Science would seem to be at odds with the process of storytelling in entertainment texts such as movies and television. Science is perceived as truth while entertainment storytelling resides in the imagination. For this reason many people believe that science and storytelling make each other uncomfortable. Yet, we are currently experiencing a golden age for the fusion of science and entertainment. Academy Award winning films such as *Gravity* (2013) and *The Theory of Everything* (2014), and television ratings titans like *CSI* (2000-2015) and *The Big Bang Theory* (2007-2019) have proven that science–based entertainment products can be both critically acclaimed and financially successful. Science has become a common narrative element across contemporary entertainment media including television, movies and computer games.

The fact that science has successfully been employed for storytelling purposes in numerous popular texts shows how science and storytelling not only can co-exist together they can also thrive. This synthesis of science and fiction raises questions about how those who create these entertainment stories effectively grapple with science. Combining science and fiction can create a “friction” that hinders storytelling, but that same friction can also be used by storytellers to keep their stories grounded. In order to understand science’s role in entertainment media storytelling this talk will examine how filmmakers utilize, negotiate and transform science in the production of their visual stories including for character exploration, narrative progression, plot complication, thematic development, and adding a sense of authenticity. I demonstrate how filmmakers find science to be an ideal tool in navigating
narrative constraints by using science to create conflicts, new obstacles, potential solutions, and final solutions in their stories. I also show how movie storytellers maintain a flexible notion of scientific realism that puts them at odds with scientists who take a more demanding conception of scientific accuracy.