



FILM

Sloan Presents World Premiere of *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story* at Tribeca Film Festival



Sloan and Tribeca Film Institute co-hosted the world premiere screening of *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story* as part of the Foundation's signature 14-year film partnership with Tribeca. The sold-out screening was followed by an all-female panel of scientists and filmmakers, including Oscar-winning actress and executive producer Susan Sarandon, award-winning actress and producer Diane Kruger, director Alex Dean, patent attorney Patricia Rogowski, and UCLA Associate Professor and electrical engineer Danijela Cabric. (The

panel is pictured at left with Sloan Vice President, Programs and Program Director Doron Weber.)

Sloan funded the film with a major production grant in 2015 for an *American Masters* documentary on the remarkable life and scientific achievements of Hedy Lamarr. Based on the Sloan-supported book *Hedy's Folly* by Richard Rhodes and produced by Susan Sarandon and her company Reframed Pictures, *Bombshell* tells the little-known story of Lamarr, a major Hollywood star from the 1930s through the 1950s, who was also a pioneering inventor. Together with composer George Antheil, she developed a key "frequency-hopping" innovation that led to future advances like Wi-Fi and cell phones. The film features original material, including a newly discovered audio interview with Lamarr that serves as a voiceover. Sloan has long supported books, films, and plays about Lamarr, beginning with an Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan commission in 2000 of the play *Frequency Hopping* by Elyse Singer, produced in New York in 2008. *Bombshell* will air on PBS's *American Masters* this fall after a theatrical run.



The Foundation also hosted a works-in-progress reading featuring excerpts performed by well-known professional actors, including *Orange is the New Black*'s Dascha Polanco, from three new projects that won awards through the TFI/Sloan Filmmaker Fund this year: *The Adventures of a Mathematician*, about Polish-born mathematician Stan Ulam, *One Man Dies a Million Times*, based on the true story of botanists who sacrificed to protect the Leningrad seedbank during the



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siege, and *Invisible Islands*, a comedic anthology series that takes a deep dive into the world of microbes.

Sloan-Supported *The House of Tomorrow* Premieres at the San Francisco International Film Festival



The Sloan-developed film [*The House of Tomorrow*](#), based on the award-winning novel by Peter Bognanni, premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival in April. It is the 20th completed feature film from the Sloan development pipeline. The film, directed by Peter Livolsi and starring Ellen Burstyn, Maude Apatow, Nick Offerman, Asa Butterfield, and Alex Wolff, is a coming of age story about a young protagonist living in a geodesic dome with his grandmother, a passionate advocate of the architect, inventor, and futurist Buckminster Fuller, whose ideas pervade

the narrative. The film includes real archival footage of Ellen Burstyn with Buckminster Fuller, whom she met as a young woman. *The House of Tomorrow* received a 2015 Tribeca Film Institute/Sloan Filmmaker Fund Screenplay Development Award.

Sloan also supported screenings of two additional films at the festival as part of its partnership with San Francisco Film Society. The Foundation showcased *Marie Curie: The Courage of Knowledge*, a French-language film about the Nobel Prize-winning scientist, written and directed by Marie Noëlle, who drew from Curie's diaries. Three female scientists participated in a post-screening panel discussion: UC Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics Professor Emeritus Mary Gaillard, NASA Planetary Protection Engineer Moogega Cooper, and neuroscientist and science writer Indre Viskontas. Finally, Sloan sponsored a screening of *Marjorie Prime*, winner of the 2017 Sundance Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize, followed by a conversation with director Michael Almereyda about Artificial Intelligence and human connection.



Sloan-Supported Short Film *Spark* Premieres on HBO



Spark, a short film about a young Venezuelan student who overcomes censorship in his country and sparks a social-media movement using a mobile app, premiered on HBO on June 1 and is now available on [HBO Go](#). In 2014, writer and director Juan Martinez Vera received a \$22,500 Sloan Production Award for the film at the University of Southern California, one of Sloan's six film school partners.

Another Sloan-supported short film, *Hardbat*, about a physicist obsessed with

Ping Pong, was just added to the [Sloan Science & Film site](#). The film, featured at the Hamptons, Woodstock, and Indy film festivals in 2015 and winner of the Audience Award at the Northside Film Festival in Brooklyn, received a Sloan Production Award through New York University in 2013. It was written and directed by Mark Shamberg, and the production team included two other Sloan filmmakers, Bella Wing-Davey and Shawn Snyder.

Indiewire Highlights Sloan's Non-Partisan Approach to STEM Films in the Trump Era



Indiewire published [an article in April](#) during the San Francisco International Film Festival about "how science and technology are aligning with cinema in the Trump era." The article quotes Sloan Vice President, Programs Doron Weber explaining the Foundation's non-partisan philosophy: "To date, we have not changed our programming or priorities in terms of the stories we seek to tell. We do not view science as a partisan issue. Administrations come and go, but the values and value of science is enduring." The article notes that Sloan's focus on

narrative films with STEM themes, as opposed to documentaries, is unique and mentions the inaugural San Francisco Film Society [Sloan Science in Cinema Filmmaker Fellowship](#) to Michael Almeryda for a project about Nikola Tesla.



NEW MEDIA

Sloan Hosts Trailblazing Women in Space Science at the 10th Annual World Science Festival



On June 2, Sloan hosted the event “Hidden Figures No More! Heroines of Space Science Past, Present, and Future” as part of the tenth annual World Science Festival. Inspired by the runaway success of the Sloan-supported book *Hidden Figures* and Oscar-nominated hit film of the same name, the event brought together an all-female panel of astronauts and scientists to discuss breaking down barriers in a male-dominated field. Panelists included astronaut and physician Yvonne

Cagle, engineer at Vulcan Aerospace Corporation Cassie Lee, NASA Deputy Administrator Lesa Roe, and former NASA Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan and was moderated by renowned journalist and author Lynn Sherr.

The Foundation also presented a special screening of the Sloan-supported feature film *The House of Tomorrow* (mentioned previously) at the Museum of the Moving Image during the Festival. A post-screening panel with actress Ellen Burstyn, director Peter Livolsi, and two winners of the prestigious “Buckminster Challenge” — Eben Bayer, CEO and Co-Founder of Ecovative Design, a leading biomaterials company, and Kate Orff, Director of Columbia University’s Urban Design Program and Founder of the sustainable landscape architecture firm SCAPE—explored the contemporary relevance of Buckminster Fuller’s ideas on invention, architecture, design, urban planning, and sustainability. Sloan is a founding sponsor of the World Science Festival.

Sloan Supports American Academy Study and Workshop on Public Attitudes Toward Science



In early June, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences convened a Sloan-supported workshop on public attitudes toward science, “Encountering Science in Everyday Life: How Public Engagement with Science Shapes Long-Term Attitudes.” The workshop is part of a two-year study funded by Sloan in 2016 and part of the Academy’s larger “[The Public Face of Science](#)” initiative. Sloan Vice



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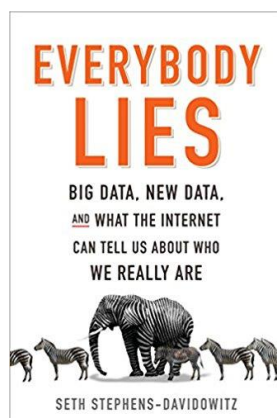
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President, Programs and Program Director Doron Weber gave a keynote address on Sloan's Public Understanding Program and the importance of informal approaches to science education. Six working papers commissioned for the study were presented during the workshop and a draft benchmark publication, detailing the current state of understanding of public attitudes toward science, was reviewed and will be released later this year. Workshop participants included leading science communication experts from MIT, the Pew Research Center, the Annenberg Public Policy Center at University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Michigan, Harvard, Yale, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

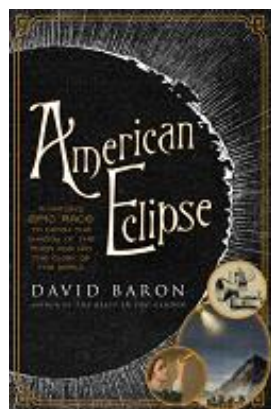
BOOKS

Everybody Lies, About the Truth Behind Big Data, Is Published



[Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are](#), by Harvard-trained economist, former Google data scientist, *New York Times* columnist, and Wharton Visiting Lecturer Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, was published by Dey Street Books on May 9. In the book, Stephens-Davidowitz draws on data from Google searches to gain insights into the human psyche and what drives the conscious and unconscious decisions we make. By covering diverse topics such as race, sports, sex, and gender, Stephens-Davidowitz shows how big data affects our everyday life. The book has received widespread press coverage and was named one of the “Nine Best New Business Books” by [Fortune](#).

American Eclipse by David Baron is Published



[American Eclipse: A Nation's Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World](#), by David Baron, was published on June 6. The book centers on a total solar eclipse, visible in the American West, that took place in July 1878. Timed with the next upcoming [solar eclipse on August 21, 2017](#), it follows the early scientists who took advantage of the rare opportunity to study the solar system. In addition to chronicling an important moment in scientific history, the narrative also follows the historic trajectory of the young nation in the late 1800s. Baron is an award-winning author, journalist, and broadcaster and has served as a science correspondent for NPR and science editor for PRI's *The World*.

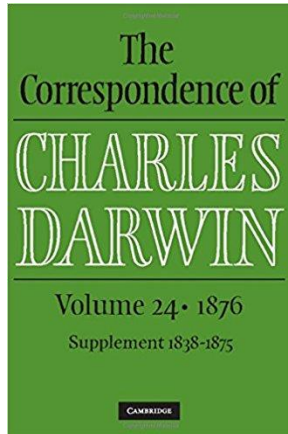


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***The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Volume 24* is Published**



[*The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Volume 24*](#) was published in December 2016 by Cambridge University Press. This is the latest volume to be published in an award-winning, definitive, 30-volume edition of letters by Charles Darwin, scheduled for completion by 2022. *Volume 24* includes letters from 1876, the year that Darwin published *Cross and Self Fertilisation in the Vegetable Kingdom* and started writing *Forms of Flowers*. The Foundation has supported *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin* since its inception in 1985. The latest volumes were supported by a final multi-year grant in 2010 to the American Council of Learned Societies to ensure the editorial integrity and timely completion of the print edition and the online publication of all 15,000 letters.

THEATER

Sloan-Commissioned Play *Mosquitoes* to Open at London's National Theatre in July



[*Mosquitoes*](#), a new play by Lucy Kirkwood commissioned by Sloan and [Manhattan Theatre Club](#) in 2008, will open at the National Theatre in London on July 25, with previews from July 18 and running until September 28. Performances have already sold out. Rufus Norris, artistic director of the National Theatre, will direct the production. The play, by one of Britain's most acclaimed young playwrights, follows two sisters: Alice, a scientist living and working in Geneva, consumed by her work as a particle physicist at CERN (the European

Organization for Nuclear Research) and Jenny, in mourning from the loss of her daughter. The play explores faith and reason, certainty and uncertainty, the pursuit of excellence, and scientists' constant struggle to balance their research ambitions with family life. The play is expected to premiere in New York in 2018. Sloan has partnered with the Manhattan Theatre Club to nurture playwrights and develop new plays about science and technology since 2000. The Foundation also has a relationship with the National Theatre, including a recent grant to support the development of a musical about John Snow, the father of epidemiology, and how he helped solve the cholera outbreak in 1850s London.



RADIO

Planet Money Wins Peabody Award for Wells Fargo Reporting



In April, the Sloan-supported NPR podcast [Planet Money](#) was the recipient of a prestigious Peabody Award for “a substantial report on the systemic issues of a ravenous sales culture at Wells Fargo that led not only to the creation of two million fake consumer banking accounts, but also the irrevocable blacklisting of employees who attempted to report unethical practices.” The reporting prompted a Senate inquiry on bank self-regulation. The Peabody Board of Jurors selects 30 winners each year from over 1,200

applicants in news, entertainment, public service, documentary, children’s, and web/interactive programming. *Planet Money* hosts Ailsa Change, Jacob Goldstein, Noel King, and Robert Smith are pictured above at left. Sloan has supported *Planet Money* since 2012 for its coverage of economics via podcasts, on-air radio stories, multimedia, and participatory journalism.

Science Friday Features Sloan Author Richard Rhodes and Actress/Producer Diane Kruger on Hedy Lamarr



Science Friday, which Sloan has supported since 2004 for its science and arts coverage, recently featured a [conversation with Sloan-supported author Richard Rhodes and actress/producer Diane Kruger](#) about Hedy Lamarr, the classic Hollywood actress and inventor sometimes called “the mother of Wi-Fi” due to her little-known contribution to technology via her invention, with composer George Antheil, of “frequency hopping,” which led to Wi-Fi and cell phone technology. The conversation acknowledges Sloan’s long-standing commitment to telling Hedy’s story, via support for Rhodes’s book *Hedy’s Folly*, the new documentary *Bombshell*, and a mini-series currently in development, produced by and starring Kruger. It also coincides with the recent Tribeca premiere of *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story* (mentioned above), which featured interviews and narration by Kruger.



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Institute for the Future Launches *For Future Reference* Podcast



The Palo Alto-based Institute for the Future launched a new, Sloan-supported podcast, [For Future Reference](#), with ten episodes in March. The podcast, hosted by Institute for the Future researchers Mark Frauenfelder and David Pescovitz explores “the expanding horizons of science, technology, and culture over the next decade” through interviews with scientists, engineers, and other big thinkers. Guests include University of Southern California roboticist [Nora Ayanian](#), who studies what robots can learn from humans working together, and [Seth Shostak](#), senior astronomer at the SETI Institute.

TELEVISION

Sloan VP, Programs Doron Weber on *The Open Mind* with Alexander Heffner



In May, Sloan Vice President, Programs and Program Director Doron Weber was interviewed on [The Open Mind](#), the longest running public broadcast show on American television. The wide-ranging interview covered the Foundation’s work at the intersection of science and the humanities, its grantmaking in Universal Access to Knowledge, and the role of philanthropy in today’s society. The show was started in 1956 by Richard Heffner and is currently hosted by his grandson, Alexander Heffner (pictured at left). Sloan has provided support for the show’s coverage of science, technology, and economic issues since 2004. The heads of DPLA and Wikipedia have also recently been featured on the show.



UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Digital Public Library of America Hosts Fourth Annual DPLAfest



The DPLA convened 351 participants from over 200 organizations around the world for the [fourth annual DPLAfest](#), held in Chicago from April 20-21. DPLA celebrated recent accomplishments, such as expanding its network to include 2,350 libraries, archives, and museums across the country, which collectively offer 16 million items. Conference topics included increasing access to eBooks, civic engagement, and digital curation projects. In a meeting held during DPLAfest, the board approved a business plan for DPLA to move

forward with a Sloan-supported effort to leverage DPLA's national network for the creation of a free eBook collection available in 50 states and a pilot eBook marketplace for thousands of libraries and schools.

DPLA also recently announced that Executive Director Dan Cohen is stepping down as of June 1 and has named DPLA Business Development Director and Senior Strategist Michele Kimpton, an experienced leader hired with funding from the current Sloan grant, as Interim Executive Director. The DPLA board has formed a search committee and has begun the process of selecting a permanent replacement for Cohen.