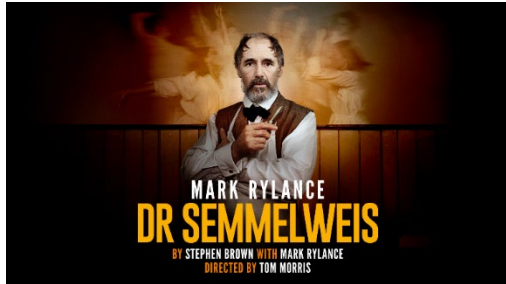




What's New This Summer

THEATER: Oscar Winner Mark Rylance Play on Handwashing Pioneer to Premiere in the U.K.



[Dr. Semmelweis](#), a Sloan-commissioned play about Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, will open at The Harold Pinter Theatre in the West End in the United Kingdom on June 29. The play, starring Academy Award winning actor Mark Rylance (*Bridge of Spies*, *Don't Look Up*) and co-written by Rylance and Stephen Brown, follows Semmelweis as he discovers, while working in a maternity ward in Vienna, that handwashing by

physicians can save lives, but encounters fierce opposition from the medical community. The theatre will also host a special performance on September 29 exclusively for schools, which will include a post-show talk with scientists and members of the cast. The play originally opened in 2022 at the Bristol Old Vic Theater, where it received positive coverage in [The Bristol Post](#), [The Daily Mail](#), and [The Guardian](#), among others. The writing of *Dr. Semmelweis* was supported by a 2017 Sloan grant and the production was supported by a 2022 Sloan grant to the National Theatre in London.

BOOKS: Christopher Nolan's Film Based on Pulitzer Prize-winning Sloan Book to Debut

[Oppenheimer](#), a film by Academy Award-winning director Christopher Nolan (*Interstellar*, *Inception*, *The Dark Knight*), will be released on July 21. The film is based on the Sloan-supported, Pulitzer Prize-winning book [American Prometheus](#) by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, which tells the life story of American theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, known as "the father of the atomic bomb" for his role in the Manhattan Project. Award-winning Irish actor Cillian Murphy has been cast in the title role and a long list of distinguished actors have also signed on, including Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, and many others.



FILM: Sloan Inaugurates New Partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival

The Sloan Film Program [announced a new partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival \(TIFF\)](#), the largest public international film festival in the world and one of the most prestigious. The partnership will include a Pitch Forum at the 2023 Festival (September 7-17),



where four screenwriters with draft screenplays will pitch their project at a special Industry Conference; a \$35,000 Writers Fellowship that includes year-round creative support; and a Sloan Showcase that includes a Festival screening of feature films with science and technology themes, followed by a Q&A with the director and a scientist. The partnership is supported by a 2023 grant to TIFF.



Quarterly Highlights

TELEVISION

Documentary Series *Your Brain* Hosted by Neuroscientist Heather Berlin Airls

[Your Brain](#), a two-part documentary series hosted by neuroscientist Heather Berlin and featuring experts such as Dr. Lorella Battelli, Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde and Dr. Luke Chang, premiered on NOVA on May 17. The first episode, [Your Brain: Perception Deception](#), featured the latest research on how the brain processes and shapes the world. The second and final episode, [Your Brain: Who's in Control?](#),



premiered on May 24 and explores the subconscious to provide insight into what drives the decisions we make. The second episode of the series received a record high number of views for a YouTube debut. Both episodes are available to stream on [YouTube](#). Heather Berlin is a long-time advisor to Sloan, participating as a Grand Jury member to select the 2022 and 2023 Sloan Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and as a Committee Member for the Sloan Advisory Committee at the Manhattan Theater Club. The series was supported by a 2020 grant to the WGBH Educational Foundation.

The Sun Queen Airls on PBS

[The Sun Queen](#), a documentary in the Sloan-supported *American Experience* series, premiered on PBS on April 4. The film is a biography of Mária Telkes, a chemical engineer and inventor who designed and built the world's first successfully solar-heated modern residence and identified a promising new chemical that, for the first time, could store solar heat like a battery. Despite being thwarted by her male boss and male colleagues at MIT, Telkes held more than 20 patents upon her death in 1995 and is now recognized as a visionary pioneer in the field of sustainable energy. On April 12, *American Experience* also presented a virtual PAST FORWARD conversation about the film moderated by energy reporter Ivan Penn with Professor of Architecture Daniel A. Barber and climate policy expert Stephanie Gidigbi Jenkins. The documentary received positive reviews in [The Washington Post](#) and [Albuquerque Journal](#), among others. The film was supported by a 2022 grant to the WGBH Educational Foundation.

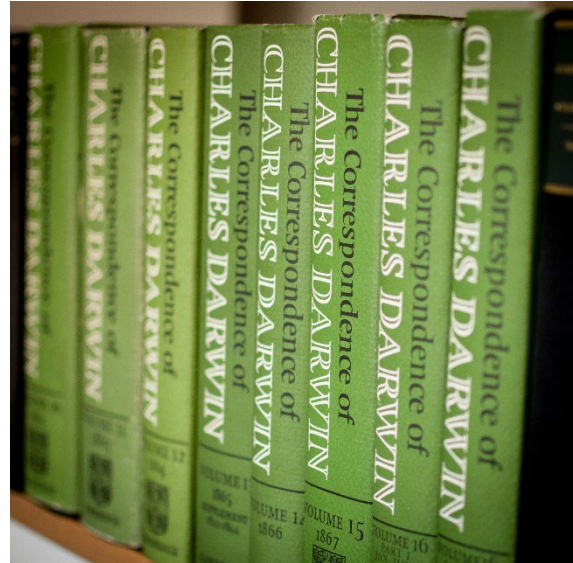




BOOKS

The Correspondence of Charles Darwin Completed After Almost 40 Years

The 30-volume print edition of [The Correspondence of Charles Darwin](#) was completed in spring 2023, containing more than 15,000 letters to and from Darwin with contextual notes and articles. The publication of Darwin's letters began with the first printed volume in 1985, as part of [The Darwin Correspondence Project](#) at the University of Cambridge. Darwin's letters are an essential resource for understanding the development of his own ideas and serve as an important source for the lives and work of more than 2000 correspondents and others mentioned in the letters. The project has won several awards, including the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education awarded in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace and presented by Her Majesty the Queen in 2003; the first ever Morton N. Cohen Award for a Distinguished Edition of Letters presented by the Modern Language Association of America in 1991; and the 2003 Thomas Jefferson Medal for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences. Until August 5, [New York Public Library](#) is hosting an exhibition about Darwin's life and work to celebrate the completion of the Darwin Correspondence Project. The *Correspondence of Charles Darwin* was supported by several Sloan grants, starting in 1994.



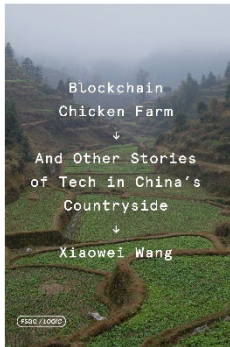
National Book Foundation / Sloan Science + Literature Winners Celebrated

In a novel partnership with the National Book Foundation that includes fiction and poetry for the first time, the second annual Sloan Science + Literature Award Ceremony was held at The Cooper Union on March 22. Winning titles included [Dyke \(geology\)](#) by Sabrina Imbler, [Real Life](#) by Brandon Taylor, and [Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside](#) by Xiaowei Wang. The selected works were chosen by a committee of scientific and literary experts who focused on books that celebrate and contribute to the diversity of voices in science writing. The Science + Literature Award winners were also highlighted in the [Associated Press](#).



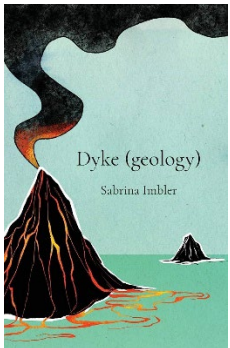


The National Book Foundation received a three-year grant from the Sloan Foundation in 2021 to establish these prizes. The three winners discussed their work in three individual events across the country (see below).



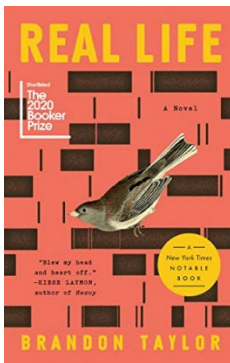
Xiaowei Wang: The Future of Technology (Non-Fiction Winner)

Xiaowei Wang, author of *BlockChain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside*, joined Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY Fellow Joe Fassler on April 12 at Boise State University to discuss Wang's work. *Blockchain Chicken Farm*, Wang's debut essay collection, examines the quickly changing landscape of technology in rural China and unravels the ties between globalization, technology, agriculture and commerce. *Blockchain Chicken Farm* received positive reviews in [The New York Times](#), the [Asian Review of Books](#) and [Kirkus Reviews](#), among others.



Sabrina Imbler: On Writing Science and The Self (Poetry Winner)

On April 22, at the University of Southern California, author Sabrina Imbler joined Science + Literature selection committee member and co-host of Sloan podcast *Radiolab* Latif Nasser for a conversation on how science writing can inform and connect with readers around the world. Imbler's award-winning book, *Dyke (geology)* intertwines threads of autofiction and science writing to tell the story of a first queer love.



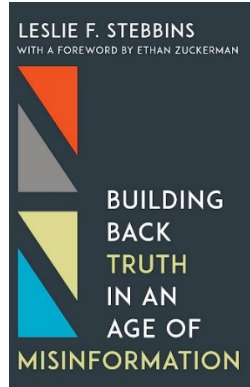
Brandon Taylor: From the Lab to the Page (Fiction Winner)

Brandon Taylor, author of *Real Life*, joined Science + Literature selection committee member and author Weike Wang on May 6 at the Chicago Humanities Festival to discuss the science in his award-winning book and the possibilities for better representation in both science and fiction. *Real Life* follows a Black queer man in Alabama who encounters discrimination – in both his personal and professional life – as he pursues a degree in biochemistry. *Real Life* received positive reviews in [The New Yorker](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Kirkus Reviews](#), among others.



***Building Back Truth in an Age of Misinformation* by Leslie Stebbins Published March 15**

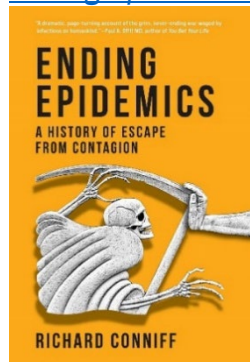
[*Building Back Truth in an Age of Misinformation*](#), by independent researcher and Director of



Research4Ed Leslie Stebbins, was published on March 15. The book explores the many ways platforms are designed to exploit users as they prioritize profit over value. Stebbins provides six paths forward to understand these systems, including how we can learn to embrace our agency in these spaces, how to build tools to reduce harmful practices, how we can repair journalism, and how to create healthy digital public squares. *Building Back Truth* received positive reviews, with [Booklist](#) stating that the book “presents a well-researched argument, writing with an air of hope for a future of reform, improved policies, and public engagement.” The book was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

***Ending Epidemics: A History of Escape from Contagion* by Richard Conniff Published April 11**

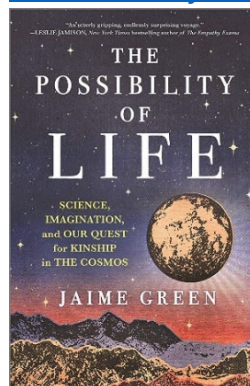
[*Ending Epidemics: A History of Escape from Contagion*](#) by award-winning writer and science



journalist Richard Conniff was published on April 11. The book chronicles the history of infectious diseases, beginning with the medical establishment’s consensus that disease was the result of noxious miasmas, bodily humors, and divine dyspepsia and leading into germ theory, pivotal sanitation improvements, and the discovery of antibiotics. Conniff also recounts the crucial role of lesser-known figures in pressuring institutions and governments to act in the name of public health. The book received positive reviews and was featured in the [Next Big Idea Club](#) and [Nature’s list of top 5 science books](#), among others. *Ending Epidemics* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

***The Possibility of Life: Science, Imagination, and Our Quest for Kinship in the Cosmos* by Jaime Green Published April 18**

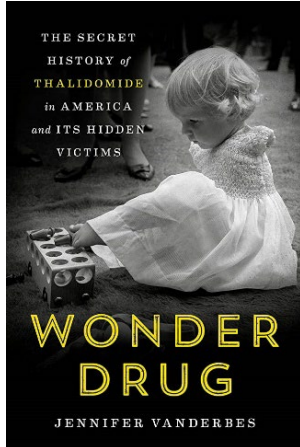
[*The Possibility of Life: Science, Imagination, and Our Quest for Kinship in the Cosmos*](#) by



award-winning science journalist Jaime Green was published on April 18. From Galileo to modern-day space exploration, the book traces the history of our understanding of the cosmos. Green interweaves expert interviews, cutting-edge research, philosophical inquiry and pop culture references to explore our conception of the universe and humans’ role in it. The book received positive reviews in [The Washington Post](#), [Wired](#), and [Kirkus Reviews](#) among others. It was also a selected title for Sloan grantee [Science Friday’s monthly book club](#). *The Possibility of Life* was supported by a 2019 Sloan grant.



***Wonder Drug: The Secret History of Thalidomide in America and Its Hidden Victims* by Jennifer Vanderbes to be Published June 27**

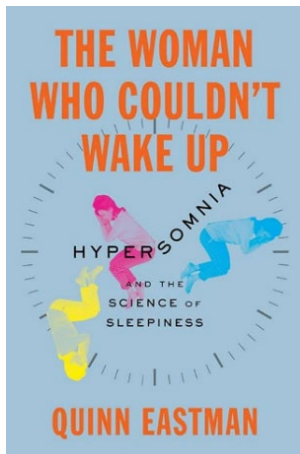


[*Wonder Drug: The Secret History of Thalidomide in America and Its Hidden Victims*](#) by award-winning novelist, journalist, and screenwriter Jennifer Vanderbes will be published on June 27.

Through government and corporate archives, court records, and hundreds of interviews, the book exposes the deceptive practices of Big Pharma in the 1960s to legalize thalidomide, a drug that causes catastrophic birth abnormalities. Vanderbes explores the impact on the hundreds of thousands of Americans exposed to this drug and the continuing flaws in pharmaceutical practices today. Vanderbes also received a Sloan development grant through the Athena Film Festival for her screenplay on the same subject in 2022. The book has already received a positive review in [Kirkus Reviews](#), which stated that Vanderbes “weaves the various strands of her riveting tale

together with aplomb, and she clearly explains even the most puzzling aspects of it.” *Wonder Drug* was supported by a 2018 Sloan grant.

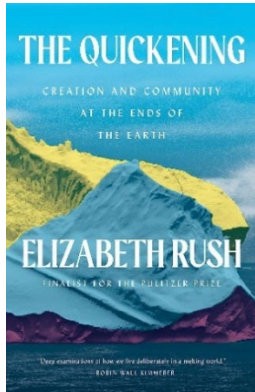
***The Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up: Hypersomnia and the Science of Sleepiness* by Quinn Eastman to be Published August 1**



[*The Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up: Hypersomnia and the Science of Sleepiness*](#) by biochemist and journalist Quinn Eastman will be published on August 1. The book follows Anna, a young lawyer who could sleep for thirty to fifty hours at a stretch due to her idiopathic hypersomnia and whose condition perplexed doctors for years. Eastman explores the science of sleepiness, including the latest research searching for the causes and neurochemicals involved in sleep. He foregrounds the experiences of people with conditions similar to Anna’s and suggests that an investigation of idiopathic hypersomnia may unlock new understandings of how sleep is regulated and controlled. *The Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

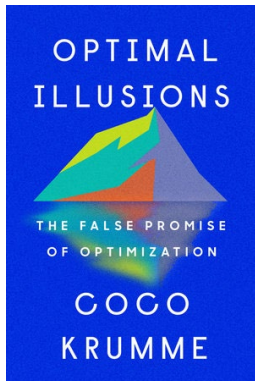


***The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth* by Elizabeth Rush to be Published August 15**



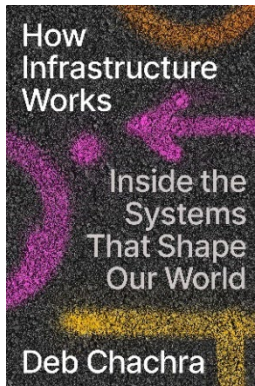
[*The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth*](#) by science writer and Brown University Professor Elizabeth Rush will be published on August 15. The book tells the story of 57 scientists and crew who set out to visit and learn about Thwaites Glacier, an Antarctic glacier believed to be rapidly deteriorating with the potential of making a catastrophic impact on sea levels. Rush documents the group's voyage, including their long hours in the lab, the unbearable conditions of Antarctica, and the challenging work of imagining a better future as climate changes. *The Quickening* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

***Optimal Illusions: The False Promise of Optimization* by Coco Krumme to be Published September 12**



[*Optimal Illusions: The False Promise of Optimization*](#) by mathematician Coco Krumme will be published on September 12. The book explores the overemphasis on efficiency in the modern world, from manufacturing and airline schedules to dating site matches and transportation. Beginning with the fascinating history of optimization from its roots in America's founding principles, Krumme argues that streamlined systems are not only less resilient and more at risk of failure, but they also narrow our perspectives and have resulted in a society that can feel profoundly inhumane. *Optimal Illusions* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

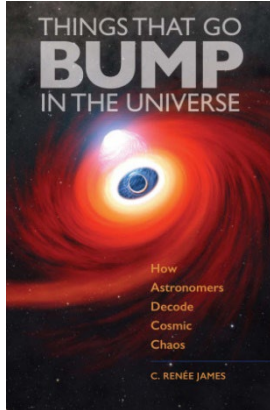
***How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World* by Deb Chachra to be Published October 17**



[*How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World*](#) by engineer and materials scientist Deb Chachra will be published on October 17. The book provides a fascinating tour of essential facilities such as reservoirs, sewers, cables and pipes to reveal how they work and how essential they are to day-to-day life. Chachra also maps out a path for rebuilding infrastructure to be functional, equitable, and sustainable as these systems suffer from systemic neglect and the effects of climate change. *How Infrastructure Works* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.



***Things That Go Bump in the Universe: How Astronomers Decode Cosmic Chaos* by C. Renee James to be Published November 14**



[Things That Go Bump in the Universe: How Astronomers Decode Cosmic Chaos](#) by astronomer and science writer C. Renee James will be published on November 14. James introduces readers to her colleagues around the world who are using revolutionary techniques to examine everything from the Big Bang to dark energy. The book captures the drama of a wild, violent cosmos by exploring the incredible discoveries being made in the field, the tools used to detect cosmic events, and the astronomical mysteries that have yet to be solved. *Things That Go Bump in the Universe* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

FILM

***BlackBerry* Wins Sloan Science on Screen Award at SFFILM Fest**



The [Sloan Science on Screen Award at SFFILM](#), which recognizes the compelling depiction of science in a narrative feature film, was awarded to *BlackBerry* at the SFFILM Fest on April 17 at the Premier Theater. The film by writer/director Matt Johnson, who also stars in the film along with Jay Baruchel and Glenn Howerton, is an exuberant depiction of the rise and fall of the world's first smartphone, the BlackBerry. The post-screening panel discussed the role of technology in our lives with director Johnson and UC Berkeley Professor of Physics Joel Moore. *BlackBerry* has received outstanding reviews in [The New York Times](#), [The New Yorker](#), and [The Washington Post](#), among others, and the film was released in theaters on May 12. As part of SFFILM's Science in Cinema Initiative, the festival also screened the Sloan Sundance Grand Jury Prize winning film, *The Pod Generation*, followed by a panel with director Sophie Barthes and Director of the Dolby Institute

Glenn Kiser. The Sloan Science on Screen Award is supported by a 2021 grant to SFFILM.

Radical Wins 2023 Sloan Distribution Grant



The 2023 Sloan Distribution Grant at Film Independent, which supports completed science films entering the distribution phase, was awarded to [Radical](#). The Mexican narrative feature film, directed by Christopher Zalla and co-written by Zalla and Joshua Davis, is based on the true story of an inspirational educator in an impoverished, neglected town in Mexico who unlocks his students’s curiosity and

potential at school, turning around the grades of his failing class in only a year. *Radical* has received positive press from [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Variety](#), and [IndieWire](#) among others. The Sloan Distribution Grant, which helps exceptional independent films find a theatrical audience, is supported by a 2020 grant to Film Independent.

Sloan Hosts First Virtual Sloan Film Summit

More than 50 award-winning Sloan filmmakers from the past five years gathered to celebrate the Sloan Film community at the first ever Virtual Sloan Summit on April 25. Hosted by Sloan and facilitated by Sloan partner [The Museum of the Moving Image](#), the Summit featured updates from all six film school partners (UCLA, USC, American Film Institute, Carnegie Mellon, NYU, and Columbia) as well as Sloan film partners (Athena Film Festival, Film Independent, SFFILM, and Sundance Institute). The evening also included a filmmaker spotlight on Sloan grantee [Gillian Weeks](#), recipient of the 2018 Sloan Screenplay Development Award at the Tribeca Film Institute and 2019 Commissioning Grant at Sundance, as well as updates and networking opportunities for other attendees. The event was supported by a 2022 Sloan grant to the Museum of the Moving Image.





Academy Museum Hosts Sloan Spotlight of 1957 Film, *Desk Set*

[The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures](#), the largest institution in the United States devoted to the art, science, and artists of moviemaking, hosted [a screening and Q&A of *Desk Set*](#). The film follows network television research librarian Bunny Watson (Katharine Hepburn) as she finds her job threatened when efficiency expert Richard Sumner (Spencer Tracy) becomes fixated on replacing the all-female department with cutting-edge computing technology, eerily forecasting increased digitization and fixation on workplace efficiency. The screening was followed by a discussion on the rich history of women and technology with Claire L. Evans, author of the book *Broad Band: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the Internet*; Eileen Ybarra, Electronic Resources Librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library; and Elizabeth Youle, Associate Director of Reference and Public Services at the Margaret Herrick Library. Sloan is a founding sponsor of the Academy Museum, with a 2021 grant to support science and film programming.



Coolidge Corner Theater Hosts Annual National Evening of Science on Screen



On March 28, the Coolidge Corner Theatre hosted the [annual Sloan-supported National Evening of Science on Screen](#). Twenty-four non-profit film organizations in 18 states received funding this year to host three events that pair screenings of film with introductions by scientific experts as part of the nationwide [Science on Screen](#) effort, with many events taking place on March 28 to celebrate the National Evening of Science on Screen. Events included screenings of Sloan-supported films such as *After Yang*, *Linoleum*, *One Man Dies a*

Million Times, and more. Coolidge Corner Theatre hosted their own screening of Sloan film *Picture a Scientist* in Boston, followed by panel discussion moderated by MIT Press Director and Publisher and *Picture a Scientist* Executive Producer Amy Brand with MIT Amgen Professor of Biology Emerita Nancy Hopkins, MIT Professor Sangeeta Bhatia, and Harvard Law Professor and Judge Nancy Gertner (Ret.). Science on Screen is supported by a 2021 grant to the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

THEATER

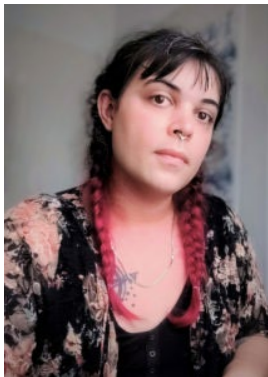
New Play About Privacy and Technology Debuts at Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST)



The new Sloan-commissioned play [Smart](#), written by Mary Elizabeth Hamilton and directed by EST Member Matt Dickson, debuted at the EST/Sloan Mainstage Production on March 30 and ran until April 30. The play tells the story of Elaine, who purchases “Jenny,” a smart device which doubles as a babysitter and companion for her ailing mother. While the device quickly feels like another member of the family, Elaine

discovers that Jenny is not the only one listening to her private moments with her mother. *Smart* explores how and why we let technology into our homes, and the unexpected changes this technology can bring. The play has received positive reviews in [The New York Times](#) and [Theater Mania, among others](#). The April 22 matinee featured a post-show panel with playwright Hamilton, data journalist Meredith Broussard, *Scientific American* Technology Editor Sophie Bushwick and Sloan grantee and Founding Director of the Consumer Reports Digital Lab Ben Moskowitz about the issues of using smart devices in the home and personal privacy and data rights. The writing and mainstage production of *Smart* were supported by a 2022 Sloan grant to EST, one of Sloan’s two flagship theater partners.

Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC) Reading Series Presents Public Reading of Sloan Play *An Oxford Man*



[An Oxford Man](#) by Else Went (pictured left), a Sloan/MTC-commissioned play, was presented in a public reading at MTC’s City Center Stage I on March 27 as part of the Theatre’s Ted Snowdon Reading Series. The reading followed a week-long developmental workshop with director Emma Rose Went, a cast of actors, and the support of MTC’s Artistic Development staff. The play is a mythologization of the life and times of the first “modern” transgender man, Laurence Michael Dillon. The play was commissioned in 2021 as a part of MTC’s Sloan Initiative. Sloan’s ongoing partnership with MTC is supported by a 2022 grant.



Ensemble Studio Theatre Presents 2023 First Light Festival

From May 7 to June 23, Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST) held its [annual First Light Festival](#), a month-long series of readings of Sloan-commissioned plays. This year’s Festival features readings of nine Sloan plays, including Jeanne Dorsey’s [The Kit](#); [Made by Martha](#), Karina Billini’s [Apple Bottom](#), Emily Chadick Weiss’ [Spray](#), Nikki Brake-Sillá’s [ReWombed](#), Sam Mueller’s [PIN](#), Margot Connolly’s [Hello, World](#), L.M. Feldman’s [SPACE](#), Amanda Keating’s [With Fellowship](#), and Nelson Diaz-Marcano’s [Las Borinqueñas](#), the story of Gregory Pincus, the birth control pill and the Puerto Rican women who were the subjects of the first trials. The First Light Festival is supported by a 2022 Sloan grant to EST.



RADIO

WNYC Hosts Health Convening Focusing on “New York’s Enduring Crises”



WNYC hosted its annual Sloan-funded Health Convening virtually on June 8. Sessions included “Protecting Abortion Access in New York” with Dr. Gillian Dean, Chief Medical Officer at Planned Parenthood of Greater New York and Donna Lieberman, Executive Director of the New York City Liberties Union; “The Health Needs of the Asylum Seekers” with Dr. Gunisha Kaur, Director of the Human Rights Impact Lab at Weill Cornell Medicine

and Desirée Joy Frias, Community Organizer at the South Bronx Mutual Aid; and “The Impact of Vehicle Emissions and Idling on New Yorkers” with Ilias Kavouras, Professor and Chair of Environmental, Occupational and Geospatial Health Sciences at CUNY and Marianthi-Anna Kioumourtzoglou, Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health. The full event is [available to watch on the WNYC website](#). The 2023 Health Convening was supported by a 2021 grant to WNYC to support story-driven healthcare reporting, which now reaches over 10 million listeners in the tri-state area and has won wide acclaim since the COVID-19 pandemic.



EFF Completes Fourth Season of *How to Fix the Internet*



[How to Fix the Internet](#), a Sloan supported podcast from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) that tackles the thorniest issues of the modern web, completed its fourth season in June. The series, hosted by American civil liberties attorney, internet law expert and EFF Executive Director Cindy Cohn and Associate Director of Digital Strategy Jason Kelley (both pictured left), includes

episodes such as [“So You Think You’re a Critical Thinker,”](#) about disinformation and polarization online; [“Dr. Seuss Warned Us,”](#) about the effects of workplace surveillance and the need for stronger privacy laws; and [“Don’t Be Afraid to Poke the Tigers,”](#) about our current patent and copyright culture. *How to Fix the Internet* is supported by a 2022 grant to EFF.

NEW MEDIA

Pioneer Works Hosts Celebration for Sloan/NOVA Documentary Series *Your Brain*



Two Sloan grantees, [Pioneer Works](#) and NOVA, came together for [a reception and discussion on the latest Sloan documentary series, *Your Brain*](#) on June 8. The evening included interactive exhibits, optical illusions, and live performances from professional magician Mark Mitton, and Reverberation, a musician who incorporates neuroscience. A screening of clips from the documentary was followed by a panel discussion moderated by NOVA Executive Producer Julia Cort with host and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Icahn School of Medicine at

Mount Sinai Dr. Heather Berlin; Professor of Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Physiology and Pharmacology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde; Professor of Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Physiology & Pharmacology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Dr. Stephen Macknik; and Associate Professor of Cell Research at the Zuckerman Institute at Columbia University Dr. Bianca Jones Marlin. Pioneer Works is supported by a 2020 Sloan grant and *Your Brain* was supported by a 2020 grant to the WGBH Educational Foundation.



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Ukraine Launches Web Platform for Ukrainian Science at Risk



The Ukrainian Science Centre of Excellence, launched by Sloan grantee and Ukrainian NGO Kunsht, released a [“Science at Risk” website](#) that promotes Ukrainian scientists’ expertise, finds international partners and donors, and tells the stories of Ukrainian scientists during the war to a broader audience. The Centre is a newly created think tank designed to preserve and rebuild science at risk in Ukraine through the web platform, white papers, and databases of

damaged institutions and science projects looking for collaborators. As a founding sponsor of the Centre, Sloan Vice President and Program Director Doron Weber participated in a panel moderated by Science at Risk co-founder Yulia Bezvershnko with Deputy Director of Scholars at Risk Sarah Wilcox; Director of the Institute of International Education’s Scholar Rescue Fund James King; President of the Simons Foundation David Spergel; and Rector of Kyiv School of Economics Timofiy Brik to discuss how the international community can support Ukrainian science. The panel was part of a larger “Science at Risk” Presentation dedicated to Science Day in Ukraine on May 19, hosted by the [Institute of International Education](#) at the One World Trade Center and was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Education and Culture Department of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. The presentation also included a photo exhibition showcasing the impact of the full-scale Russian invasion on Ukrainian science and scientists, a virtual reality film called “You Destroy. We Create. The War on Ukraine’s Culture,” and an introduction to the Science at Risk web platform. Kunsht also hosted a similar presentation in Washington D.C. on May 24 and a virtual presentation of Science at Risk on April 6 targeted toward a Ukrainian audience of stakeholders, including scientists, Ministry of Education officials, National Research Foundation of Ukraine representatives, media, and international organizations such as UNESCO. The Ukrainian Science Centre of Excellence is supported by a 2022 Sloan grant.





University of Washington's BRAINS Program Launches Public Online Directory



The [BRAINS \(Broadening the Representation of Academic Investigators in NeuroScience\)](#) program at the University of Washington launched a [public online directory](#) of Fellows, Affiliates, and other neuroscientists associated with the program. The directory currently includes over 100 BRAINS community members, and more will be added in the coming months. BRAINS uses a unique cohort-based professional development approach to advance the inclusion, retention and progress of neuroscientists from historically underrepresented and marginalized groups. The directory was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant to provide an accessible list of young neuroscientists of color who could serve as advisors or subjects of public understanding projects.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of a new events page for the Public Understanding of Science and Technology program. Please go to <https://sloan.org/programs/public-understanding/events> for information on upcoming Sloan-supported productions, panels, premieres and more.

Program Team: Doron Weber, Vice President, Programs and Program Director | Shriya Bindwale, Program Associate | Delia DiBiasi, Senior Program and Investments Assistant