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Science advocate and humanitarian Shawn Otto to speak on campus

Summary: Otto's talk on "Can Democracy Survive the Assault on Science?" is free and open to the public.

(January 10, 2012)-Shawn Lawrence Otto, a science advocate and humanitarian, will speak on "Can Democracy Survive the Assault on Science?" on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall. A reception and book signing will be held immediately following. His talk, free and open to the public, will also be streamed live from the ["Morris on demand"](#) web page for those who cannot attend in person.

Otto is well known as a speaker on the world's major unsolved challenges that revolve around science. He is the CEO and cofounder of sciencedebate.org, the largest political initiative in the history of science, an initiative to get elected leaders to debate the top science issues. He is the author of *Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America* and the writer and co-producer of the film *House of Sand and Fog*.

In addition, Otto's work has been published in *Science Magazine*, *Issues in Science*, and *Technology magazine* (of the National Academies), *Salon*, *Huffington Post*, *Minnpost*, *New Scientist*, and others, and he writes a blog, *Neorenaissance*, on the antiscience beat and the intersection of knowledge, art, and culture.

Otto is the recipient of the 2009 National Distinguished Public Service Award of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the world's largest professional association for the advancement of technology. He received an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation fellowship for best science screenplay a McKnight Fellowship for best screenplay and was a PEN Center USA finalist recognition for *House of Sand and Fog*, which was nominated for three Academy Awards. His book *Fool Me Twice* received starred review from *Kirkus* and *Publishers Weekly*.

Copies of *Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America* will be available at the event or may be purchased in advance at the University of Minnesota, Morris Bookstore.

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