**Transcript for Science for the People Mini-Documentary**

July 28, 2018 Premiere

Created by the SftP Accessibility Group

[Music and voices chanting, getting louder]

[Dozens of people marching along a busy city street in New York City with various signs including “SYSTEM OVERHAUL” and “SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE”. Marchers are shouting, *“Science for the People! Not for profit. Science for the people! Not for war!*”]

[White text on black background - “Science for the People is an organization dedicated to building a social movement around progressive and radical perspectives on science and society.”]

[Upclose shot of marchers continuing their chants]

[White text on black background - “We are workers, educators, and students in science and technology-related fields committed to the democratic practice of science for the benefit of humanity and the planet.”]

[Chanting fades to music]

[Science for the People title credit, with the organization’s logo (a red vertical fist behind a white hand holding a white Erlenmeyer flask)]

[Seated White man with beard and purple sweater next to a window in a room]

**Conor Dempsey** (moving hands in a circular motion)**:** Science is really part of, like, the background ideology and culture of our world.

[Archived images of scientists engaging with scientific equipment]

**Conor Dempsey:** It’s a lot about . . . it’s a lot of how we conceive of the world is in terms of, like, progress and so . . . it’s *really* kind of critical to have people who understand in detail the science.

**Voice of Sigrid Schmalzer:** Science to remove poverty.

[Seated White woman with long hair and glasses, holding and speaking into a microphone in a large room next to two seated, bearded White men]

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** Science to eradicate disease. Science to wipe out ignorance.

[Laboratory with various scientific equipment, including microscopes and graphs]

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** Science to create jobs. Science to improve working conditions. Science to improve agriculture. Science for the laborer. Science for the villagers. Science for everyone. Science to change the world.

[White man with brown hair, beard, and dark long-sleeved shirt sitting in a chair near a sofa and table with lamp]

**Christopher Dols:** Issues of biological determinism or . . . automation and the use of tech in our lives.

[Images of computer mainframes, children learning to wear gas masks]

**Christopher Dols:** Science and technology to make weapons and war.

[Image of nuclear radiation facility]

[White man with brown hair, beard, and white sweater with black, horizontal stripes]

**Ben Allen:** My hope is that we can really get people to understand . . .

[Images of poster session in a large exhibit hall at a science conference, individuals walking around or talking by posters]

**Ben Allen:** . . . not just that science is political, but that science can serve a different purpose in society, which is to meet the needs of everyday people.

[Image of protesters on a city street holding a banner that states ““SYSTEM OVERHAUL”]

**A man’s voice:** The organization was born out of activism and it always has been characterized by, by activism.

[Black woman with dreadlocks wearing glasses, sitting in a room with round tables with white table cloth]

**Lauren Wiggins:** Me being from the city of Atlanta, the people that we’re trying to help are, uh, people that I know.

[Images of protesters marching with banner reading “NATIONALIZE BIG ENERGY” and other signs]

**Lauren Wiggins:** Lakewood is on the southside of Atlanta. It’s a complete food desert and we’re trying to get a co-op built.

[White woman with short, curly blonde hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and scarf]

**Rebekah Ward:** ECO-Action and Science for the People, uh, held . . .

[Images of a White man with a beard and white shirt talking to a woman with red hair and glasses holding a Science for the People flyer as well as protesters marching down a city street]

**Rebekah Ward:** . . . an environmental racism panel that included student organizations as well as a representative of ourselves and ECO-Action.

[White woman with long brown hair, wearing a green hat and sweatshirt and sitting in a blue chair]

**Fern MacDougal:** Trying to trace and oppose, uh, corporate money that’s corrupting our education.

**Christopher Dols:** Today, Science for the People aims to pick up where the original left off.

[Music]

[Science for the People logo surrounded by a picture frame with white text on a black background underneath - “The History”]

[Older White man with a white mustache and glasses wearing a blue dress shirt and gray jacket. His seated in a chair by bay windows.]

**Frank Rosenthal:** In 1969, there was, uh, the, the students in Boston at MIT organized a moratorium on research.

[Images of archival documents and photos]

**Frank Rosenthal:** March 4th - I remember the date. Where students at MIT, uh, *left* the lab . . .

[Archival photo of protesters]

**Frank Rosenthal:** . . . in *protest* and *reflection* about how research was being used. I was being swept up in the, in the social movements of the day. I was very involved in the anti-war movement.

[Archival photos of students protesting and sticking their heads out of an administrative building; a group of protesters raising their hands and many of them seated on the ground; sitting along window sills with signs reading “PLEASE DON’T USE YOUR M.I.T DEGREE TO HURT OTHERS” and “WELCOME DOW”; protesters sitting on the ground with sign reading “JOIN US. GET M.I.T OUT OF WAR WORK”]

**Frank Rosenthal:** At Columbia, we were protesting, *shutting* the university down for its, uh, participation in war research. At, at that time, I, I think the organization cesspool was being formed - Scientists and Engineers for Social and Political Action - and then, at some point, the name was changed to, uh, Science for the People.

[Seated White woman with long hair and glasses, wearing a black hat and blue, long-sleeved sweater and gray pants]

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** Science for the People was exciting and *remains* exciting, um, because these were . . . scientists who read seriously in history and political philosophy and . . .

[Series of historical videos and images of Ruth Hubbard, Jon Beckwith,Chandler Davis, Stephen Jay Gould, Anne Fausto-Sterling, and James Alan Shapiro]

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** . . . also historians and philosophers and sociologists who took *science* really seriously, having intellectual discussions, uh, about the political consequences, even though it was a radical organization far outside the mainstream, they were able to *push* that mainstream *significantly*.

[Seated White man with gray hair, goatee, and glasses, wearing a dark blue sweater and khaki pants. He has a black fanny pack.]

**Brian Schulz:** And it was never this organization that was . . . world famous, but it, civil, at certain points of sociobiology, being a critique of sociobiology, helping critique farm worker mechanization, helping to critique biological determinism, in general, disarmament . . . so, you know, I think it’s influential out of proportion with its numbers.

[Seated Latina woman with long brown hair, red/white/blue scarf, and gray, long-sleeved shirt. She is also wearing black pants and dangling earrings.]

**Ivette Perfecto:** I think that Science for the People was a *really* important, uh, organization . . . for . . . especially for students that . . . didn’t know how to merge . . . their science and their politics . . .

[Archival images of a sit-in, a group of students with protest signs, and protesters walking up steps]

**Ivette Perfecto:** . . . and I think Science for the People . . . it helped us, uh, see that we *could* actually use our science to enhance, you know, people’s livelihood and, and to reconcile our, our political activism.

**Frank Rosenthal:** Well, I, I was definitely a *disrupter*, but I, I don’t like . . . destruction sounds *too* negative to me. We, we were very positive. We were disrupting it in a way that was *refocusing* to . . .

[Archival images of students at a sit-in surrounded by administrators; a protestor acting like a puppet with a sign around his neck that reads “SAIGON PUPPET” as another protester wearing a sign that reads “U.S. IMPERIALISM” moves the strings; a group of protesters at a sit-in with a man holding a megaphone in the foreground]

**Frank Rosenthal:**. . . issues of the day, which had to do with the . . . Vietnam War and militarism and the alienation of, of science - scientists and science - from their work.

[Archival photo of young man with a mustache holding a protest sign reading “END WAR RESEARCH AT M.I.T.”]

[Asian woman with glasses and a dark jacket and pants. She is sitting on a red chair in a room with circular tables with white table cloth and other red chairs.]

**Katherine Yih:** I, I think I joined Science for the People in about 1978, and, uh, I was in Ann Arbor . . .

[Video footage of an administrative building with a University of Michigan flag at the top of it]

**Katherine Yih:**. . . and we had a *very*, very active chapter. One of the groups that I was in, um, was in support of the farm labor organizing committee, a union of, of Midwestern farm workers, uh, another group that grew out of Science for the People, and I think that’s one of the . . . real legacies of that earlier Science for the People - the, uh, kind of organization and mobilization of people and the creation of these other organizations.

[Bald White man with a black, long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants sitting in a red chair]

**Michael Harris:** In the 1980s, I was involved in a program that, uh, sent people to teach science in, uh, Nicaraguan universities organized by Science for the People starting in 1986.

[Older White man with white hair and goatee, wearing a long-sleeved black shirt, glasses, dark blue jeans, and a Science for the People button. He is sitting on a red chair.]

**John Vandermeer:** I think we were the first to call out the . . . um, effectively nonscientific nature, for example, of biological determinism. Uh, the logic being try to, uh, convince people that their state of being - their personal state, their political state, their class structure, etc. - somehow is related to their underlying biological, biological, uh, characteristics, *usually*, usually implying that there’s a genetic component of the whole thing. And so, I think Science for the People was *pretty* important in, at least, initiating the criticism of that *entire*, that entire enterprise.

**Frank Rosenthal:** The, the Science for the People movement gave people strength. *Scientists* and people interested in science have, have a lot to *contribute* to the, uh, to the social movements. So, it’s not only that it’s *okay* for us to speak up, but it’s *valuable* for us to, to speak up. We have a *role*.

[Music]

[Animated old printing press creates a Science for the People magazine and there is white text on a black background underneath - “The Magazine”]

[Image of Science for the People Magazine with logo on the cover, volume II, number 3]

**Christopher Dols:** The original Science for the People, from 1969 to 1989, published more than a hundred issues of a bimonthly magazine on *all kinds* of subjects that fall under the category of *radical* science.

**Michael Harris:** So, I’ve been reflecting on what . . .

[A series of images of articles from Science for the People Magazine]

**Michael Harris:** . . . Science for the People contributed back in the ‘70’s and ‘80’s over the past few months, realizing, uh, how many articles were *not* written in the intervening years because there was no place to publish them - no place to, to make them available. How many analyses, I should say, were, were not made public.

[Sitting White woman with long, reddish brown hair, light green scarf, green sweater, and white dress. There are round tables with white table cloths and red chairs behind her.]

**Emily Glaser:** The original publication . . . it was, you know - there’s critical analysis and . . .

[Series of images of Science for the People Magazine covers]

**Emily Glaser:** . . . it’s *very* deep thinking, but they’re also a little irreverent. They want to have a sense of humor and a sense of camaraderie.

**Hillary Streit:** The magazine offered . . . *outreach* in ways that, um . . .

[White woman with long, dark brown hair and glasses, wearing a long-sleeved animal print shirt and jeans. She is sitting in a blue chair in a hallway.]

**Hillary Streit:** . . . typical scientific publications don’t offer.

[Series of images of Science for the People Magazine covers]

**Hillary Streit:** A lot of publications in academia just get put in journals that other scientists read, and then they never have any impact beyond that. Whereas the magazine is . . . something that can be read by the public and understood by the public.

**Conor Dempsey:** We want to launch a publication, online at first . . .

[Series of images of Science for the People Magazine articles]

**Conor Dempsey:** . . . and eventually to launch a print publication, too. And I think that’s just going to be . . . right now, *really*, *really* timely.

**Ben Allen:** Because I think that’s just a very powerful organizing *tool* . . .

[Hard copies of issues of Science for the People Magazine lying on a table]

**Ben Allen:** . . . to have a place where we can publish our thinking and our work and what we’ve come to understand in these struggles.

**Emily Glaser:** We’re . . . already . . . forming relationships with authors, with contributors . . .

[Footage of Emily with her hair up and sitting at a table with her laptop in front of her, looking at Sigrid, whose back is turned to the camera. There are cups of coffee on the table along with another laptop. There are other individuals sitting around the table with her.]

**Emily Glaser:** . . . with other publications - and it’s a really *exciting* time, um, for all of that. I think that a lot of people really want to write and contribute.

**Christopher Dols:** Science for the People was always an organization *and* a publication, and we’re replicating that model today. So, the convention in Ann Arbor is about getting the organization’s side established. We have chapters in more than a dozen cities, and *that’s* the foundation off of which we intend to launch the publication.

[Music]

[Animation of two Erlenmeyer flasks watering a plant, which blooms a red flower, with white text on a black background that reads “The Convention and Revitalization”]

[Music]

[Images of theaters, a clock tower, and academic buildings of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, February 2018]

[Footage of an audience sitting or standing in a lecture hall, a projector showing a slide that reads “Science for the People: Then and Now.” It is the national convention.]

**Alice Elliot:** The fact that the convention is happening at all is really exciting to me.

[Young White woman with shoulder-length, brown hair, wearing a long-sleeved shirt with a pattern of plants and butterflies. She is sitting in a red chair with round tables with white table cloths and red chairs behind her.]

**Alice Elliot:** This was a *huge* undertaking - that we made some decisions and we had people talking . . .

[Footage of audience members at the Science for the People convention, some sitting and listening with others standing and talking. There is an image of panelists speaking with a banner on the table in front of them reading “DECOLONIZE SCIENCE.” They appear to be talking to someone who was brought in through Zoom or Skype and projected onto a screen for the audience.]

**Alice Elliot:** . . . and we had presentations, and we had people from *all* over the U.S. and Mexico. That’s just *incredible* to me, and that really . . . I think it is going to really galvanize a lot of people.

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** I helped put together, uh, a conference at UMass-Amherst in 2014 on, uh, “Science for the People: The 1970’s and Today” - that looked at the history and legacy of SftP.

[Image of a banner reading “Science for the People” with the organizational logo hanging in a hallway. Footage of a session at the convention with audience members listening to a speaker standing in front of the “DECOLONIZE SCIENCE” banner]

**Sigrid Schmalzer:** And I really had not expected, um, in 2014, that it was going to be . . . reborn in this way.

**Fern MacDougal:** I’ve drawn a lot of inspiration from *talking* to original Science for the People members.

[Footage of Ivette Perfecto speaking to an older gentleman at the convention. Footage of Chandler Davis, original Science for the People member, talking to a young female member. Footage of Michael Harris speaking to a young male Science for the People member.]

**Fern MacDougal:** My immediate reaction was, uh . . . one of intense *loss*, and so, this . . . resurgence has been . . . incredibly exciting to me.

**Brian Schulz:** So, what’s exciting about the convention now is . . .

[Footage of a young female member of Science for the People standing at a University of Michigan podium speaking into a microphone. Footage of an audience member with a plaid hat and glasses speaking. Footage of David Hofmann wearing a scarf and striped shirt, holding a microphone, leaning on a podium, and responding to an audience member’s question. Footage of Lauren Wiggins in the audience. Footage of other members speaking with microphone in their hands, including Frank Rosenthal.]

**Brian Schulz:** . . . all the young people who are taking it and running with it. So, that’s very exciting. *Plus*, there’s all the older folks [that are there]. So, it’s just a nice intergenerational - “here’s what we used to do, here’s what would happen now. Here’s what - we want to remind you not to forget some things we thought were important.” But also, it’s going to move on and take new directions that we may never have thought of.

**Katherine Yih:** The presentations about the, um, topics . . .

[Footage of young White woman in a purple sweater speaking at the podium to audience members. Footage of older Science for the People members sitting in the audience. Footage of a young Science for the People member speaking at the podium next to the table with the banner “DECOLONIZE SCIENCE.” Close-up footage of young woman in a yellow sweater and jeans speaking into a microphone. Footage of Ben Allen passing around sheets of paper to the audience as another man speaks on the microphone.]

**Katherine Yih:** . . . that people have been engaged with were very inspiring, and yeah, it’s really exciting to see what people are involved in now and to get the sense that this is going to grow. And, um, that people will be involved in a number of important issues and campaigns and study areas.

**Emily Glaser:** We have working groups in reproductive justice . . .

[Convention footage of Ivette Perfecto and other participants sitting and talking around two round tables with white table cloths. Close-up of a man with brown hair, brown mustache, nose ring, glasses, and a gray jacket talking to other people at a round table. Sigrid Schmalzer, Michael Harris, Emily Glaser, and others sitting around a table with a laptop talking. Close-up of Frank Rosenthal listening to others speak in a small group discussion. Lauren Wiggins, Chandler Davis, and others having a conversation around a small round table with white table cloth. Close-up of Chandler Davis talking to others. Panning shot of Fern MacDougal and others sitting in a room of chairs looking at a whiteboard and discussing.]

**Emily Glaser:** . . . and women’s rights, anti-nuclear, uh, and, and militarism. Um, we have a tech working group. We have the publications working group. The sociobiology [working group], yeah, which has been a *core* issue for Science for the People from the very beginning. And labor [working group] - trying to get people to organize and talk about labor unions.

[Older White man with white hair and beard wearing a purple sweater and dark gray pants. He is sitting in a red chair.]

**Chandler Davis:** I was happy to come here to see a few of the former generation of . . .

[Close-up footage of Michael Harris speaking. Close-up of older, bald White man with a white goatee, dress shirt, and glasses speaking to a brown-haired woman sitting in front of a laptop. The camera then pans to Frank Rosenthal speaking to them.

**Chandler Davis:** . . . Science for the People and, uh, and, uh, meet the new crop. And I’m very pleased with the fact that the . . . idea has been picked up and, uh, and, uh, people are, are jumping in with lots of activity.

**Lauren Wiggins:** I’m just excited to be around a group of people who care about, um, *saving the world*!

[Close-up footage of Lauren Wiggins speaking to others at the convention and smiling.]

**John Vandermeer:** There’s, uh, a, a strong . . . *trend* within the current manifestation . . .

[Camera pans from large projector screen showing a slide on sociobiology to Hillary Streit speaking into a microphone next to the University of Michigan podium, addressing the audience. Footage of two male members of Science for the People with their winter attire on and talking in the forefront while other members are walking around and talking to one another. Footage of protesters marching in the street holding a banner that reads “SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE” while another protestor behind the banner holds a sign that reads “MARCH FOR SCIENCE.” Close-up shot of White woman with brown hair shouting into a white megaphone during the protest. Panning shot of the protest, with another banner reading “DECOLONIZE BIG ENERGY” and more protesters holding various signs.]

**John Vandermeer:** . . . to be a critic - to criticize the kind of science that’s actually oppressing people, that’s being used to oppress people. And I think that’s very *exciting*. I also think it’s exciting to hear people talk - almost *automatically* - about the political position that claims that science is ‘apolitical.’ Clearly, that’s a political position.

[White man with peppered short hair and beard, wearing a brown/green/gray-striped sweater and brown pants. He is sitting in a red chair. There are two round tables with white table cloths and red chairs behind him.]

**David Hofmann:** You should go *beyond* just doing your profession, and considering what, uh, what impact your profession has on to society.

**Ivette Perfecto:** I am expecting Science for the People to, you know, continue on for many more years after this.

[Panning image of Science for the People convention room with projector screen, table with “DECOLONIZE SCIENCE” banner, and audience members.]

**Frank Rosenthal:** I, I, I was, uh, saying to someone, uh, “There’s so little *B.S.* at this meeting.”

[Close-up shot of a young woman with long, brown hair and black glasses wearing a purple turtleneck, tan sweater, and nose ring. She has her hand over her mouth and appears to be thinking. Footage of Katherine Yih speaking while John Vandermeer listens and a young man in between the two of them takes notes. Camera pans out to show other audience members sitting around round tables with white table cloths, listening to Katherine.]

**Frank Rosenthal:** There was so little wasting of people’s time. There was so little - people *self*-glorifying themselves. It’s just people who want to get something done and, and, and *changing the world*. It’s *beautiful*, really. You know, we’re, we’re struggling now . . .

[Convention footage of a White man with brown hair and beard leaning on the table with the “DECOLONIZE SCIENCE” banner. He is speaking into a microphone while others around him listen. Close-up of Bolivar Aponte-Rolon wearing a gray winter hat and gray sweater and has brown hair, a beard, and glasses. He stands up and speaks into a microphone.]

**Frank Rosenthal:** . . . in the left and the social movements in this country. We’ve been, we’ve been hit by a, a reactionary wind. And it’s not just the, uh, election of Donald Trump. It’s, it’s the, uh, attempts to *reverse* all the *gains* of the ‘60’s, uh, the gains of the Civil Rights Movement.

[Footage of Lauren Wiggins, David Hofmann, and a Black man with dreadlocks and a gray sweater presenting a PowerPoint presentation on the Science for the People Atlanta Chapter. Camera zooms in on Lauren speaking into the microphone with both men looking at her.]

**Frank Rosenthal:** Our achievements in, in protecting our environment and improving people’s health. Trump gave us a, a kick in the pants, and, and *this* Science for the People meeting is one of the most together, um . . . *new progressive* organizations I, I have seen.

[Music]

[White text on black background - “For more information on *Science for the People* and to get involved, please visit **scienceforthepeople.org**”]

[White text on black background - “Thank you to the veterans, attendees, and organizers of Science for the People who made this convention happen. This film was supported by the following individuals: Noah Hutton, Lydia Patton, Michael Harris, Susan Rosenthal, and 39 other generous donors”]

[White text on black background - “To contribute to Science for the People’s mission, become a patron at **patreon.com/stfporg**”]

[White text on black background - “Directed, shot, and edited by Yaniv Glaser; Additional footage, editing, and original music by Noah Hutton; Creative consultant: Noah Hutton; Graphics and animation: Matteo Farinella; Copyright 2018 Science for the People”]

[Music]

[Animation of the pieces of the Science for the People logo coming together]