

Beth Shapiro, award-winning scientist and author, to deliver 2022 Darwin Day Lecture

[Beth Shapiro](#), a world-renowned evolutionary biologist whose research focuses on the application of genomics techniques to better understand how species and populations evolve through time, will deliver the 2022 Darwin Day Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 9. Shapiro's talk, part of the Evolutionary Studies Initiative's [International Darwin Day](#) celebrations, will begin at 3:10 p.m. CT. The event is free and open to the public. [Registration is required](#).

Beth Shapiro is an award-winning scientist and author. She is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UC Santa Cruz, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, and the director of evolutionary genomics at the UCSC Genomics Institute. Shapiro was a MacArthur Foundation fellow in 2009. Her book, "[How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-Extinction](#)", explains how to revitalize degraded or lost ecosystems and the ethical dilemmas we face in restoring extinct species. This work won the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 2016 Young Adult Science Book and was a finalist in the LA Times 2015 Book Prize in Science and Technology.

Her newest book, "[Life as We Made It - How 50,000 Years of Human Innovation Refined—and Redefined—Nature](#)", explores how humans have already shaped nature and how humans will continue to do so moving forward, especially using gene editing technology. This book released in October of 2021 and has been met with a generally positive response – 4.8/5 stars on Amazon and 4.23/5 stars on GoodReads.

An internationally-recognized evolutionary biologist, Shapiro's laboratory research has centered on the analysis of ancient DNA. In recognition of her scientific contributions, Shapiro has won numerous awards. She has been named in many fellowships, including: Packard Fellow, PopTech Science and Public Leadership Fellow, National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer, Searle Scholar, and Rhodes Scholar.

After growing up in Georgia, she earned her B.S. and M.S. at the University of Georgia (1999). She then went across the pond to do her Ph.D. at the University of Oxford in England (2003).

The [Evolutionary Studies Initiative](#) at Vanderbilt University was established in August 2019 with the aim of uniting a remarkably diverse array of scholars from a variety of disciplines with broad interests and expertise in evolution-related fields.

