

DANIEL K. RISKIN

Curriculum Vitae

Host/Producer
Daily Planet
Discovery Channel Canada
9 Channel Nine Court
Scarborough, Ontario
M1S 4B5 Canada

Adjunct Professor
Department of Biology
University of Toronto Mississauga
3359 Mississauga Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L5L 1C6 Canada

POPULAR BOOK

Mother Nature is Trying to Kill You (Simon & Schuster) 2014
Toronto Star Bestseller, Original Non-fiction.
Globe and Mail Bestseller, Original Non-fiction.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

University of Alberta Distinguished Alumni Award 2015
"Recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of living alumni who have earned national or international prominence as a result of their outstanding professional achievements and service to society."
Canadian Council for University Biology Chairs Science Promotion Award 2014
"Awarded to individuals who make an outstanding contribution to the promotion of biology in Canada, through activities encouraging popular interest in science or developing science abilities."

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor 2014-2017
Department of Biology, University of Toronto Mississauga
Mississauga, ON, Canada
Assistant Professor 2010-2011
Department of Biology, City College of the City University of New York
New York, NY, U.S.A.
Postdoctoral Research Associate 2006-2010
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University
Providence, RI, U.S.A.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2006-2008
Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology, Boston University
Boston, MA, U.S.A.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Zoology) 2002-2006
Department of Biomedical Sciences, Cornell University
Ithaca NY, U.S.A.
Advisor: John W. Hermanson
M.Sc. (Biology) 1998-2000
Department of Biology, York University
Toronto ON, Canada
Advisor: M. Brock Fenton

B.Sc. with Distinction (Zoology) 1993-1997
 Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta
 Edmonton AB, Canada

TELEVISION HOSTING/PRODUCTION/SCIENCE ADVISING

- Daily Planet**, *Discovery Channel Canada*. Co-host and Producer. 2011-present
 The only daily science magazine show in the world.
 Five one-hour episodes per week.
- Monsters Inside Me**, *Animal Planet (USA)*, Host. 2009-present
 One-hour episodes about parasites and the people infected by them.
 Six seasons.
- Canada AM CTV (Canada)**, Co-host. 2013-2016
 Co-hosted live, nationally broadcast, 3-hour episodes with Marci Ien.
 2016-01-08, 2015-12-04, 2015-10-30, 2015-10-29,
 2015-08-28, 2015-02-20, 2015-02-19, & 2013-10-30.
- Direct from Pluto** *Science Channel (USA)*, Host. 2015
 One-hour Special about New Horizons fly-by mission to Pluto.
 Aired in Canada, Europe, and Asia as *Pluto: First Encounter* on *Discovery*.
- The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!** *PBS (USA)*, Science Advisor. 2015
 Verified scientific integrity so as to meet educational objectives.
 Three Episodes.
- Rosetta Mission: Landing on a Comet** *Science Channel (USA)*, Host. 2014
 One-hour Special about the first ever mission to land on a comet.
Platinum Winner, TV Documentary, WorldFest Houston Int'l Film Festival 2015
 Aired in Canada, Europe, and Asia on *Discovery*.
- Supercomet ISON 2013** *Science Channel (USA)*, Host. 2013
 One-hour Special about the enigmatic sungrazing comet.
Gold Medal, New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards 2015
 Aired in Europe, Asia, and Canada as **Hunt for a Supercomet** on *Discovery*.
- Fire in the Sky** *Science Channel (USA)*, Co-host. 2013
 One-hour special about the meteorite that landed in Chelyabinsk, Russia.
 Aired in Canada, Europe, and Asia on *Discovery*.
- InnerSpace** *Space (Canada)*, Co-host. 2012
 Co-hosted one episode with Cynthia Loyst, on 2012-12-07.
- One Giant Leap: A Neil Armstrong Tribute** *Science Channel (USA)*, Co-host. 2012
 One-hour special about the Curiosity Rover. Also aired in Canada on *Discovery*.
- Mars landing 2012: The New Search for Life** *Science Channel (USA)*, Co-host. 2012
 One-hour special. Also aired in Canada on *Discovery*.
- Titanic: Under the Microscope** *Discovery (Canada)*, Co-host. 2012
 One-hour special for the 100th anniversary of the sinking of *H.M.S. Titanic*
- Human Nature**, *Science Channel (USA)*, Host. 2012
 Dan travels the world to understand the mysteries of the mind that make us human.
 One Season.
- Bedbug Apocalypse**, *Animal Planet (USA)*, Expert. 2011
 One-hour Special.

Evolve, *History Channel* (USA), Expert. 2008
One season.

TELEVISION GUEST APPEARANCES

CTV NewsChannel and CP24 (Canada) 2011-present
Various topics; 1-3 appearances per week on average

Join or Die with Craig Ferguson, *History Channel* 2016
"History's Greatest Mistake," panelists Tim Meadows, Ian Abramson, and Dan Riskin

The Dr. Oz Show, *NBC* 2009, 2015
2009-09-27: Tapeworms. (Season 1, Episode 13) 2016-01-14: Parasites.

CTV National News with Lisa LaFlamme, *CTV* (Canada) 2012-2015
2016-01-06: 120-yr-old bottle found in ocean off Halifax, and beer is drinkable!
2015-11-05: NASA discovers what happened to Mars' atmosphere
2015-10-06: Canadian wins Nobel Prize for work on Neutrino Oscillations
2015-09-28: Liquid Water Found on the Surface of Mars
2015-07-14: New Horizons Spacecraft Reaches Pluto (Guest Host Graham Richardson)
2015-06-14: Rosetta's Lander Wakes Up (Guest Host Todd van der Heyden)
2014-11-14: Rosetta Mission's Lander Lost (Guest Host Kevin Newman)
2014-11-12: ESA's Rosetta Mission to Land on a Comet
2013-10-03: Hadrosaur Fossil Uncovered by Backhoe Operator in Alberta
2013-09-12: Voyager 1 Leaves the Solar System
2013-05-22: U.S. Tornadoes
2013-05-13: Chris Hadfield Leaves International Space Station
2013-02-04: King Richard Found, DNA Confirms
2012-07-04: The "God Particle" Found
2011-11-22: Sidney Crosby's Controversial Concussion Therapy

The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, *CBS* 2011-2014
2014-03-05: Jane Lynch, Dan Riskin, and Brendan Walsh (Guest Host Drew Carey)
2014-07-14: Julia Ormond and Dan Riskin
2012-10-03: Keanu Reeves and Dan Riskin
2012-02-10: Chelsea Handler and Dan Riskin
2011-10-07: Evangeline Lilly and Dan Riskin
2011-04-15: Robin Wright and Dan Riskin
2011-01-20: Maria Bello and Dan Riskin
2010-07-20: America Ferrera and Dan Riskin

CBS This Morning, *CBS* 2014
2014-04-04: New Book: Mother Nature is Trying to Kill You.

CNN Tonight with Don Lemon, *CNN* 2014
2014-10-08: Could pet dogs spread the Ebola virus?

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, *NBC* 2010
2010-06-25: Cameron Diaz and Dan Riskin

OTHER SCIENCE OUTREACH

Twitter Verified Account 2011-present
[@RiskinDan](#)

Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything) 2015
[Im Dan Riskin, author, biologist, host of...](#)
Reddit Front Page (29 Oct)

Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything)

2014

[Im Dan Riskin, biologist turned Animal Planet/Discovery presenter...](#)

Reddit Front Page (28 May)

276,872 pageviews

122,014 unique pageviews

1:09 average time on page

REFEREED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- [26] **Riskin, D. K.**, C. J. Kendall, and J. W. Hermanson. 2016. The crouching of the shrew: Mechanical consequences of limb posture in small mammals. *PeerJ*. doi: 10.7717/peerj.2131.
- [25] **Riskin, D. K.**, J. E. A. Bertram, and J. W. Hermanson. 2016. The evolution of terrestrial locomotion in bats: The bad, the ugly, and the good. In: *Understanding mammalian locomotion: Concepts and applications*. (edited by J. E. A. Bertram). John Wiley and Sons.
- [24] Bergou, A. J. S. M. Swartz, **D. K. Riskin**, H. Vejdani, L. Reimnitz, G. Taubin, K. S. Breuer. 2015. Falling with style: Bats perform complex aerial rotations by adjusting wing inertia. *PLoS Biology*. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.1002297.
- [23] Cheney, J. A., D. Ton, N. Konow, **D. K. Riskin**, K. S. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2014. Hindlimb motion during steady flight of the lesser dog-faced fruit bat, *Cynopterus brachyotis*. *PLoS One*. doi: 1371/journal.pone.0098093.
- [22] Bahlman, J. W., S. M. Swartz., **D. K. Riskin**, and K. S. Breuer. 2012. Glide performance and aerodynamics of non-equilibrium glides in northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*). *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*. doi: 10.1098/rsif.2012.0794.
- [21] Iriarte-Díaz, J., **D. K. Riskin**, K. S. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2012. Kinematic plasticity during flight in fruit bats: Individual variability in response to loading. *PLoS One*. 7(5): e36665.
- [20] **Riskin, D. K.**, Bergou, A. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2012. Upstroke wing flexion and the inertial cost of bat flight. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. 279: 2945-2950.
- [19] Swartz, S. M., J. Iriarte-Díaz, **D. K. Riskin**, and K. S. Breuer. 2012. A bird? A plane? No, it's a bat: an introduction to the biomechanics of bat flight. In: *Evolutionary history of bats: Fossils, molecules, and morphology*. (edited by Gunnell, G. F., and Simmons, N. B.). Cambridge University Press.
- [18] Iriarte-Díaz, J., **D. K. Riskin**, D. J. Willis, K. S. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2011. Whole-body kinematics of a fruit bat reveal the influence of wing inertia on body accelerations. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 214: 1546-1553.
- [17] MacAyeal, L. C., **D. K. Riskin**, S. M. Swartz, and K. S. Breuer. 2011. Vertical flight performance and load carrying in Lesser Dog-faced Fruit Bats (*Cynopterus brachyotis*). *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 214: 786-793.
- [16] **Riskin, D. K.**, J. Iriarte-Díaz, K. M. Middleton, K. S. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2010. The effect of body size on the wing movements of pteropodid bats, with insights into thrust and lift production. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 213: 4110-4122.
- [15] Hubel, T. Y., **D. K. Riskin**, S. M. Swartz, and K. S. Breuer. 2010. Wake structure and wing kinematics: the flight of the lesser dog-faced fruit bat, *Cynopterus brachyotis*. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 213: 3427-3440.
- [14] Parsons, S., **D. K. Riskin**, and J. W. Hermanson. 2010. Echolocation call production during aerial and terrestrial locomotion by New Zealand's enigmatic lesser short-tailed bat, *Mystacina tuberculata*. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 213: 551-557.
- [13] **Riskin, D. K.**, and P. A. Racey. 2010. How do sucker-footed bats hold on, and why do they roost head-up? *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 99: 233-240.

- [12] Riskin, D. K., J. W. Bahlman, T. Y. Hubel, J. M. Ratcliffe, T. H. Kunz, and S. M. Swartz. 2009. Bats go head-under-heels: The biomechanics of landing on a ceiling. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 212: 945-953.
- [11] Riskin, D. K., D. J. Willis, T. L. Hedrick, J. Iriarte-Díaz, M. Kostandov, J. Chen, D. H. Laidlaw, K. S. Breuer, and S. M. Swartz. 2008. Quantifying the complexity of bat wing kinematics. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. 254: 604-615.
- [10] Williams, W. O., D. K. Riskin, and K. M. Mott. 2008. Ultrasonic sound measurement as an indicator of acute pain in laboratory mice. *Journal of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science*. 47: 8-10.
- [9] Riskin, D. K., G. G. Carter, S. Parsons, W. A. Schutt, Jr., and J. W. Hermanson. 2006. Terrestrial locomotion of the New Zealand Short-tailed Bat *Mystacina tuberculata* and the Common Vampire Bat *Desmodus rotundus*. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 209: 1725-1736.
- [8] Carter, G. G., and D. K. Riskin. 2006. *Mystacina tuberculata*. *Mammalian Species* 790: 1-8.
- [7] Riskin, D. K., J. E. A. Bertram, and J. W. Hermanson. 2005. Testing the hindlimb-strength hypothesis: Non-aerial locomotion by Chiroptera is not constrained by the dimensions of the femur or tibia. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 208: 1309-1319.
- [6] Riskin, D. K., and J. W. Hermanson. 2005. Independent evolution of running in vampire bats. *Nature*. 434: 292.
- [5] Riskin, D. K., and M. B. Fenton. 2001. Sticking ability in Spix's disk-winged bat, *Thyroptera tricolor* (Microchiroptera: Thyropteridae). *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 79: 2261-2267.
- [4] Riskin, D. K. 2001. *Pipistrellus bodenheimeri*. *Mammalian Species* 651: 1-3.
- [3] Fenton, M. B., E. Bernard, S. Bouchard, L. Hollis, D. Johnston, C. L. Lausen, J. M. Ratcliffe, D. K. Riskin, J. R. Taylor, and J. Zigouris. 2001. The Bat Fauna of Lamanai, Belize: Roosts and trophic roles. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 17: 511-524.
- [2] Fenton, M. B., M. J. Vonhof, S. Bouchard, S. Gill, D. Johnston, F. A. Reid, D. K. Riskin, K. L. Standing, J. Taylor, and R. Wagner. 2000. Roosts used by *Sturnira lilium* (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae) in Belize. *Biotropica* 22: 729-733.
- [1] Riskin, D. K., M. J. Pybus. 1998. The use of exposed diurnal roosts in Alberta by the little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 76: 767-770.

NON-REFEREED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Riskin, D. K. 2013. Making science sexy: How to grab - and hold - an audience to promote science (commentary). *The Wildlife Professional*: Fall 2013: 28-30.
- Waldman, R. M., A. Song, D. K. Riskin, S. M. Swartz, and K. S. Breuer. 2008. Aerodynamic behavior of compliant membranes as related to bat flight. *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal*: AIAA no. 2008-3716.
- Willis, D. J., M. Kostandov, D. K. Riskin, J. Péraire, D. H. Laidlaw, S. M. Swartz, and K. S. Breuer. 2007. Modeling the flight of a bat (science visualization feature). *Science* 317: 1860.
- Rypien, K. L., J. Anderson, J. Andras, R. W. Clark, G. Gerrish, J. Mandel, M. L. Nydam, and D. K. Riskin. 2007. Correspondence: Students unite to create state of the planet course. *Nature* 447: 775.
- Swartz, S. M., J. Iriarte-Díaz, D. K. Riskin, A. Song, X. Tian, D. J. Willis, and K. S. Breuer. 2007. Wing structure and the aerodynamic basis of flight in bats. *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal*: AIAA no. 2007-42.

- Riskin, D. K.** 2006. Biomechanics of terrestrial locomotion in bats. Ph.D. Dissertation, Cornell University.
- Riskin, D. K.** 2000. A behavioural investigation of the sticking mechanisms and non-aerial locomotion of Spix's disk-winged bat, *Thyroptera tricolor* (Microchiroptera: Thyropteridae). M.Sc Thesis, York University.
- Riskin, D. K.** 1996. Examination of the diversification of eutherian mammals in the early Paleocene of North America. Partially reprinted in Carroll, R.L. 1997. Patterns and Processes of Vertebrate Evolution. Cambridge University Press, 448 Pages.

AWARDS FOR TEACHING AND ORAL PRESENTATION

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| Society for Experimental Biology Talk Prize
Biomechanics Session, Society for Experimental Biology Meeting | 2008 |
| Robert H. Whittaker Award for Best Oral Presentation
Cornell Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium | 2005 |
| Bat Conservation International Award
North American Symposium on Bat Research | 2004 |
| Knight Institute Buttrick-Crippen Fellowship
To design and teach a Freshman Writing Seminar at Cornell University | 2004 |
| Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
For Introductory Biology at Cornell University | 2003 |

OTHER GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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| Company of Biologists Travel Grant and Student Grant
Society for Experimental Biology | 2008 |
| AAAS International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge
First Prize: "Modeling the flight of a bat." (Published in <i>Science</i> 317: 1860). | 2007 |
| Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research | 2005 |
| Veterinary Medicine Conference Grant
Cornell University Department of Biomedical Sciences | 2005 |
| Company of Biologists Traveling Fellowship
from the <i>Journal of Experimental Biology</i> | 2004 |
| Veterinary Medicine Conference Grant
Cornell University Department of Biomedical Sciences | 2004 |
| Bat Conservation International Scholarship (declined) | 2004 |
| NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship (declined) | 2003 |
| Andrew W. Mellon Scholarship
Cornell University | 2003 |
| NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship B | 2003 |
| Graduate Development Fund Scholarship
York University | 1999 |

NSERC Winner Award Supplement York University	1998
NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship A	1998
Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions Scholarship Canadian Library Association	1996
1994 Alexander Rutherford Scholarship Provincial Government of Alberta	1994

COURSES TAUGHT

State of the Planet <i>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.</i> The course was a lecture series with guided discussion groups focused on sustainability issues. Guest speakers spanned a broad range of disciplines with diverse perspectives on the problems and solutions facing our planet. I helped to design the course, and wrote about that experience in a commentary to the journal <i>Nature</i> .	2006
The Biology of Desert-dwelling Bats (Two-week field course in Sede Boqer, Israel) <i>University of Western Ontario, London, ON.</i> Taught identification, handling, and echolocation call analysis for bats, and assisted undergraduate students in the design of their independent projects.	2006
The Vertebrates: Structure, Function, and Evolution <i>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.</i> Lab instructor and occasional lecturer.	2006
Freshman Writing Seminar: "How to Write About Science" <i>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.</i> Designed and taught one-semester course for undergraduate students.	2005
Introductory Biology <i>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.</i> Lab Instructor. (Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award)	2002-2005
Introductory Biology <i>Camosun College, Victoria, Canada.</i> Lecturer and Lab Instructor	2001
Concepts in Animal Ecology <i>York University, Toronto, Canada.</i> Laboratory Instructor	1999

JOURNAL REFEREE

Acta Chiropterologica
Australian Journal of Zoology
Biological Journal of the Linnean Society
Evolutionary Ecology
Journal of Experimental Biology
Journal of Experimental Zoology Part A: Ecological Genetics and Physiology
Journal of Mammalogy
Journal of Theoretical Biology
Journal of Tropical Ecology
Journal of Wildlife Management

Zoological Studies
Zoology