



MTC/Sloan-Commissioned Play about Climate Change Premieres

[Continuity](#), a Sloan-commissioned play written by Bess Wohl, directed by this year's Tony-winning best director Rachel Chavkin (*Hadestown*), and produced by Manhattan Theatre Club's (MTC) [Sloan Initiative: Setting the Stage for Science and Technology](#), opened May 21 at MTC's New York City Center Stage II. The play is set on a soundstage in New Mexico, meant to look like a melting ice sheet in Greenland. A director, science advisor, and film crew work to create a big-budget thriller about climate change and eco-terrorism. *Continuity* is a biting comedy, balancing hilarious moments with the devastating consequences human actions could inflict on the environment. A talkback after the May 23rd



performance featured Director of the Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences Robert Kopp, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at New York University Sonali McDermid, and actress Kerry Bishé (*Halt and Catch Fire*) as the moderator. The play received positive coverage from [Vulture](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Wrap](#), [Talkin Broadway](#), and [New York Stage Review](#), and [Wohl was interviewed by Science Friday](#). *Continuity* was originally commissioned and developed by Sloan and received an additional production grant to support the play's theatrical run.

TELEVISION

American Experience's "Chasing the Moon" to Air in July

["Chasing the Moon"](#), the latest documentary in the Sloan-supported *American Experience* series, is scheduled to premiere across three nights beginning July 8th to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Using never-before-seen footage, the film will explore the events leading up to the

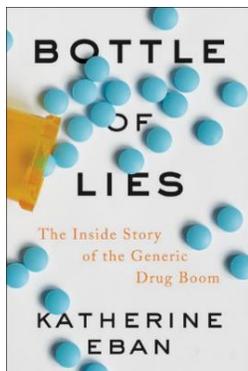


historic journey to the moon, featuring characters from Buzz Aldrin, one of the first two men to walk on the moon, to Poppy Northcutt, the first female engineer to work in NASA's Mission Control. This show is one of four produced through Sloan's two million dollar grant to *American Experience*, which supports projects such as "Sealab," "The Eugenics Crusade," "The Secret of Tuxedo Park," "Rachel Carson," and "The Race Underground."



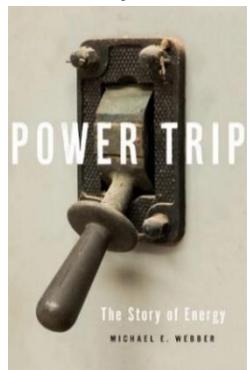
BOOKS

***Bottle of Lies: The Inside Story of the Generic Drug Boom*, by Katherine Eban, Published in May**



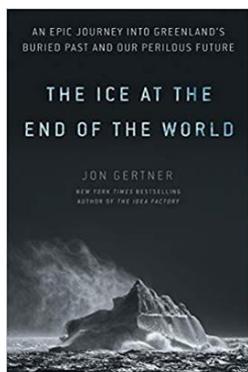
[*Bottle of Lies: The Inside Story of the Generic Drug Boom*](#), by award-winning investigative journalist Katherine Eban, was published May 14. This timely Sloan-supported book is a deep-dive investigation into the manufacturing of generic drugs, exposing dangerous factory practices in overseas drug manufacturers, F.D.A. regulations that fail to curb these practices, and the potentially harmful effects the drugs cause in consumers. The book was on the *New York Times* best-sellers science list and received prominent and very positive coverage from [The New York Times](#), [NPR](#), [Kirkus](#), [Time Magazine](#), and [USA Today](#), among others. The topics covered in the book were also the subject of a recent op-ed by Eban herself in [The New York Times](#). Eban received a Sloan grant in 2013 to support the research and writing of this book.

***Power Trip: The Story of Energy*, by Michael E. Webber, Published in May**



[*Power Trip: The Story of Energy*](#), by author and professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Texas Michael E. Webber, was published May 8. The book examines how harnessing energy has shaped global history, from the water wheel to the steam engine to electricity, and how it continues to shape our world today, especially as demand for energy continues to rise. *Power Trip* will be adapted into a six-part docuseries, also supported by a Sloan grant, which is set to air in 2019. The book has received positive coverage by [The New York Times](#), [KUT 90.5](#), Austin's NPR station, and [Texas Standard](#). Webber received a Sloan grant in 2018 to support the research and writing of this book.

***The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic Journey into Greenland's Buried Past and Our Perilous Future*, by Jon Gertner Published in June**



[*The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic Journey into Greenland's Buried Past and Our Perilous Future*](#), by journalist and author Jon Gertner, was published on June 11. The book is about the scientific and technological history of Greenland, especially as it pertains to our understanding of climate change. It looks closely at the ice sheet that covers Greenland, made up of approximately three quadrillion tons of ice. [Kirkus](#) called *The Ice at the End of the World*, “a captivating, essential book to add to the necessarily burgeoning literature on global warming.” Gerner also wrote an [opinion piece in the New York Times](#) on topics addressed in the book. He received a Sloan grant in 2017 to support the research and writing of this *The Ice at the End of the World*.



Senate (Again) Passes Congressional Gold Medal Bill to Honor *Hidden Figures* Women Scientists



The U.S. Senate [passed a bipartisan bill](#) to award the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to the real-life women scientists portrayed in the Sloan-supported book *Hidden Figures*. This is the second time the bill has passed the Senate, due to a new session in Congress. The bill honors Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden (pictured left), and posthumously Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan, for their contributions to science during the space race. A companion bill has been introduced in the house. Sloan has been involved behind the scenes in getting the bill introduced since 2018.

THEATER

Isabella Rossellini’s *Link Link Circus* Performed at Hunter College



Link Link Circus, Isabella Rossellini’s one-woman, one-dog show about the relationship between human and animal behavior, [opened in April at Hunter College](#). The multimedia performance combines science and comedy and explores the contributions of famous scientists and thinkers such as Aristotle, Descartes, Pavlov, Darwin and B.F. Skinner. Rossellini, an award-winning actress, developed the show after returning to school to get a master’s degree in animal behavior and conservation under Diana Reiss, a world-recognized expert on dolphins. The sixteen-performance run of *Link Link Circus* was supported by a 2019 officer grant to Hunter College.

***Please Continue* Added to L.A. Theatre Works’ Sloan-Supported *Relativity* Series**

[Please Continue](#) by Frank Basloe is the latest Sloan play to be added to L.A. Theatre Works’ [Relativity series](#) of science radio dramas, now numbering 36. The play, originally an [Ensemble Studio Theatre/](#)



[Sloan Foundation Mainstage production](#), is based on the true story of Stanley Milgram, a social psychologist who conducted the famous obedience experiment where study participants were asked to administer electric shocks to subjects. The *Relativity* series reaches millions of people via broadcast and streaming. It is aired in over 60 countries, including more than 50 public radio stations across the US, and distributed to thousands of teachers and community libraries. Past plays produced as part of the *Relativity* podcast include [Spill by Leigh Fondakowski](#) and [Boy by Anna Ziegler](#). The recording of science plays in the *Relativity* series is part of a 2017 grant to L.A. Theatre Works.



FILM

Sloan Prize Winners Celebrated at Film School Awards Reception and Tribeca Film Festival Reading

The winners of the [Sloan Grand Jury and Student Discovery Prizes](#) were announced at an [awards reception](#) hosted by Sloan and the Tribeca Film Institute in April. The Sloan Grand Jury Prize celebrates the “best of the best” screenplay submitted by Sloan’s six film school partners. The 2019 winner was Anderson Cook, a recent graduate of CMU, for his screenplay *James Thomas Thinks the Earth is Flat*, about a young African-American science student who forms an unlikely bond with NBA all-star and notorious flat-earther James Thomas. Jamil Munoz, a graduate student at Columbia, was recognized with an honorable mention for his script *Baretia*, based on the true story of Jeanne Baret, who had to disguise herself as a man to become the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. The Sloan Student



Discovery Prize, launched this year, celebrates an exceptional science or technology script from one of six new public universities added to the program. Andrew Rodriguez, a student at SUNY Purchase, won the inaugural award for his episodic series script *Plus*, about a queer person of color in New York City adjusting to his recent HIV diagnosis. The three winners are pictured left with jury members and Sloan VP Doron Weber. The management and celebration of these awards are supported by a 2018 grant to the Tribeca Film Institute.

As part of the Tribeca Film Festival each year, Sloan and the Tribeca Film Institute host a reading of selected Sloan prize-winning works-in-progress. This year’s reading featured the three 2019 TFI Sloan Filmmaker Fund winning projects: *Asia A*, about a college basketball player struggling to accept his new



life as a paraplegic; *Bolichicos*, based on a true story about privileged young men in 2006 Venezuela who got involved in currency exchange scams; and *Wiring Utopia*, based on the true story of a British cybernetician who is credited as creating the world’s first internet in socialist Chile. *Jake Thomas Thinks the Earth is Flat* (scene pictured left) and *Plus* also received staged readings. A reception after the reading celebrated the winners. The reading was supported by a 2017 grant to the Tribeca Film Institute.



Panel and Screening of *The Hot Zone* Featured in Sloan-Funded Tribeca Film Festival Events

The first two episodes of National Geographic's *The Hot Zone*, based on bestselling author Richard Preston's Sloan-supported book of the same title, [were shown to a packed theater during the Tribeca Film Festival](#). The story is based on the life of scientist Nancy Jaax, the former chief of pathology at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, and her role in the Ebola virus incident in



Reston, Virginia. The post-screening panel discussed bringing science to the screen and included Preston, technical supervisor Dr. Michael Smit, Columbia epidemiologist Dr. Wan Yang, *National Geographic* photographer Nichole Sobekli, cast members Julianna Margulies (pictured left, *ER*, *The Good Wife*) and Noah Emmerich (*The Americans*), and showrunners and executive producers Kelly Souders, Brian Peterson, and Lynda Obst. Jen Schwartz, reporter for *Scientific American*, moderated the discussion. The screening and panel were supported by a 2017 grant to the Tribeca Film Institute.

Sloan-Supported *The Sound of Silence* Acquired by IFC Films



Sloan-awarded director Michael Tyburski and writer Ben Nabors's *The Sound of Silence*, [has been acquired by IFC Films](#). The film, whose script won the 2014 Sloan Screenwriting Grant at the Hamptons International Film Festival, follows Peter Lucien, a New York City "house tuner," who manipulates the sounds in people's apartments to improve their moods. Peter Sarsgaard (*Garden State*, pictured left) plays the house tuner and Rashida Jones (*Parks and Recreation*) plays one of his clients. A 2019 theatrical release is planned.

Sloan-Awarded *To Dust* Available to Stream on Amazon



After opening in select theaters nationwide, the Sloan-awarded film [To Dust](#) is now available to [stream via Amazon](#) and [on DVD](#). The film, a dark comedy written and directed by Shawn Snyder and produced by Alessandro Nivola, Emily Mortimer, and Josh Crook, follows a Hasidic man who becomes obsessed with the body's decomposition after the death of his beloved wife. It has won multiple Sloan awards, including the 2015 NYU First Feature Award, the 2016 Tribeca Film Institute Grand Jury Prize, and the 2018 Film Independent Distribution Grant. *To Dust* stars Géza Röhrig (*Son of Saul*) as the widower and Matthew Broderick (*The Producers*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*) as the biology teacher who reluctantly helps him in his scientific pursuits.



Coolidge Corner Theatre Organizes First National Week of Science on Screen

After eight years of Coolidge Corner Theatre’s National Evening of Science on Screen, the theater has expanded the Sloan-supported initiative to a full week of programming. The nationwide celebration

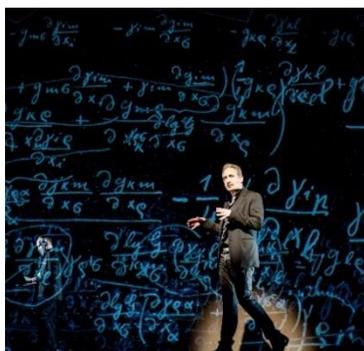


supports screenings of science and technology films and discussions with experts across the United States, from Alaska to Louisiana to New York. The 2019 [National Week of Science on Screen](#) included screenings of Sloan-awarded films such as *First Man*, Sloan-developed films such as *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, and other popular science and technology films such as *Interstellar* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. Highlights include a talk about heredity with Sloan-supported author Carl Zimmer before the screening of *Flirting with Disaster* (pictured left) and a screening of *The Best Years of Our Lives* at The Museum of the Moving Image with two experts in assistive technology. The celebration is supported by a 2015 grant to the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

NEW MEDIA

Light Falls Performed on Opening Night of World Science Festival

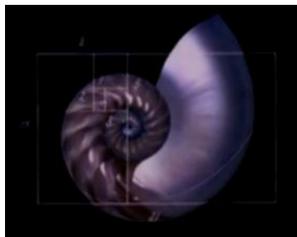
[Light Falls](#), a Sloan-backed multimedia performance about Albert Einstein’s journey to the General Theory of Relativity, was performed live on the opening night of the 2019 World Science Festival (WSF) in May. The performance, which combines innovative projection techniques, storytelling, and an original



score, stars physicist and co-founder of the WSF Brian Greene. A taped version of the performance also aired on PBS on May 29, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the solar eclipse that proved Einstein’s theory and is [now free to stream via PBS](#). In addition to *Light Falls*, the 2019 WSF programming included the [world premiere](#) of the Sloan-supported docudrama [The Bit Player](#), about Claude Shannon, the father of information theory. The screening was held at the Museum of the Moving Image and was followed by a panel discussion with Robert Gallager, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, and Mark Levinson, director of *The Bit Player*. *Light Falls* was supported by a 2015 grant to the WSF.

National Math Festival Screens Math Films in Sloan Film Room

Short films on mathematics were screened throughout the day in the Alfred P. Sloan Film Room at the National Math Festival in May. In addition to films from NOVA, the



Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, the National Science Foundation, and more, there was a special screening of the Sloan-supported short film *Chasing Patterns*. The film, directed and written by Monika Hennig, won the USC Sloan Production Award. It follows a young boy, who is encouraged by his teacher to pursue his interest in the patterns he sees in nature, and explores his relationship with his single father. The film is available to stream

via the [Museum of the Moving Image website](#). The National Math Festival was supported by a 2018 grant to the Mathematical Science Research Institute.



Caltech Hosts International Conference on the History of Science



The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) hosted “Looking Back as We Move Forward: The Past, Present, and Future of the History of Science” at Baxter Lecture Hall on April 26 and 27. The two-day international conference on the history of science was free and open to the public and included over 40 accomplished scholars in the history of science from several countries. Beyond the critical academic questions - what are the professional assumptions and structures and how have they changed and how will the profession move forward? - the conference also asked broader questions such as who constitutes the audience for the history of science and what is the broader impact of the field? “Looking Back as We Move Forward” was supported by a 2019 officer grant to Caltech.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

DPLA Talks Ebooks, Libraries, and Technology at 2019 DPLAfest in Chicago

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hosted the 2019 DPLAfest at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago this April. DPLAfest brought together librarians, technologists, and community leaders



to discuss how libraries and other cultural organizations can take advantage of technology to further their work. The closing plenary featured Sloan VP Doron Weber in conversation with Wikimedia’s CEO and executive director Katherine Maher (pictured left with closing plenary speakers Ashlyn Sparrow and Ryan Merkley). Many of the sessions discussed the Sloan-supported DPLA Exchange, which gives enhanced ebook access to thousands of libraries, and Open Bookshelf initiatives. In addition, DPLA announced a new partnership with LYRASIS, who will provide cloud-based hosting services and other technological support for Library Simplified. Library Simplified is integrated with both the backend DPLA Exchange, which now hosts over 300,000 ebooks, and the frontend SimplyE app, which allows library patrons to discover and use eBooks. The DPLA Exchange and Open Bookshelf initiatives are supported by a 2017 and 2019 grant to DPLA.



DPLA Offers Federal Government’s Mueller Report Via Open Bookshelf



DPLA published the Mueller Report, a 440-page government document, as an ebook on its Sloan-supported platform Open Bookshelf. The ebook is free for all to read on a phone or tablet via Simply E, the New York Public Library’s ereader app. The edition received positive coverage from [Publishers Weekly](#), who praised DPLA for creating a format that is more accessible to the average reader than the PDF shared by the Department of Justice. To access the Mueller Report via SimplyE, you may follow the directions on the [DPLA website](#). Open Bookshelf is supported by a 2017 and 2019 grant to DPLA.

SLOAN IN THE NEWS

Science Magazine’s Sundance Issue Highlights Sloan’s Leading Role in Science and Film



“[The Future of Science and Film](#),” written by Sloan VP Doron Weber, was featured in *Science Magazine*’s first Sundance Film Festival Issue in March 2019. The lead editorial discussed Sloan’s pioneering approach to linking filmmakers and scientists and highlighted the two Sloan films premiering at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, *The Sound of Silence* and *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, as well as other Sloan-supported films such as *Hidden Figures* and *The Imitation Game*.

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