

Dr. Nicholas D. Pyenson

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Research Geologist &
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EDUCATION

2008 Ph.D., Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley
 2002 B.S., Biology, magna cum laude, Emory University
 2000 A.A., Oxford College of Emory University

EXPERIENCE & APPOINTMENTS

I have published [over 70 peer-reviewed articles](#), including papers featured on the covers of the journals *Nature*, *Science*, and several others. My research program focuses on the evolution of marine mammals. My expeditions have taken me to every continent, with a strong focus on paleontological exploration, anatomical discovery, international mentorship, and 3D digitization for museum collections. My discoveries have been exhibited in major museums across the Americas, and my research has received the highest awards from the Smithsonian and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the Obama Administration.

2019-2021 Young Scientist, World Economic Forum
 2019-2024 Fulbright Specialist, US Department of State
 2017- Kavli Fellow, Kavli Frontiers of Science, US National Academy of Sciences
 Humboldt Host, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
 2017 Winter Fellow, Scientist-In-Residence, Sitka Sound Science Center, Alaska
 2013-2015 Paleontological Society Distinguished Lecturer
 2013- Affiliate Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Burke Museum, Seattle
 2011- National Geographic Explorer (Grantee in 2011)
 2009- Research Geologist and Curator of Fossil Marine Mammals, Smithsonian
 Curator-in-charge of Paleogene Mammals, Smithsonian
 (tenured equivalent since 2013)
 2008-2012 Research Associate, Burke Museum, Seattle
 2008-2010 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral
 Research Fellow, University of British Columbia

BOOKS, POPULAR WRITING, & POLICY PAPERS

Book and Selected Essays

8. Nick Pyenson and Alex Dehgan. 2020. [More Scientists Should Join the Diplomatic Corps](#). *Scientific American* 324 (3): 11.

7. Nick Pyenson and Alex Dehgan. 2020. [2020 feels like dark fiction. Here's how science can inspire a better future](#). *The World Economic Forum* (online).
6. Nick Pyenson. 2020. [Policy tales and the secret life of whales](#). *Nature* 577: 583-584.
5. Nick Pyenson. 2019. [We learned a lot about whales this year](#). *Washington Post*, 29 December 2019.
4. Nick Pyenson. 2019. [A Climate-focused Presidential Debate?](#) *Washington Post*, 30 June 2019.
3. Nick Pyenson. 2018. [SPYING ON WHALES: The Past, Present, and Future of Earth's Most Awesome Creatures](#). Viking Books: 336 pp. (author-narrated [audiobook](#); paperback from Penguin Books in 2019; Russian, Chinese, Polish, and Ukrainian editions in press)
2. Nick Pyenson. 2018. [Wrap Your Mind Around a Whale](#). *New York Times*. 24 June 2018.
1. Nick Pyenson. 2017. [Ballad of the Last Porpoise](#). *Smithsonian* magazine. November: 29-31.

Policy White Papers and Articles

3. Sholts, S. B., L. Dutari, O. Sanjur, and **N. Pyenson**. 2021. [The past, present, and future of science diplomacy at the Smithsonian](#). *Science & Diplomacy*, January 2021 special issue.
2. **Pyenson, N. D.** 2020. [Mass Digitizing Biodiversity Collections of the United States](#). Day One Project.
1. Fleming, A. H. and **N. D. Pyenson**. 2017. How to produce translational research to guide Arctic policy. *BioScience* 67 (6): 490–493.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE

Research and Book Coverage

- Scientific research results, collections stewardship and fieldwork featured in the *New York Times*, BBC, NPR, CBC, *The Economist*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *USA Today*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Discover*, *National Geographic*, and major outlets in the US and global media.
- Media coverage for *SPYING ON WHALES* in: the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, Science Friday (live), Fresh Air (NPR), *Nature*, *Science*, *Popular Science*, *The Week*, National Geographic, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Business Insider*, *Parade* magazine, *Oprah* magazine, and *Times Literary Supplement*; live radio interviews across the US, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Television and Select Interviews

- [But Why](#) with Jane Lindholm and Melody Bodette, Vermont Public Radio (podcast, 2020)
- [The Today Show](#), whale watching near New York City with NBC host Jenna Bush Hager (2018)
- [Five Books - The Best Books on Predators](#) by Caspar Henderson (2018)
- [High Country News](#) by Hillary Rosner (2015, cover story)