

James C. (Jim) Austin
448 Riverside Dr. Apt. 1
New York, NY 10027
email: jim.austin@gmail.com

I'm a freelance writer/editor, former research scientist, and long-time writer/editor with an interest in foundational, provocative, and transformative ideas. I

Past professional experience

Contributing editor, *Stereophile* (2000 – present). Much more interesting than you might think? Writing for the bible of high-end music-reproduction technology means providing entertaining answers to questions like, how does technology mediate aesthetic experience?

Senior editor, *Science* (2001 – July 2015). Reporting to the news editor and focused on career-related issues. I was Editor of *Science* Careers since 2006. Since its introduction in 2015, I produced and edited the “Working Life” page—one of the magazine’s most popular features—published weekly inside the magazine’s back cover. I led the team that created *myIDP*, the most important career-development app for scientists. I resigned from *Science* when my wife accepted an endowed faculty position at Barnard College and my family moved to New York.

Editor and founder, *The Post-Careerist* (1999 – 2001). A pioneering online publication aimed at answering the question, What is the best way to live? How should we live when material need no longer compels our choices and when we’re no longer defined by professional attainment? I created *The Post-Careerist*, designed the website, wrote for it, did all the editing, and created the art.

Science editor, *BlueEar.com* (1999 – 2001). I was the founding science editor of this pioneering experimental publication, which was initially published only by email! Founded by Ethan Casey, *BlueEar.com* featured—and I wrote, produced, and edited—what may have been the first real science blog.

Writing instructor, Bates College (1996 – 1998). For three years I taught college-level writing via an innovative peer-to-peer method; think of it as therapy for your writing. While hardly prestigious, this was an important gig for me; it’s where I learned to quickly assess the structure, strengths, and weaknesses of a piece of writing, and to work with writer in a way that improved the writers and not just the writing.

Postdoctoral Fellow, then Research Assistant Professor, Physics Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1992 – 1996). I led my own lab, earned outside funding via grants from federal agencies, and published in peer-reviewed journals. I gave it up the first time I followed my wife, to Maine, when (and where) she accepted and then excelled in a faculty post in chemistry, as I built my new career as a writer. Before that—during my research career—I published 20 articles in respected peer-reviewed journals, all collaboratively, most as first or last author, the most prestigious spots. I also co-edited [an influential book](#) with a long title.

Education

Ph.D. (1992) and M.S. (1989) in Physics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I studied point defects and their interactions in condensed matter (mostly semiconductors and materials used in photographic films) using methods adapted from nuclear physics.

B. A. Physics, Swarthmore College (1986). I started out in engineering and English literature, but by the time I finished I was the top physics major in my class at one of the best colleges in the United States. I also studied English Literature and theater, with an emphasis on theory of performance.

Valedictorian, Ft. Pierce Central High School (1982). I hope it's not too tacky to include high school, but the temptation is strong when you were (by far) the best student in a class of 500+.

Honors and Awards

2013 Association of American Medical Colleges Innovation Award. Awarded to a team I led and coordinated, developing *myIDP*, a career-development tool that is the default choice for advanced-degreed scientists. *myIDP* is still hosted by *Science Careers*.

2011 National Postdoctoral Association Distinguished Service Award. Awarded to *Science Careers*, headed by me, for contributions to the career advancement of postdocs in the sciences.

1990 Microelectronics Center of North Carolina Fellow. One award was given each year to students at one of the North Carolina universities (usually UNC, Duke, or NC State). I won in 1990, while I was a Ph.D. student at UNC.

Publications (complete list to come)

- **Hundreds of articles** for *Science Careers* (thousands edited)
- **More than a dozen articles** for *Science*, including [editorials](#), news articles, [essays](#), and a [book review](#). Dozens edited.
- **A book** [Accelerator-based atomic physics techniques and applications](#) (1997 AIP Press).
- Component reviews and other articles on the fine art of technology-mediated home audio via high-end equipment (also known as high-end audio), in *Stereophile*, the industry bible.
- **20 peer-reviewed science publications** in a variety of journals. (Most of these are listed, alongside some non-peer-reviewed publications, [at ResearchGate](#). Complete list/reprints provided on request.)