



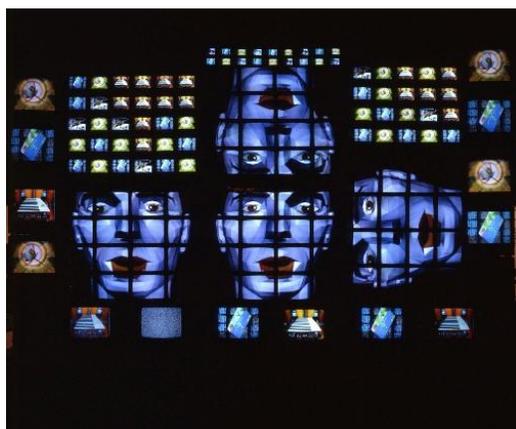
Congress Introduces Legislation for Congressional Gold Medal to Women of *Hidden Figures*

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have recently introduced bipartisan bills to [award the Congressional Gold Medal to the real-life women scientists portrayed in the Sloan-supported book *Hidden Figures*](#) and given Hollywood treatment in the Oscar nominated hit film of the same title. The medal is the “highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions” in the United States. Past recipients include history-making figures such as George Washington, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr. The bill would honor Katherine Johnson (below left) and Christine Darden, and posthumously Mary Jackson (below right) and Dorothy Vaughan, as well as all the women computers, mathematicians, and engineers at NASA, for their contributions during the space race. The Sloan Public Understanding program has been working behind the scenes with Senator Chris Dodd and his staff for over a year to help prepare the bill for introduction, following a fortuitous meeting in D.C. at a Science Philanthropy Alliance event.



NEW MEDIA

Programmed, a new Sloan-Supported Exhibit on Art and Technology, on View at the Whitney



[Programmed: Rules, Codes, and Choreographies in Art, 1965-2018](#), a new Sloan-supported exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, opened September 28 and is on view through April 14, 2019. The cross-disciplinary exhibition “traces how rules and instructions in art have both responded to and been shaped by technologies,” and features two distinct parts: the first “examines the program as instructions, rules, and algorithms with a focus on conceptual art practices and their emphasis on ideas as the driving force behind the art;” and the second “engages with the use of instructions and algorithms to manipulate the TV program, its apparatus, and signals or image sequences.” The

centerpiece of the show is the famous Korean-American artist Nam June Paik’s monumental *Fin de Siècle II* (1989), a 40-foot piece consisting of 200 television screens and seven video channels (pictured left). Support for this exhibit comes from a recent multi-media authorization grant to the Whitney for \$100,000.



THEATER

EST/Sloan-Commissioned Play about Controversial Pioneer to Open in January

[Behind the Sheet](#), a new Sloan-commissioned play written by Charly Evon Simpson (pictured left) and produced by the Ensemble Studio Theatre, opens January 17th in New York City. The play is inspired by the life of Dr. J Marion Sims, a controversial 19th century gynecologist credited as “the father of modern gynecology.” Though a pioneer in his field, Sims’ research would not have been possible without experimentation on enslaved black women, whose personal stories are explored in fictionalized form. Sloan also connected Simpson with Evelyn Hammonds, Chair of the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University, who served as an academic advisor. For two decades, the pioneering [EST/Sloan partnership](#) has commissioned, developed, and produced hundreds of new plays that explore science and technology and challenge existing stereotypes of scientists and engineers.



Scenes from EST/Sloan-Commissioned Play Performed at USAID Event

Selected scenes from the EST/Sloan-Commissioned *BUMP* were performed for an enthusiastic audience of 350 inventors at the 8th annual DevelopmentXChange event [Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development](#), organized in Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Agency for International Development. *BUMP*, written by Chiara Atik, tells a fictionalized version of the unlikely story of car mechanic Jorge

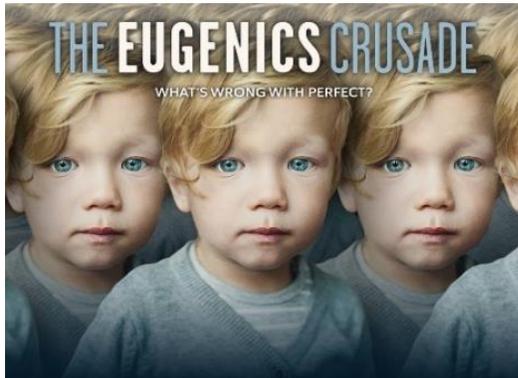


Odon, who invented a revolutionary birthing aid, the Odon device. It explores the spark of invention, the science of pregnancy, and the promise of Odon’s device. The real-life Odon attended the performance and participated as part of an accompanying [panel discussion](#) (pictured left). The Gates Foundation, a sponsor of the performance, is [funding research](#) looking into the effectiveness of the Odon device. Hopefully, the new research will lead to the timely introduction of the device into medical use. *BUMP* was EST/Sloan’s 2018 mainstage production.



TELEVISION

Major Launch Event Celebrates *The Eugenics Crusade* October PBS Premiere



Part of the Sloan-supported *American Experience* series—the most watched history series on television—[The Eugenics Crusade](#) explores the dark history of eugenics and its role in society. The timely documentary will premiere on PBS on October 16 at 9:00 pm ET. From the coining of the term “eugenics” in 1883 by Sir Francis Galton, to Hitler’s use of eugenics as justification for the murder of millions of people, to current day debates about gene editing, designer babies, and immigration, the film is relevant to issues we face today. A launch event on September 26th, organized in partnership with Vanity Fair,

kicked off the series with the screening of an hour long excerpt and a panel discussion with Michelle Ferrari, writer, producer and director of the series; Christine Rosen, author, *Preaching Eugenics: Religious Leaders and the American Eugenics*; Nathaniel Comfort, professor, Institute on the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University and author, *The Science of Human Perfection: How Genes Became the Heart of American Medicine*; and moderator Nick Bilton, Vanity Fair. This show is the latest of four produced through Sloan’s two million dollar grant to American Experience, which supports projects like *The Secret of Tuxedo Park*, *Rachel Carson*, and *The Race Underground*.

FILM

Winning Screenwriters Honored by Sloan at LA Film Festival

At [the annual Sloan/Film Independent Fellows Reception at the LA Film Festival](#), three Sloan-supported grants were presented to film and television projects that explore science and technology themes or



that depict scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in engaging and innovative ways. The Fast Track Grant, was awarded to writer/producer Jenny Halper and producer Kate Sharp for their fiction feature film *Burning Season*; the Producers Grant was awarded to producer Clay Pruitt for his fiction feature *Bell*; and the Episodic Lab Grant, was awarded to Mirella Christou for her pilot *Seven Eternities*. Announcing the awards in LA, Sloan VP and Program Director Doron Weber said, “All three science-themed stories—about a mother-daughter relationship and endangered lemurs in Madagascar, a brilliant but flawed American inventor and the challenges of deafness and deaf culture, and the controversial

science and heady days of psychedelic drugs the in the sixties—have come through our nationwide film pipeline and draw inspiration from the dramatic encounter between human beings and nature.” Sloan has been supporting new science and technology screenplays through Film Independent since 2007.



Winners of SFFILM’s Sloan Science in Cinema Filmmaker Fellowship Announced

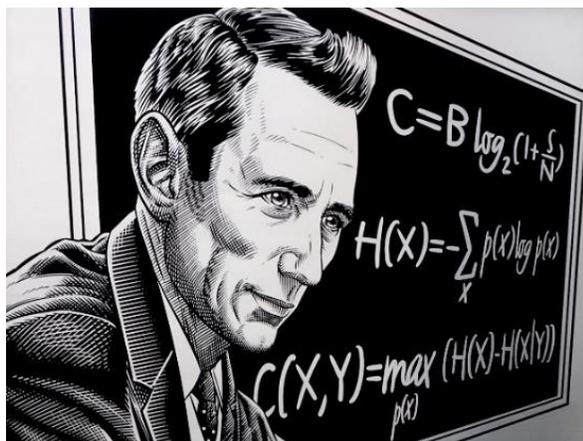
Two women filmmakers were awarded the [2018 Sloan Science in Cinema Filmmaker Fellowships](#) at SFFILM (The San Francisco Film Society). The award assists filmmakers in the development of narrative



feature screenplays that explore scientific or technological themes and characters. Both So Young Shelly and Erica Liu will receive a grant and two-month residency at the SFFILM’s FilmHouse residency space. Yo’s project, *The 11th Endeavor*, is based on the true story of Yi So Yeon, selected on television by the Korean Astronaut Program to be one of South Korea’s first astronauts. Liu’s project, *The Mushroomers*, follows a young widow as she nurses a contaminated old-growth forest to health using super fungi. The awards are part of a second Sloan grant to SFFILM to nurture, develop, and champion science films.

Sloan-Supported Film about Innovator Claude Shannon Premiered in June

A full house attended the world premiere of Sloan-supported feature documentary [The Bit Player](#) at the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory in Boulder, Colorado on June 19. The documentary, directed by Mark Levinson (*Particle Fever*), focuses on the life of Claude Shannon, an



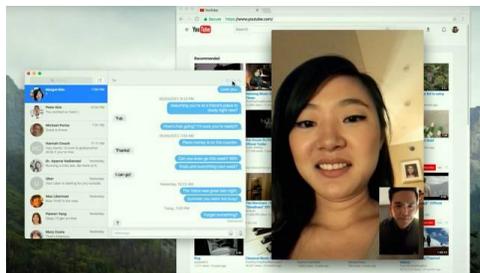
American mathematician, electrical engineer, and cryptographer known as "the father of information theory." Diverse storytelling techniques are blended in this hybrid documentary, such as imagined interviews with Claude Shannon, drawn from actual conversations; engaging animation sequences; and testimonies from luminaries in the field about his work. While Shannon is relatively unknown, his work paved the way for much of the technology we use today, including email, texts, tweets, and Instagram. Reflecting on Shannon’s impact, Andrea Goldsmith, Stanford University said: "Today everyone carries Shannon around in their pocket." The film was also [nominated for an award from the Science Media](#)

[Awards & Summit](#) (SMASH) in the "Technology & Innovation" category.



Tech-thriller *Searching* Opened in Theaters Nationwide

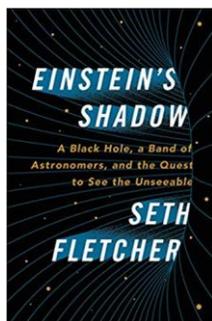
The film [*Searching*](#), which won the Sloan Feature Film Prize and the Next Audience Award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, was widely released on August 3. John Cho and Debra Messing star in this tech thriller, which follows a widowed father as he uses technology to try to find his missing daughter. The film, told entirely on screens, through videos, messages, and browser windows, has received positive reviews from *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Los Angeles Times*, among others, for its innovative storytelling method and captivating narrative. It has also performed well in the box office in both the United States and abroad, reaching the number one spot in South Korea.



BOOKS

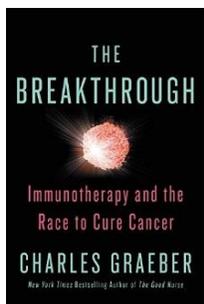
***Einstein’s Shadow*, by Seth Fletcher, Published in October**

[*Einstein’s Shadow: A Black Hole, a Band of Astronomers, and the Quest to See the Unseeable*](#), by Seth Fletcher, was published on October 9 by Ecco. The book tells the story of the Event Horizon Telescope and the long-running quest to capture the first direct image of a black hole. In a [starred review](#), a Kirkus critic wrote, “With stakes this high and writing this lucid, readers will be drawn into the narrative as easily as matter being drawn toward the event horizon itself. The hypotheses, experiments, team-building, and bureaucratic wrangling that Fletcher so beautifully describes perfectly encapsulate modern science, and it’s a rare treat to have an insider’s look at an ongoing endeavor this monumental.... Supermassive black holes, a virtual telescope the size of the Earth, trailblazing astronomers who test the boundaries of modern science—this is scientific storytelling at its best.” An essay adapted from the book and written by Fletcher was recently published in [The New York Times Magazine](#). Fletcher received a Sloan grant in 2017 to support the research and writing of this book.



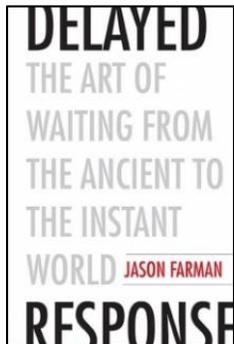
***The Breakthrough*, by Charles Graeber, to be Published in November**

[*The Breakthrough: Immunotherapy and the Race to Cure Cancer*](#), by [New York Times](#) bestselling author [Charles Graeber](#), will be published on November 6 by Twelve, a division of the Hachette Book Group. Recent discoveries in cancer immunotherapy have led to new therapies that help the immune system target and destroy tumor cells. Weaving together history, science, and the stories of patients, doctors, and caregivers, Graeber examines the intersection between cancer and immunology and its potential to impact the course of cancer care. The topic is especially timely, as [James P. Allison](#) recently received the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine "for the discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation." Graeber received a Sloan grant in 2016 to support the research and writing of this book.





Delayed Response, by Jason Farman, to be Published in November



[Delayed Response: The Art of Waiting from the Ancient to the Instant World](#), by award winning author and media studies scholar [Jason Farman](#), will be published on November 20 by Yale University Press. From Aboriginal Australian message sticks to social media and texting, Farman looks at the ways we communicate and how they have changed over time. He argues that waiting is a fundamental part of the messages we send, despite new technologies that allow us to receive messages faster than ever. Farman received a Sloan grant in 2017 for the research and writing of this book.

RADIO

Sloan-Supported *Science Friday* Hosts Time Traveler Cocktail Party

[Science Friday](#), the Sloan-supported public radio show that dives into all things science every Friday afternoon, hosted a [Time Traveler Cocktail Party](#) in New York City in August to celebrate the culmination of their book club's reading of Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*. The event featured hands-on physics demonstrations, a build-your-own time capsule station, and conversations about black holes, gravity, and the fabric of our universe. Speakers included journalists Ryan Mandelbaum and Rae



Paoletta and physicist Jillian Bellovary, American Museum of Natural History. Art commissioned by *Science Friday* as part of a challenge to illustrate Stephen Hawking's depictions of the universe was displayed. To close out the night, theoretical cosmologist Janna Levin read a poem called *Singularity*, written by Marie Howe as a tribute to Stephen Hawking. Sloan has supported *Science Friday* stories that focus on science and the arts, including radio broadcasts, digital science videos, blog posts, and associated media, since 2004.



UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

The Digital Public Library of America Launches Open Bookshelf



The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) launched a new Sloan-Supported initiative, [Open Bookshelf](#), a collection of over 2,000 free ebooks selected by librarians and information professionals from across the U.S. It is available to readers through the SimplyE mobile app and to libraries through the DPLA exchange. From *Dracula* and *Pride and Prejudice*, to textbooks on global women’s issues and financial accounting, to books for children, Open Bookshelf has a wide selection of free ebooks that continues to grow. The DPLA is the recipient of current Sloan grants to complete its Nationwide Service Hub Network and to pilot the *Open Bookshelf* ebooks distribution platform.

Sloan-Supported Consumer Reports Releases Peer-to-Peer Payment Services Ratings

[New ratings](#) have been released which rank peer-to-peer payment services using the Digital Standard, Consumer Reports’ digital privacy and security criteria supported by a new Sloan grant. [Apple Pay received the highest rating](#), “with excellent or very good marks in the key consumer-protection



measures of payment authentication and data privacy.” In June, Sloan program staff toured the Consumer Reports labs (pictured left) in Yonkers, New York. The tour concluded with a discussion with Consumer Reports staff regarding their current efforts to bring privacy awareness about everyday items, such as televisions and refrigerators, to consumers. Discussion participants included Bobby Richter, Head of the Digital Standard-based testing program; Justin Brookman, Director, Consumer Privacy and Technology Policy; Marta Tellado, President and CEO; and Maria Rerecich, Head of the Electronics Testing Program.



Three Honors for Public Understanding Books, Radio, and Film Programs

Three of the Public Understanding of Science and Technology's signature programs have been recognized with separate honors from, respectively, the National Book Foundation, WNYC Radio, and the Roger Ebert Symposium.

The National Book Foundation will award Sloan VP and Program Director Doron Weber [the 2018 Literarian Award](#) at their 69th National Book Awards Ceremony. The award is given for "Outstanding Service to American Literature" and recognizes the more than one hundred books that have come out of the book program. Previous Literarian Award winners include Maya Angelou, James Patterson, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., and David Eggers.

At the 2018 New York Public Radio Gala, Sloan's radio program will be honored, "for providing transformative support for work at the intersection of science, technology, and the arts." From founding support for Radiolab and The Health Unit, to Studio 360, to special series on important issues, the Public Understanding program has been a supporter of WNYC for over 20 years.



Finally, on behalf of the film program, Weber received the Ebert Center Empathy for the Universe Award at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications in Urbana, Illinois for "lasting contributions to the cinema industry that have significantly increased public understanding of science and revealed the interconnectedness of our universe and our humanity." Chaz Ebert and Nate Kohn presented the award (pictured left), a golden thumb cast from Pulitzer Prize winning film critic Roger Ebert's hand and made by the same company that produces statuettes for the Oscars.

Program Team: Doron Weber, *Vice President, Programs and Program Director* | Ali Chunovic, *Program Associate* | Delia DiBiasi, *Senior Program and Investments Assistant*