

VINCE BEISER

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AUTHOR & FREELANCE JOURNALIST

I am an independent journalist and author specializing in in-depth reporting on important issues around the world. I have reported from more than forty countries on assignments for *Wired*, *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, *Popular Science*, *The Guardian*, *Playboy*, *Mother Jones*, *Harper's*, *Vice*, *National Geographic*, *The Economist*, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and many other publications. My articles have won numerous awards, have been optioned by film and TV producers, and have been reprinted in anthologies, text books, and periodicals from Africa to Asia.

I am the author, most recently, of [*Power Metal: The Race for the Resources That Will Shape the Future*](#), which investigates how the raw materials we need for renewable energy, electric cars and digital technology are spawning environmental havoc, political upheaval and murder—and how we can do better. Pulitzer Prize winning author Elizabeth Kolbert calls it "an essential read for anyone concerned about the future," and it has been featured in the Washington Post, Time, NPR, and many other outlets. It has been translated into three languages. My first book, [*The World in a Grain: The Story of Sand and How It Transformed Civilization*](#), has been translated into five languages, was a finalist for a PEN award and a California Book Award, and spawned a [TEDx Talk](#).

WORK HISTORY

May 2023-present: Author of the [Power Metal](#) weekly newsletter, covering new developments in the issues addressed in my book of the same name.

May 2005-present: Contributing writer to [Wired](#), America's biggest science and technology magazine. Report and write in-depth features investigating how technology is changing the world.

August 2017-June 2019: On-air correspondent and producer with [SoCal Connected](#), an Emmy award-winning news magazine show broadcast on Los Angeles' PBS station.

June 2015-January 2017: Contributing Editor, *Playboy* magazine. Assigned and edited longform features on subjects ranging from the war in Afghanistan to the environmental damage caused by the BP oil spill.

April 2014-July 2014: Founding Editor, *TakePart World*. Conceived, developed and launched this online news and information hub aimed at changing how Americans think about the developing world. The website was a project of [Participant Media](#), producer of such film as "An Inconvenient Truth" and "Spotlight."

December 2011-December 2013: Articles Editor at [Pacific Standard](#). Part of the team that conceived and launched this National Magazine Award-winning bimonthly print and daily online publication of cutting-edge research and ideas. Wrote, assigned, and edited articles of every length for both platforms.

November 2005 - December 2010: Taught classes on investigative journalism and freelancing techniques for *MediaBistro*, a media professionals' association.

July 2007 - January 2008: Senior Editor at the digital arm of *Wired Science*, a PBS television series based on *Wired* magazine.

November 1999 – October 2002: Senior Editor at [MotherJones.com](#), the online arm of *Mother Jones* magazine. Assigned, edited and wrote articles from daily briefs to in-depth features, produced special investigative projects, and supervised four interns. Headed team producing award-winning investigation into the economic and social costs of prisons in all 50 states.

July 1997 - August 1998: Special Projects Writer with *The Oakland Tribune*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning California daily. Wrote in-depth news features on a wide range of topics, with emphasis on health, technology and criminal justice issues. My articles also appeared in the *Tribune's* six sister newspapers.

September 1994 - July 1997: Senior Writer with *The Jerusalem Report*, Israel's leading news magazine. Covered political, social and religious issues in New York City and nationwide, from the presidential elections to an exclusive interview with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

April 1993 - May 1994: Correspondent for [Maclean's](#), Canada's national news magazine, covering the conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other ex-Yugoslav republics. Co-authored reports on Bosnia and Croatia for *Human Rights Watch*.

April 1992 - April 1993: Staff Writer with *The Prague Post* weekly newspaper in the Czech Republic. Covered social and economic issues and eventual break-up of post-Communist Czechoslovakia.

February 1991 - April 1992: Associate Editor with *Adbusters*, a media analysis magazine. Assigned, edited and wrote articles, from briefs to features.

March 1990 - January 1991: English Editor with *Jerusalem Press Service*, a news agency in Jerusalem, Israel. Wrote daily field reports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for distribution to international media.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Individual

Winner:

-[National Association of Science Writers Longform Narrative Award](#)

- American Society of Journalists and Authors award for reporting on a significant topic (twice)
- Media for Liberty Award, a \$50,000 prize for a work of journalism “that examines the link between economic and political liberty.”
- Society of Professional Journalists award for explanatory journalism
- Los Angeles Press Club award for in-depth magazine feature
- Society for Features Journalism award
- National Mental Health Association Media Award
- National Council on Crime and Delinquency award (twice)
- Best of the Northwest award
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving Media Award

Finalist:

- PEN/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing
- California Book Award
- National Headliner award (twice)
- Investigative Reporters & Editors award
- Columbia Graduate School of Journalism/Online News Association award
- Missouri School of Journalism Lifestyle Journalism award
- John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism
- Los Angeles Press Club - Magazine Investigative Report award (five times)
- Association of Alternative Newsweeklies award for In-Depth News Story

Team Member:

- National Magazine Award for General Excellence (three wins, one nomination)
- Emmy award (Los Angeles area) winner and finalist
- Los Angeles Press Club award winner
- Alternative Press Award winner (three times)
- Project Censored award winner
- Webby award finalist

Fellowships and Grants:

- Canada Council for the Arts
- Dave Greber Freelance Writers’ Award
- Access Copyright Foundation/Marian Hebb Research Grant
- Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
- Kiplinger Fellowship (Ohio State University)
- Casey Journalism Center (University of Maryland)
- Knight Digital Media Center (University of California, Berkeley)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley: Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle Eastern Studies, completed 1989. Highest Honors (Summa Cum Laude).

American University in Cairo, Egypt: Academic year abroad, 1986 -1987.

OTHER SKILLS

Conversational Spanish, French, and Arabic. Some Serbo-Croat.

Video and audio editing.