

MIT Comparative Media Studies/Writing  
*Thesis Presentations by the Graduate Program in Science Writing  
Class of 2019*

Friday, May 17, 2019

MIT Student Center, Mezzanine Lounge

*Welcome, Coffee & Pastries: 9:00 AM*

*Morning Session: 10:00 AM*

*Presentations by*

**Eva Frederick**

*Plague of Absence*

*Insect declines and the fate of ecosystems*

**Emily Makowski**

*Mass Appeal*

*Saving the world's bananas from a devastating fungus*

**Diego Arenas**

*Minding the Empathy Gap*

*How insights into brains and behaviors are placating polarization.*

**Devi Lockwood**

*The Living Library*

*An indigenous community in the Peruvian Amazon is combating climate change, deforestation, and loss of traditional knowledge by preserving their plants in the wild.*

*Lunch Break: 12:00 PM*

*Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM*

*Presentations by*

**Emily Pontecorvo**

*Navigating the 21st Century Without Vision*

*How the iPhone changed the landscape for assistive technology and fueled the movement fighting for digital accessibility.*

**Gina Vitale**

*Asbestos, USA*

*Ambler, Pennsylvania once thrived as the asbestos capital of the world — now it grapples with the waste that was left behind*

**Madeleine Turner**

*Future Talk*

*The race to build a bot that gabs like a human*

**Brittany Flaherty**

*The Conservation Sacrifice*

*Why New Zealand is willing to kill for its birds*

*Directly following the Thesis Presentations*

**Screening of Student Documentary Videos**

The public is welcome to attend any or all of the presentations