ, Madison, WI, Milwaukee, WI)

2009: Public lecture, "How to write A Poisoner's Handbook", Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 11, Cambridge, Mass

Panel Moderator, "The Future of Science Journalism", AAAS, February 13, Chicago IL

Lessons from Science Journalism, talk at Women in Science Conferences, Arab Science and Technology Foundation, Dubai, September 30

2008:

Literary Journalism workshop, Doha, Qatar, "Science meets Science-Writing in Qatar" conference, February 6.

Lecture on Ghost Hunters and writing about the paranormal, MIT Humanities Program, March 13.

Panelist at Future of Feminism, Harvard University, April 11

Literary Journalism, talk at the first regional conference of the Arab Science Journalists Association, Fez, Morocco, October 25

2007: "Ghost Hunters" presentation, Bookslut reading, Chicago, February 21

"Ghost Hunters" presentation, Victorian Society of America-Chicago Chapter, March 11

"You are not your Brain Scan," panelist, World Federation of Science Journalists, Melbourne, Australia April 17

“Science Writing in the Arab World,” panel moderator, National Association of Science Writers, Spokane, WA, October 21

“Ghost Hunters,” The Mount, Lenox, MA August 20

“Ghost Hunters”, Distinctive Voices lecture series, National Academy of Sciences, Beckman Center, Irvine, CA, October 30

2006: Honors biology presentations, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. Feb. 27-28

Research Showcase panel “Misinterpreting Science”, Case Western University, Cleveland, April 6

After Dover: moderator, panel on teaching evolution, Florida State University, Tallahassee, May 18

Creative Non-Fiction, Southeastern Writers Association workshop, St. Simon’s Island, Georgia, June 18-22

“Ghost Hunters” presentation, University of Miami, Friends of the Library, Oct. 19

“Ghost Hunters” presentation, Wisconsin Book Festival, State Historical Museum, Madison, Oct. 21

University Roundtable Talk, “Ghost Hunters”, Memorial Union, Nov. 8

“Ghost Hunters”, Friends of the Library, UW-Whitewater, Nov. 10

“Ghost Hunters”, presentation to science journalism program, New York University, Nov. 15

2005: “Sex on the Brain”, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada, March 24

“Interpreting Medical Statistics”, California Health Journalism Project, La Jolla, California, August 6-8,

“Love at Goon Park”, young investigators retreat, National Institute of Mental Health, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, September 23-25

“Love at Goon Park”, California Health Journalism Project, October 22-23, Los Angeles

Moderator, Creative Non-Fiction Workshop, National Association of Science Writers, October 23rd-25, Pittsburg, PA.

“Narrative Journalism” panel, World Science Forum, Budapest, Hungary, November 6-10

2004:

Conversations in Science (lecture for K-12 science teachers organized by Bassam Shakashiri), January 25

“Love at the Library” lecture series, Madison Public Library, February 25

“Sex on the Brain”, UW-Fox Valley, March 15

“Frontiers in Science” lecture, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, March 25

“Love at Goon Park”, keynote, American Primatological Society, June 11, Madison, WI

“Covering Controversy,” American Society of Museums and Technological Institutes, September 27, San Jose, California

“Selling Longer Stories (newspapers to books), World Federation of Science Journalists, October 4, Montreal, Canada

2003

“Narrative Non-fiction” panel, National Association of Science Writers national meeting, Denver, Colorado, Feb. 13

“Hype! The Greatest Symposium Ever”, American Association for Advancement of Science, national meeting, Denver, Colorado, Feb. 13

Biology Career Day, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 9

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) national meeting, San Diego, California, March 31

Distinguished Journalist Lecture Series, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, April 10

Perinatal Mood Disorder symposium, keynote speech, June 10, 2003, Madison, Wisconsin

ATTACH conference, keynote speech, September 29, 2003, Pittsburgh, PA

2002

“Teaching science writing,” panel, National Association of Science Writers national meeting, Boston, Mass., Feb. 13

“Sex on the Brain,” Eve’s Seed symposium, Millsap College, Jackson, Ms, March 5

“Behind the scenes with Harry Harlow,” Animal Behavior Symposium, University of Wisconsin, April 12

“Top of the Bench to Above the Fold: How Science Becomes News,” First Annual International Bioethics Forum, Madison, WI, April 26

Pediatric Grand Rounds, University of Wisconsin Medical Center, Madison, WI, October 10.

“Love at Goon Park,” Department of Psychology, University of Virginia, November 6.

“Love at Goon Park,” Department of Psychology, University of California-Davis, Nov. 19.

“Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection,” Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Nov. 25.

2001

“Writing Biographies” panel, National Association of Science Writers national meeting, Berkeley, California, February 15

“Science and the Media” panel, American Association for Advancement of Science, San Francisco, CA, February 17

University of Georgia Library colloquium, Sex on the Brain, March 13

Santa Fe Science Writer’s Workshop, organized by George Johnson and Sandy Blakeslee, Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 16-21

University of Wisconsin, “Women and Learning Lecture Series,” talk on “The Nature of Love” for friends of the UW Library, November 1, Madison, Memorial Library

2000:

Speaker, Biotechnology Communications Workshop for Food and Agriculture, March 6; University of California, Davis.

Special Library Association national meeting, Philadelphia, PA, June 12

1999:

Panelist, "How to Spin a Freelance Assignment", National Association of Science Writers, Anaheim, California, February.

"The Biology of Power," Wisconsin Weekend Away, University of Wisconsin Foundation, San Antonio, March.

"Sex on the Brain," Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania, September. –
"Wisconsin Alliance for the Arts", Madison.

Vantage Point Club, Madison

1998:

University of Wisconsin Foundation, Washington D.C.

University of Virginia Medical Center Hour; Washington D.C.

"Exploring the Edge of Opportunity" conference, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee

Community Newspapers, Inc. annual meeting, keynote speaker.

CASE Conference, Madison, Wisconsin.

"How Children Learn" conference, Educational Records Bureau, New York City
Cabinet 99, Madison Wisconsin

1997:

San Joaquin Valley Town Hall Lecture Series, Fresno

National Association of Science Writers book panel, Seattle

American Association of Immunologists, San Francisco

Expanding Your Horizons conference, keynote, California State University, Sacramento.

Commonwealth Club, San Francisco.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

1996: "Science, the Media and Uncertainty" symposium, American Association for Advancement of Science.

American River College, Sacramento, California.

Arden Rotary Club, Sacramento, California.

"Feature Writing" symposium, Society of Professional Journalists, Crystal City, Virginia.

1994-95:

California Institute of Technology, Los Angeles.

California State University, Sacramento.

CASE, keynote speech, Washington, D.C.

University of Wisconsin-Madison (science writer in residency program, spring semester; Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, IL

Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

American Museum of Natural History, New York. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

University of California-Davis, Davis, California

Northern California association of AALAC, Oakland.

Northern California Science Writers Association.

1992-93:

Knight Journalism Fellowship program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston.

Scientists Institute for Public Information, forum, New York.

California Newspaper Publishers Association, Los Angeles.

Sacramento Club, Sacramento, California.

Physicians for Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R), San Diego.

Society for Neuroscience, Washington, D.C.

California Biomedical Research Association, Berkeley.

Michigan Biomedical Research Association, Lansing, Michigan

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

1984 - 91:

Spring semester taught introductory journalism at California State University-Fresno. Corporate trainer, McClatchy Newspapers, Inc. Held seminars for reporters at the Tri-Valley (Washington) Herald, the Rock Hill Herald, the Beaufort Gazette, and the Hilton Head Packet, in South Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND SERVICES:

Advisory board, The Open Notebook, 2011-

Non-fiction judge, Oregon Book Award, 2008

Non-fiction judge, National Book Award, 2007

Non-fiction judge, The Pulitzer Prize, 2011

Judge, National Academy of Sciences, Communication Awards, 2006-2011

Co-chair, (with Joe Palca) Wistar Institute Science Journalism Awards, 2004-2008

Board member, Board on Life Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, 2005-2011

Advisory board, California Endowment for Public Health Journalism, USC, 2005-2007

Council for Advancement of Science Writing, board member, 2005-

Foundation for Science in the Public Member, board member 2008-

World Federation of Science Journalists, Board Member, North American representative, 2007-2009; committee member 2009-present

National Association of Science Writers, president, 2002-2004; member of the board of directors, 1992-1998; treasurer, 1999-2000; vice president, 2001-2002; president, 2003-2005; chair, professional training workshops, 1999-2003; international liaison, 2005-2013

Honorary member, Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, elected 1993 for "service to science." Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources, National Research Council, 2002-2005

Committee on Public Understanding of Science and Technology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1998-2004

Science Communications Study Group, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1997-2001.

Advisory board, The Scientist, 2007-2011

