



## THEATER

### Sloan-Commissioned Play *Informed Consent* about Genetic Science Has Successful Run at The Duke



Deborah Zoe Laufer's play *Informed Consent* was presented at the Duke on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater as a co-production by Primary Stages and Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST)/Sloan project and ran from August 4 through September 13, 2015. This was the annual EST/Sloan mainstage production and was co-presented with Primary Stages due to wider interest generated by the subject matter. The play, inspired by a landmark court case between Arizona State University and a Native American tribe based in the Grand Canyon, follows one scientist's quest to

answer the mysteries of genetic science and her own life. This production earned acclaim from audiences and was selected as a Critics' Pick by [The New York Times](#). Laufer was the recipient of an EST/Sloan playwright commission for the play, which was developed by the EST/Sloan project over four years. The Ensemble Studio Theatre is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, produce, and disseminate new science plays in New York and across the country.

### *Photograph 51*, EST/Sloan Production in 2010, Running in London's West End with Nicole Kidman



The Sloan-supported play *Photograph 51* by Anna Ziegler, about Rosalind Franklin's contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA, is running at London's [Noël Coward Theatre](#) from September 5 through November 21, 2015. The play, also in development as a feature film, was produced in New York at the [Ensemble Studio Theatre](#) in 2010 as the EST/Sloan mainstage production with support from both the MTC and EST/Sloan partnerships. *Photograph 51* was also staged at the 2011 World Science Festival

with an historic Sloan-supported panel including three of Rosalind Franklin's scientific colleagues from the early 1950s. The U.K. production, starring Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman and directed by Michael Grandage, has received a warm critical reception, with positive reviews in [The New York Times](#), [The Guardian](#), and several other publications. The Ensemble Studio Theatre is the recipient of a current three-year Sloan grant to commission, develop, produce, and disseminate new science plays in New York and across the country.



## TELEVISION

### Sloan-Supported Episodes of *American Experience* and *PBS NewsHour* Nominated for Emmy® Awards



The **PBS *American Experience*** production “The Poisoner’s Handbook” and **PBS *NewsHour***’s coverage of the minimum wage debate in Seattle were nominated for the **36th Annual News and Documentary Emmy® Awards**. “The Poisoner’s Handbook” was funded by a grant in 2011 to support the production of four documentaries as part of the Foundation’s ongoing support of *American Experience*. The Foundation has

supported *NewsHour* since 2008, and the program was the recipient of a two-year grant in 2013 to support high quality on-air and online coverage of economic and financial topics, led by Paul Solman.

### NOVA “Making North America” to Air on PBS



**NOVA**’s “[Making North America](#)”, a new three-part geological history hosted by paleontologist and Director of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History Kirk Johnson, will explore how the continent was shaped, and how the continent shaped us. The series highlights well-known landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park, examining how major natural events like eruptions, floods, and impacts from space shaped North America’s

landscape. The program will air on November 4, 11, and 18 at 9:00 pm on PBS stations. *NOVA* has also developed digital tools to enhance the program, including an interactive mobile map to accompany the program that guides users on an exploration of North America and features an expedition, virtually hosted by Kirk Johnson, to find and collect clues about how North America was made. The Foundation has supported *NOVA* since 2000, and “Making North America” was supported by a grant in 2012 for production and broadcast of a three-hour *NOVA* special on the geological history of North America with enhanced digital content, outreach, education, and promotion.



FILM

**Sloan-Supported Drama on Mathematician Ramanujan Premieres at Toronto International Film Festival**



[The Man Who Knew Infinity](#), starring Dev Patel as mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan and Jeremy Irons as his Cambridge mentor G.H. Hardy, premiered at the [Toronto International Film Festival](#) in August. The film's producer, Jim Young, won a Film Independent/Sloan Producers Grant for the screenplay in 2008 and a TFI/Sloan Filmmaker Fund Production Award in 2015. This is the fifteenth completed feature film to come through the Sloan development pipeline. The script

is based on the Sloan-supported book *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan* by Robert Kanigel. *The Man Who Knew Infinity* was also selected to open the Zurich Film Festival this fall.

**Milgram Story *Experimenter*, Recipient of Multiple Sloan Grants, Featured at 53<sup>rd</sup> New York Film Festival**



[Experimenter](#) was selected as one of 28 outstanding films from around the world to premiere at the 53rd [New York Film Festival](#). Written and directed by Michael Ameryda and starring Peter Sarsgaard and Winona Ryder, the film attempts to come to terms with Stanley Milgram's obedience experiments, whose results remain unsettling, controversial, and relevant to this day. Over a thousand people were in the audience at the well-attended premiere, including Sarsgaard and Ryder. The

film received Sloan support at several stages of production—a Sundance Institute/Sloan Lab Fellowship in 2008, a TFI/Sloan Filmmaker Fund Production Award in 2009, and a Film Independent/Sloan Distribution Grant in 2015.



### American Film Institute Graduate Wins Student Academy Award for Sloan-Supported Film



[American Film Institute \(AFI\)](#) graduate Bennett Lasseter won a Student Academy Award in the Narrative category in August for the film *Stealth*, which tells the story of a transgender tween. Lasseter was the recipient of an AFI/Sloan production award for the script during the 2013-14 academic year. AFI students won the most awards of students from any other school at this year's awards, and AFI became the [first school to win all three awards](#) (gold, silver, and bronze) in the Narrative category. AFI is the recipient of a current grant to encourage the next generation of

storytellers to create more realistic and dramatic stories about science and technology, and to challenge stereotypes about scientists and engineers through film.

### NYU/Sloan First Feature Film Winner *Radium Girls* Starts Production in November



[Radium Girls](#), winner of the NYU/Sloan First Feature Film Grant in 2013, is slated for production this November. This will be the third feature film from the NYU/Sloan program to be produced. The film, set in 1926, follows 17-year-old Bessie and her sister Jo, who suffer health consequences from painting luminous watches at the American radium factory. *Radium Girls* is written and directed by Tisch graduates Brittany Shaw and Ginny Mohler and produced by another Tish alumna, Mollye Asher. NYU is the recipient of a current grant for screenwriting and production of science

and technology films by top film students.

### USC Sloan Film Seminar Features Scientists and Filmmakers Debating Big Data



This year's [University of Southern California \(USC\)](#) Sloan Science Seminar was held on September 18. As a requirement of the Sloan film program, each participating film school must host a science seminar each year. The USC seminar, attended by 175 students, featured a 90-minute panel discussion on big data. The panel included Dr. Yigal Arens, the Director of the Intelligent Systems Division, Information Sciences Institute at USC's Viterbi School of Engineering; Yan Liu, Assistant Professor in Computer Sciences, and a 2013 NSF Career Award for her work on



new machine-learning; Dennis Wixon, the Microsoft Endowed Professor at USC's Interactive Media and Games Division; and Sandy Smolan, the director of *The Human Face of Big Data*. The panel was moderated by Scott Fisher, Associate Dean of Research at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. USC is the recipient of a current grant for screenwriting and production of science and technology films by top film students.

## RADIO

### WNYC Health Unit Launches *Only Human* Podcast with Sloan Support

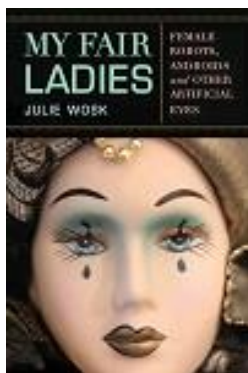


On October 6, the WNYC Health Unit [launched](#) a new health podcast, [Only Human](#), that focuses on three areas: health policy and economics, medical science and discovery, and healthy living. Hosted by health journalist Mary Harris and produced by an all-female team, the weekly podcast draws on personal

stories to humanize a range of diverse topics, including mental health, living with terminal cancer, and the personal, medical and behavioral aspects of hearing and understanding. To build awareness and foster listener engagement, the launch was accompanied by a social media campaign asking listeners to share their health confessions with the hashtag [#OnlyHuman](#). WNYC is the recipient of a current two-year grant for a health care reporting unit, focusing on the economics and policy of our healthcare system and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on consumers in New York

## BOOKS

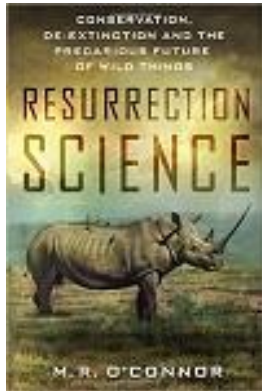
### *My Fair Ladies: Female Robots, Androids, and Other Artificial Eves*, by Julie Wosk, is Published



Julie Wosk's new Sloan-supported book, *My Fair Ladies: Female Robots, Androids, and Other Artificial Eves* was published by Rutgers University Press in July. The book examines how our changing representations of artificial women reflect both changing technologies and our changing attitudes toward women. Wosk considers how female automatons have been represented as objects of desire in fiction, explores the many works in which the "perfect" woman turns out to be artificial, and introduces readers to female artists who create their own images of simulated women. Wosk is a professor of art history, English, and studio painting at the State University of New York, Maritime College in New York City. This is her fourth book and her second Sloan-supported book. She was the recipient of a STEM Books grant in 2014 to support enhanced illustrations in the print and electronic versions of *My Fair Ladies*.



**M.R. O'Connor's *Resurrection Science*, on the Science and Ethics of Conservation, is Published**



Science journalist M.R. O'Connor's book, *Resurrection Science: Conservation, De-Extinction and the Precarious Future of Wild Things*, was published by St. Martin's Press in September. The book, O'Connor's first, examines the science and ethics of conservation biology with a focus on extinction and de-extinction. *Resurrection Science* has been named a *Christian Science Monitor* Top Ten Book of September. "As climate change and sprawling human cities remove or indelibly alter the earth's last remaining wild spaces, O'Connor offers a critical toolkit to help readers understand the challenges of wildlife preservation," writes [The Christian Science Monitor](#). O'Connor was the recipient of a STEM Books grant in 2014 to support the research and writing of *Resurrection Science*.

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE**

**President Obama Announces Open eBook Initiative Curated by the DPLA**



President Obama announced the Open eBooks initiative at Anacostia Library on April 30, 2015 and the initiative, an ongoing partnership among the New York Public Library (NYPL), the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and First Books, is preparing to roll out in the next few months.

It will include hundreds of public domain titles, accessible for free to all kids, as well as thousands of popular titles available for free, unlimited use by low-income students. The DPLA's national network of

librarians and cultural heritage organizations have formed a Curation Corps to select books for inclusion in the program. So far, the DPLA and its partners have worked to secure commitments of several thousand in-copyright titles, including many bestsellers, from leading publishers. The DPLA is the recipient of a current grant to complete its Nationwide Service Hub Network and to pilot an eBooks distribution program.



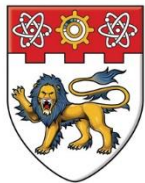
Alfred P. Sloan  
FOUNDATION

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*Program Updates from the VP, Programs Doron Weber*

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

### Sloan Pilot on Earthquake Science Will Draw 11 Countries to Singapore Earth Observatory



**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**

On November 12 and 13, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore will convene a Sloan-supported meeting on earthquake science at its Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) with leading scientists from 11 countries in South Asia and China. EOS conducts research on geohazards in and around

Southeast Asia, and focuses on both acquiring scientific knowledge about complex natural phenomena and passing that knowledge on to affected populations. During the two-day meeting in November, scientists from the region—who do not normally sit around the same table—will share the latest developments in earthquake science and discuss the feasibility of a science center where scientists can regularly convene around issues of common concern. NTU is the recipient of a current planning grant to support a pilot meeting and the creation of a regional center of science and technology for South Asia and China.



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