



NEW MEDIA

Ninth Annual World Science Festival Showcases Sloan-Supported Television, Film and Theater



The perennially popular World Science Festival encompassed fifty well-attended events throughout New York City from June 1-5, 2016. Beyond providing general support to the Festival as a founding sponsor, Sloan co-presented two special events this year. On June 2, the Foundation partnered with the Museum of Moving Image for [a panel](#) on the portrayal of drones and robots in popular films, featuring the co-hosts of the Sloan-developed CUNY TV Series *Science Goes to the Movies* and leading scientific experts. On June 5, the Foundation presented "[Epic Stories: Science on Stage and Screen](#)," a panel with Sloan-supported filmmakers, playwrights, and authors, including Alan Alda (*QED*), author and MIT physicist Alan Lightman (*Einstein's Dreams*), director Matthew Brown (*The Man Who Knew Infinity*), and playwright Anna Ziegler (*Photograph 51*). The World Science Festival is the recipient of a final three-year grant to support the production of the annual World Science Festival and related year-round live and digital activities.

TELEVISION

Sloan Hosts Dinner with Writers Guild of America East and the White House

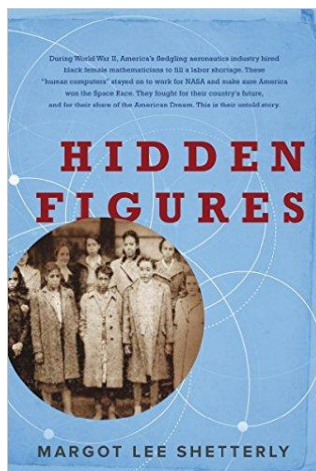


On May 10, Sloan partnered with the Writers Guild of America East (WGAE) and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to host a dinner that brought together scientists with television writers from top shows such as *House of Cards*, *Mr. Robot*, and *The Americans*. The group discussed opportunities to depict women and underrepresented minorities working in STEM fields on mainstream television. Jo Handelsman, Associate Director for Science at OSTP; Knatokie Ford Senior Policy Advisor at OSTP, Dana Weissman, Director of Programs at the WGAE; and Sloan's Doron Weber led the conversation.



BOOKS

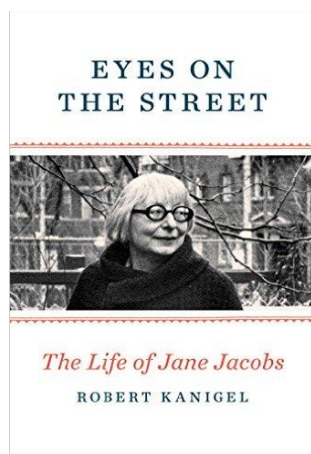
Hidden Figures to be Published in September with Star-Studded Feature Film to Follow



space and to the moon.

[Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly will be published on September 6. The book, supported by a Sloan grant in 2014, has already garnered widespread interest. It has been adapted for film and will be a [major release in January 2017](#), starring Janelle Monáe, Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Jim Parsons, Kevin Costner, and Kirsten Dunst, with Pharrell Williams as a producer and songwriter. *Hidden Figures* tells the true story of the African-American female scientists who worked on NASA's space program in the early 1960s and were responsible for many of the program's achievements. Katherine Johnson, one of the mathematicians, was awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) in 2015 for her role in calculating the trajectories for many important space missions, including those that took the first Americans into

Robert Kanigel's Biography of Jane Jacobs to be Published in September



Robert Kanigel's [Eyes on the Street: The Life of Jane Jacobs](#) will be published by Random House on September 20. This definitive biography of Jacobs chronicles the life of the influential urban planner and activist from her elementary school days and her early career in journalism to her evolving role as a leader in her field and her well-known public battles with Robert Moses over his proposed expressway through Greenwich Village. Kanigel was a recipient of a 2013 book grant for the research and writing of the first major biography of Jane Jacobs. He is the author of three previous Sloan books: *The One Best Way*, a biography of Frederick Taylor, *Faux Real* about the material and cultural history of leather, and *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*, the biography of Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan that is now a major feature film.



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JUNE 2016

Program Updates from the VP and Program Director Doron Weber

THEATER

Nick Payne's *Incognito*, an MTC/Sloan Production, Premieres in New York



Incognito, a Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan production by acclaimed playwright Nick Payne, directed by Tony Award winner Doug Hughes, opened on May 25. The production has received [critical acclaim](#) and has been extended through July 10 due to high demand at the box office. Supported by a special Sloan production grant, the play weaves together three interlinked science-themed stories about the idea that we are defined by what we remember. The stories include a pathologist who steals Albert Einstein's brain,

a patient with retrograde amnesia, and a psychiatrist who discovers a secret about her own identity. Payne wrote the Tony-nominated, Sloan-supported Broadway hit *Constellations*, an MTC/Sloan production in 2015, and is currently working on a Sloan commission for a new play on Paul Dirac. MTC is the recipient of a current three-year grant to support the MTC/Sloan Initiative commissioning, developing, and producing new science and technology plays. MTC was also the recipient of a separate grant for the production of *Incognito*.

Photograph 51 Coming to Broadway This Fall



Following a sold-out run on London's West End in 2015, *Photograph 51* will come to [Broadway this fall](#) with actress Nicole Kidman and director Michael Grandage. The play, written by Anna Ziegler, tells the underappreciated story of X-Ray crystallographer Rosalind Franklin's role in the discovery of DNA's structure. *Photograph 51* was produced as the Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan mainstage production with support from both the Manhattan Theatre Club and EST Sloan partnerships in 2010 and was staged at the 2011 World Science Festival with a Sloan-supported

panel including three of Rosalind Franklin's scientific colleagues. Ziegler's screenplay based on her play won a Tribeca Film Institute/Sloan Filmmaker Fund Production Award in 2011, and the film is now in development.



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Boy Nominated for Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award



Anna Ziegler's *Boy*, one of the 2016 Ensemble Studio Theater/Sloan Mainstage productions, was nominated for the [Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award](#), for best American play by an emerging playwright. The play, co-produced with Keen Company and originally commissioned from playwright Anna Ziegler (*Photograph 51*) through the Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Initiative, is based on the true story of a young boy in the 1960s who underwent gender reassignment under the care of psychologist John Money.

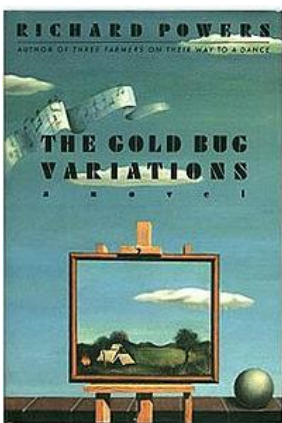
FILM

Sloan-supported *Sensitivity Training* Premieres at Los Angeles Film Festival



Sensitivity Training, about an unlikely friendship between a microbiologist and a behavioral psychologist, [premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival](#) on June 5, becoming the 17th completed feature film developed via the Sloan film pipeline. The production team [worked closely with microbiologists at UCLA](#) and filmed scenes in real-life labs at the university. Writer-director Melissa Finell won the UCLA/Sloan Production Award for the screenplay when she was a student in 2013. This is Finell's first feature film.

The Gold Bug Variations Wins Film Independent/Sloan Fast Track Grant



Film Independent and Sloan awarded the eighth annual Alfred P. Sloan Fast Track Grant, a \$20,000 production award, to Mark Levinson's screenplay [The Gold Bug Variations](#). Based on the 1991 novel by Richard Powers, the film is "a double helix of two love stories that spirals across twenty-five years and the mystery of the disappearance of a brilliant scientist on the verge of understanding the code for life who is derailed by music and the search for the code for love." The [Alfred P. Sloan Fast Track Grant](#) is awarded to a film that explores science and technology themes or that depicts scientists, engineers and mathematicians in engaging and innovative ways. Levinson also received a [2016 Sundance Institute/Sloan Lab Fellowship](#) for the script, and was the director of the award-winning 2014 film *Particle Fever*, about the Large Hadron Collider and the discovery of the Higgs boson, that received a distribution grant from the Foundation.



Tribeca/Sloan Filmmaker Fund Awards \$160,000 to Two New Screenplays



Sloan and Tribeca Film Institute [honored two new scripts](#) by women filmmakers—*The Burning Season* and *Human Terrain*—with development grants through the Tribeca Film Institute/Sloan Filmmaker Fund at this year’s Tribeca Film Festival. *The Burning Season*, directed by Claire McCarthy, written and produced by Jenny Halper, and produced by Kate Sharp, focuses on the relationship between a primatologist studying lemurs in Madagascar and her daughter and is based on a short story by Laura Van Den Berg. *Human Terrain*, directed and

produced by Parisa Barani and written by Jennifer Blackmer, follows an American anthropologist working in Iraq for The Human Terrain System, a military initiative that embeds social scientists in combat units. The winning scripts were selected by a distinguished jury of scientists and film professionals: producer Caroline Baron, director and producer Alex Gibney, neuroscientist and co-host of *Science Goes to the Movies* Heather Berlin, Director of Science Outreach at The Rockefeller University Jeanne Garbarino, producer Lawrence Mattis, actress Rose McGowan, and author and Professor of Philosophy at St. John’s University Laura Snyder. Excerpted scenes from this year’s TFI/Sloan winners, as well as previous Filmmaker Fund winner [Picking Cotton](#), were performed by leading film and television actors during a Works in Progress reading that took place at NeueHouse during the Tribeca Film Festival.

Sloan Co-Hosts *The Man Who Knew Infinity* Screening and Panel Discussion at Tribeca Film Festival

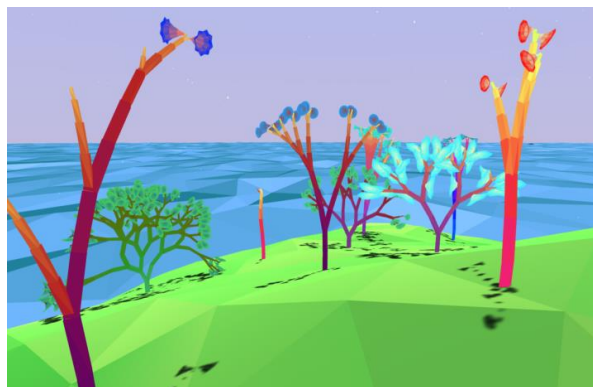


On April 15, Sloan co-hosted a [sold-out special screening and panel discussion](#) of the Sloan-developed film [The Man Who Knew Infinity](#). The film, starring Dev Patel as mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and Jeremy Irons as his Cambridge mentor G.H. Hardy, is based on the Sloan-supported book *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan* by Robert Kanigel. After the screening, a panel moderated by Faith Salie, featuring filmmaker Matt Brown, actors Dev Patel and Devika Bhise, and mathematicians Ina Petkova and Manjul Bhargava discussed the significance

of Ramanujan’s contributions to mathematics and the role of math in the film.



NYU Student Wins Pilot NYU/Sloan Gaming Center Award for Game on Mendelian Genetics



Owen Bell, who just completed his MFA at New York University, won the inaugural NYU/Sloan Gaming Center Award for his game [Mendel](#). The game [allows players to explore](#) the science of genetics by experimenting with different plant combinations on a deserted island. Bell is the first recipient of an award to encourage the next generation of game designers to engage with scientific, technological, and mathematical themes and subjects. The Sloan Film School Program is including this pilot gaming award due to the medium's

massive popularity with contemporary audiences and avid interest from students.

RADIO

PRX *Transistor* Podcast Launches “Trace Elements” Series and *Orbital Path* podcast



PRX's *Transistor* podcast, a Sloan-supported, STEM-themed podcast with three alternating female hosts that debuted in February 2015, has launched a special five-part series called [“Trace Elements.”](#) Hosts Cristina Quinn and Alison Bruzek take audiences on “an off-road trip into the science that connects us,” including medicine, robotics, biohacking, and ecology. PRX also launched a new podcast series [Orbital Path](#), hosted by NASA Deputy Director of Science Communications Michelle Thaller. The show considers “the big questions of the cosmos

and what the answers can reveal about our life here on Earth” and reached number five on the science iTunes charts in April 2016. PRX is the recipient of a current two-year grant to support a three-pronged approach to expand science-themed audio content for radio broadcast, podcast, and video.



UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Digital Public Library of America Hosts Annual Gathering at Library of Congress and National Archives



The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) held its third major annual conference, [DPLAfest](#), on April 14 and 15 in Washington, DC. More than 450 participants from libraries, archives, and cultural institutions across the country participated in panels and workshops at the Library of Congress and the National Archives. DPLA Executive Director Dan Cohen kicked off the conference by celebrating the expansion of the DPLA to include 1,900 member organizations and over 13 million digitized items, as well as the unprecedented success of the [Open](#)

[eBooks Initiative](#) which has provided more than two million low-income children with free popular and classic eBook titles. Among the notable speakers were the heads of the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. During DPLAfest, DPLA also [announced](#) the release of new Primary Source Sets organized by subject matter for educational use; the launch of [RightsStatements.org](#), a site built in partnership with Europeana that provides 11 standardized rights statement that can be used by institutions to communicate copyright and re-use statues of digital objects; and a deepening partnership with the Library of Congress. [Panel topics included](#) authorship in the digital age, copyright and digital libraries, and new platforms for eBook distribution to libraries. Sloan has supported the DPLA since its inception, and the DPLA is the recipient of a current grant to complete its Nationwide Service Hub Network and to launch the Open eBooks Initiative.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Earth Observatory of Singapore Leads Two Sloan-Supported Training Courses in Asia



After a successful Sloan pilot meeting on earthquake science at the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) in November 2015, scientists from China, Myanmar and Thailand—three of the 11 Asian nations represented at the meeting—requested follow-up hands-on training on paleoseismology. In response, EOS organized two Sloan-supported training courses. The first course was held on the Sagaing Fault near Mandalay in Myanmar, where researchers from China, Myanmar, Thailand, and the U.K.



Alfred P. Sloan
FOUNDATION

JUNE 2016

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observed and mapped the neotectonic geomorphology of the active fault, using techniques including paleoseismic trenching, drone and ground-based LiDAR, and a GPS campaign to measure strain accumulation on the fault. The second course was held on the site of another active fault, the Mae Chan Fault in northern Thailand. Scientists in this course reconciled findings from a new 2015 study of the area with earlier studies conducted by Thai and Chinese geologists, focusing on providing the first reliable slip rate and recurrence interval of ground-rupturing earthquakes at the fault

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