

# Live-cell single particle imaging reveals the role of RNA polymerase II in histone H2A.Z eviction

Anand Ranjan<sup>1</sup>, Vu Q. Nguyen<sup>1</sup>, Sheng Liu<sup>1</sup>, Jan Wisniewski<sup>2,3</sup>, Jee Min Kim<sup>1</sup>, Xiaona Tang<sup>1</sup>, Gaku Mizuguchi<sup>1</sup>, Ejlal Elalaoui<sup>1</sup>, Timothy J. Nickels<sup>1</sup>, Vivian Jou<sup>1</sup>, Brian P. English<sup>3</sup>, Qinsi Zheng<sup>3</sup>, Ed Luk<sup>4</sup>, Luke D. Lavis<sup>3</sup>, Timothee Lionnet<sup>5</sup>, Carl Wu<sup>1, 6, \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

<sup>2</sup>Janelia Research Campus, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Ashburn, VA 20147, USA

<sup>3</sup> Current address: Experimental Immunology Branch, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Systems Genetics, Langone Medical Center, New York University, New York, NY 10016, USA

<sup>6</sup>Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21287, USA

\*Correspondence: wuc@jhu.edu (C.W.)

1 **Abstract**

2 The H2A.Z histone variant, a genome-wide hallmark of permissive chromatin, is  
3 enriched near transcription start sites in all eukaryotes. H2A.Z is deposited by the  
4 SWR1 chromatin remodeler and evicted by unclear mechanisms. We tracked H2A.Z in  
5 living yeast at single-molecule resolution, and found that H2A.Z eviction is dependent  
6 on RNA Polymerase II (Pol II) and the Kin28/Cdk7 kinase, which phosphorylates Serine  
7 5 of heptapeptide repeats on the carboxy-terminal domain of the largest Pol II subunit  
8 Rpb1. These findings link H2A.Z eviction to transcription initiation, promoter escape and  
9 early elongation activities of Pol II. Because passage of Pol II through +1 nucleosomes  
10 genome-wide would obligate H2A.Z turnover, we propose that global transcription of  
11 noncoding RNAs prior to premature termination, in addition to transcription of mRNAs,  
12 are responsible for eviction of H2A.Z. Such usage of yeast Pol II suggests a general  
13 mechanism coupling eukaryotic transcription to erasure of the H2A.Z epigenetic signal.

14 ***Introduction***

15 The H2A.Z variant of canonical histone H2A serves as a key chromatin constituent of  
16 the epigenome, providing a unique nucleosome architecture and molecular signature for  
17 eukaryotic gene transcription and other chromosome activities (Weber and Henikoff,  
18 2014). H2A.Z is enriched at most promoters and enhancers genome-wide, and plays a  
19 role in establishing a permissive chromatin state for regulated transcription (Weber and  
20 Henikoff, 2014). H2A.Z is incorporated in nucleosomes flanking DNase hypersensitive,  
21 nucleosome-depleted regions (NDRs), especially at the so-called '+1 nucleosome'  
22 overlapping with or immediately downstream of the transcription start site (TSS) (Albert  
23 et al., 2007; Weber and Henikoff, 2014). The deposition of H2A.Z in budding yeast is  
24 catalyzed by the conserved SWR1 chromatin remodeling complex in an ATP-dependent  
25 reaction involving exchange of nucleosomal H2A-H2B for H2A.Z-H2B dimers  
26 (Mizuguchi et al., 2004).

27

28 Genome-wide studies have shown that compared to nucleosomes in the gene body, the  
29 +1 nucleosome undergoes higher turnover, which is not correlated with the level of  
30 mRNA transcription by Pol II (Dion et al., 2007; Grimaldi et al., 2014; Rufiange et al.,  
31 2007). Thus, the disruptive passage of Pol II through +1 nucleosomes during infrequent  
32 mRNA transcription is unlikely to account for H2A.Z eviction on a global scale.  
33 Biochemical studies have suggested that yeast H2A.Z eviction could be due to  
34 chromatin remodeling in reverse mediated by SWR1 itself (Watanabe et al., 2013) or  
35 the related INO80 remodeler (Papamichos-Chronakis et al., 2011), but other studies  
36 found no supporting evidence (Wang et al., 2016). Alternatively, genome-wide assembly

37 of the transcription pre-initiation complex (PIC) has been proposed to evict H2A.Z, but  
38 the key event in this multistep process remains elusive (Tramantano et al., 2016). To  
39 determine the dominant mechanism of H2A.Z turnover after incorporation, we took an  
40 independent approach using single-particle tracking that directly measures the levels of  
41 chromatin-free and bound H2A.Z in the physiological environment of living yeast cells,  
42 in wild type and conditional mutants for histone eviction.

43

44 Single-particle tracking (SPT) of fluorescently tagged proteins in live cells has emerged  
45 as a robust imaging technique to determine kinetic behaviors of protein factors (Elf and  
46 Barkefors, 2018; Liu and Tjian, 2018). For chromatin-interacting proteins, SPT is  
47 complementary to genome-wide chromatin immunoprecipitation-DNA sequencing  
48 technologies (ChIP-seq) without the general caveats of chemical fixation and chromatin  
49 manipulations. SPT directly measures the fast-diffusing, chromatin-free population as  
50 well as the quasi-immobile, chromatin-bound fraction tracking with macroscopic  
51 chromosome movements (Liu and Tjian, 2018; Taddei and Gasser, 2012).

52

### 53 **Results**

54 We fused the self-labeling HaloTag to H2A.Z, H2B, and Swr1 (the catalytic subunit of  
55 the SWR1 complex) for sole source expression under native promoter control and  
56 validated the function of these fusion constructs (Fig. S1.1A). Yeast cultures were  
57 fluorescently labeled to saturation with Janelia Fluor 646 (Grimm et al., 2015) (Fig.  
58 S1.1B, C), and movies of single molecules were recorded at high temporal resolution  
59 (10 ms exposure) in live cells (Rust et al., 2006) (Movies S1-6). Single molecule

60 trajectories ( $n > 1000$  and  $\geq 6$  frames for each trajectory) were obtained from over 50  
61 yeast cells for each strain. The data is presented as histograms of particle frequency  
62 over the diffusion coefficient ( $\log D$ ) extracted from mean squared displacements (MSD)  
63 (Fig. 1 A-D, and methods). For a more robust quantitation of diffusive populations, we  
64 also applied a kinetic modeling approach ('Spot-On') based on single particle  
65 displacements (Hansen et al., 2018) (Fig. 1E, F). We performed Spot-On analysis on  
66 single-molecule trajectories ( $\geq 3$  frames), cite Spot-On values for chromatin-bound and  
67 chromatin-free fractions in the text, and provide results from both Spot-On and MSD  
68 analyses in all figures.

69 The SPT profiles for H2A.Z and H2B were best fitted by a simple model  
70 comprised of two diffusive populations—a major, slow-diffusing chromatin-bound  
71 fraction (H2A.Z: 82%, H2B: 76%, average  $D: 0.03 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ ), and a minor, fast-diffusing  
72 chromatin-free fraction (H2A.Z:  $1.18 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , H2B:  $1.29 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ ) (Fig. 1E, F & Fig. S1.2A,  
73 B, E). Additional minor populations of H2A.Z and H2B with distinct diffusive values are  
74 not excluded. The fraction of chromatin-bound H2A.Z was consistent with a previous  
75 estimate by *in vivo* cross-linking (Mohan et al., 2018), and the  $D$  value of bound yeast  
76 H2B was also consistent with that of mammalian H2B ( $0.02 \mu\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ ) in a previous report  
77 (Hansen et al., 2018). The 'free' H2A.Z fraction represents soluble H2A.Z-H2B dimers  
78 biochemically associated with histone chaperones, in addition to a minor population in  
79 complex with the  $\sim 1$  MDa SWR1 complex (Luk et al., 2007). We observed similar  
80 frequencies of chromatin-bound and free H2A.Z in cells growing synchronously after  
81 release from G1 arrest into S phase (Fig. S1.3).

82

83 In contrast to the steady-state behaviors of the histones, the SWR1 complex (Swr1-Halo  
84 subunit) showed more chromatin-free diffusion. In addition, deletion of Swc2, a key  
85 subunit involved in the recruitment of SWR1 to gene promoters (Ranjan et al., 2013),  
86 substantially reduced the chromatin-bound fraction from 47% to 21% (Fig. 1C, D, F).  
87 (Our imaging regime captures both stable and transiently bound SWR1 in the slow-  
88 diffusing population; the remaining 21% of slow molecules for the *swc2Δ* mutant may be  
89 largely attributed to transient binding). With these validations, we proceeded to  
90 investigate regulators of H2A.Z dynamics, based on the fractional changes in  
91 chromatin-bound and free H2A.Z. Notably, while the aforementioned labeling of  
92 HaloTag was adequately conducted with the JF646 dye, a superior fluorophore JF552  
93 became available in the course of this work, prompting its use in subsequent  
94 experiments for improved signal to noise (Zheng et al., 2019). (Fig. S1.1F).

95  
96 The steady-state chromatin occupancy for H2A.Z is a function of competing deposition  
97 and eviction pathways. To highlight H2A.Z eviction in live cells, we blocked the H2A.Z  
98 incorporation pathway at gene promoters by conditional ‘anchor-away’ (AA) depletion of  
99 the Swc5 subunit, which is not required for Swr1 recruitment (Fig. S2.1), but essential  
100 for SWR1 activity (Haruki et al., 2008; Sun and Luk, 2017; Tramantano et al., 2016). In  
101 the AA system, rapamycin mediates heterodimerization of FRB and FKBP12 moieties  
102 fused to Swc5 and the ribosomal protein RPL13A, respectively (i.e. Swc5-FRB and  
103 RPL13A-FKBP12), thus depleting Swc5 from the nucleus along with pre-ribosomal  
104 subunit export (Haruki et al., 2008). Upon Swc5 AA, we found the expected decrease of  
105 chromatin-bound H2A.Z from 79% to 49% (Fig. 2A-C), consistent with ChIP-seq results

106 showing genome-wide reduction of H2A.Z at +1 nucleosomes under similar conditions  
107 (Tramantano et al., 2016). The remaining chromatin-bound H2A.Z may be due to  
108 histone chaperone-mediated H2A.Z deposition in nucleosomes over the entire genome,  
109 as suggested by in vivo cross-linking studies (Mohan et al., 2018). Our live-cell findings  
110 thus confirm the SWR1 requirement for H2A.Z deposition.

111

112 To identify H2A.Z eviction factors, we tested candidates that could inhibit the loss of  
113 chromatin-bound H2A.Z when both deposition and eviction factors were co-depleted in  
114 a double AA experiment. As the transcription PIC is constitutively enriched at the  
115 majority of NDRs (Rhee and Pugh, 2012) and has been causally linked to H2A.Z  
116 eviction (Tramantano et al., 2016), we first imaged the distribution of H2A.Z after  
117 nuclear depletion of both Swc5 and the Rpb1 catalytic subunit of Pol II. When Swc5 and  
118 Rpb1 are co-depleted by double AA, the chromatin-bound H2A.Z fraction increased  
119 (66%) relative to Swc5 AA alone (49%) (compare Fig. 3A to 2C and 3C to 2D).

120 Fluorescence microscopy confirmed relocation of Swc5 to the cytoplasm in double AA  
121 cells, excluding inefficient nuclear depletion as a caveat (Fig. S3.1C, D). These results  
122 indicate that Pol II indeed plays a major role in H2A.Z eviction. (Single AA of Rpb1 in  
123 rapamycin-treated cells showed a marginal increase from 84% to 87% of the bulk  
124 chromatin-bound H2A.Z over the untreated control (Fig. S3.2A-C)).

125

126 To examine the role of the INO80 remodeler in H2A.Z eviction, we analyzed the H2A.Z  
127 distribution for Swc5 and Ino80 co-depletion by double AA and found no rise in bound  
128 H2A.Z compared to the single AA of Swc5 (compare Fig. 3B to 2C and 3C to 2D). (We

129 observed no change in chromatin-bound H2A.Z for single AA of Ino80 (Fig S3.2D-F)).  
130 Taken together, we conclude that Pol II, but not the INO80 remodeler, has a major role  
131 in H2A.Z eviction. Minor contributions by other factors such as the ANP32E histone  
132 chaperone found in mammalian cells are not excluded (Mao et al., 2014; Obri et al.,  
133 2014).

134  
135 Transcription by Pol II is a complex process involving PIC assembly, Pol II initiation,  
136 promoter escape, productive elongation and termination (Jonkers and Lis, 2015;  
137 Sainsbury et al., 2015). Given that site-specific phosphorylation of the Rpb1 subunit of  
138 Pol II regulates the progression of transcription, targeted depletion of transcriptional  
139 kinases provides an opportunity to identify the step involved in H2A.Z eviction. A key  
140 post-initiation step involves Serine 5 phosphorylation (Ser5-P) of heptapeptide repeats  
141 on the C-terminal domain (CTD) of Pol II (Rpb1) (Corden, 2013; Harlen and  
142 Churchman, 2017). Ser5-P is catalyzed by the yeast Kin28/Cdk7 kinase, a component  
143 of the kinase module (Kin28-Ccl1-Tfb3) of TFIIH, and is linked to capping of nascent  
144 RNA, Pol II release from the Mediator complex, promoter escape and early elongation.  
145 Recently, the Bur1/Cdk9 kinase was shown to phosphorylate the Rpb1 linker just  
146 upstream of CTD, at residues Thr 1471 and Ser 1493 (Chun et al., 2019), facilitating Pol  
147 II transition from early elongation to productive elongation. Furthermore, the Ctk1/Cdk12  
148 kinase mediates Ser2 phosphorylation of the CTD associated with productive elongation  
149 through protein-coding regions (Corden, 2013; Harlen and Churchman, 2017; Wong et  
150 al., 2014). To investigate which phosphorylated state of Pol II is linked to H2A.Z  
151 eviction, we examined H2A.Z distributions in double AA cells conditionally deficient for

152 Swc5 in combination with each of the three CTD kinases. Only Kin28 is required for  
153 H2A.Z eviction, as indicated by 65% chromatin-bound H2A.Z in the Kin28 and Swc5  
154 double AA relative to 49% in the single AA of Swc5 (compare Fig. 4B to 2C and 4F to  
155 2D). Consistent with its role in H2A.Z eviction, depletion of Kin28 alone showed a  
156 marginal 4% increase in chromatin-bound H2A.Z (from 78% to 82%, Fig. S4.1A, 4.1B).  
157 In contrast, double AA of Swc5 and the Bur1 kinase did not inhibit loss of chromatin-  
158 bound H2A.Z, nor did double AA of Swc5 and the Ctk1 kinase (Fig. 4C, 4D, 4F).

159

160 In the wake of Pol II initiation, nascent RNA is co-transcriptionally capped by the  
161 sequential activity of three enzymes—Cet1, Ceg1 and Abd1—and is completed when  
162 RNA reaches ~100 nt (Lidschreiber et al., 2013). Capping of the 5' end of nascent RNA  
163 is initiated by the Cet1-Ceg1 complex, which recognizes the 5' triphosphate on the RNA  
164 and Ser5-P on the Pol II CTD (Martinez-Rucobo et al., 2015). To examine whether RNA  
165 capping or associated activities are required for H2A.Z eviction, we performed double  
166 AA of Swc5 and Cet1, and found no increase in chromatin-bound H2A.Z compared to  
167 single AA of Swc5 (compare Fig. 4E, to 2C, and 4F to 2D). Thus, H2A.Z eviction is not  
168 dependent on RNA capping. Likewise, we found no increase of chromatin-bound  
169 H2A.Z upon double AA of Swc5 and Rrp6, the 3'-5' exonuclease responsible for  
170 degradation of noncoding RNA (Fig. S4.1E, F). Taken together, we conclude that an  
171 early stage of transcription elongation closely linked to Pol II CTD Ser5 phosphorylation  
172 by Kin28 is required for robust eviction of chromatin-bound H2A.Z.

173

174 **Discussion**

175 Transcription of most yeast genes is infrequent and nucleosome turnover along gene  
176 bodies is low, but the +1 nucleosome constitutively turns over at a 3-fold higher rate  
177 (Dion et al., 2007; Grimaldi et al., 2014; Yen et al., 2013). Similarly, H2A.Z is  
178 constitutively displaced from +1 nucleosomes for both active and rarely transcribed  
179 genes, on a timescale of <15 min (Tramantano et al., 2016). The live-cell SPT approach  
180 reveals that Pol II rather than the INO80 sub-family of remodelers plays a key role in  
181 H2A.Z eviction. Furthermore, the dependence on Kin28/Cdk7 kinase for robust H2A.Z  
182 displacement suggests that PIC assembly per se, i.e. the recruitment of general  
183 transcription factors and Pol II to promoter, is not sufficient for H2A.Z eviction but Kin28-  
184 dependent phosphorylation of Ser5 of the CTD heptapeptide repeats is important (Fig.  
185 5, box). A role for Kin28 in Ssl2-facilitated TSS scanning by Pol II is not excluded for  
186 H2A.Z eviction, although it has been shown that depletion of Kin28 by AA does not alter  
187 TSS usage (Murakami et al., 2015).

188

189 Inhibition of H2A.Z eviction upon depletion of Kin28/Cdk7 kinase, but not Bur1/Cdk9 or  
190 Ctk1/Cdk12 kinases narrows the relevant state of Pol II to early elongation after  
191 promoter escape, but not to productive elongation. (We note that the PIC remains  
192 largely intact upon Kin28/Cdk7 depletion, as shown by accumulation of TFIID, Mediator  
193 and Pol II at gene promoters (Knoll et al., 2019) (Wong et al., 2014)). The exclusive  
194 dependence on Kin28/Cdk7 is further underscored by no reduction of H2A.Z eviction on  
195 depletion of Cet1, the 5' RNA capping enzyme, or depletion of Rrp6, the 3'-5'  
196 exonuclease for noncoding RNA degradation. Thus, H2A.Z eviction is independent of

197 RNA modifying and metabolizing activities just downstream of CTD Ser5  
198 phosphorylation.

199  
200 Transcriptional elongation by Pol II is known to cause displacement of nucleosomal  
201 histones in biochemical assays (Lorch et al., 1987), providing a mechanism for H2A.Z  
202 turnover at the +1 nucleosome in the process of transcription through protein-coding  
203 regions. We propose a similar mechanism for genes that do not engage in productive  
204 transcription of mRNA, but exhibit genome-wide, constitutive transcription of noncoding  
205 RNAs which are prematurely terminated by the Nrd1-Nab3-Sen1 pathway in budding  
206 yeast (Schaughency et al., 2014). The early elongation activity of Pol II would dislodge  
207 H2A.Z-H2B dimers from the histone octamer of the +1 nucleosome. Displacement of the  
208 more stably bound H3-H4 tetramer likely requires assistance from histone chaperones  
209 and/or other remodelers (Fig 5).

210  
211 After displacement of core histones, reassembly of a canonical nucleosome on gapped  
212 chromatin should occur, mediated by the mass action of the predominating H2A-H2B  
213 histone pool and histone chaperones, nucleosome positions being reset by chromatin  
214 remodelers such as ISWI, RSC, and INO80 (Lai and Pugh, 2017) (Fig.5). Maintenance  
215 of a NDR of sufficient length (>60 bp DNA) by remodelers and subsequent histone  
216 acetylation recruits SWR1 to canonical +1 nucleosomes, the essential substrate for  
217 SWR1 (Ranjan et al., 2013). Stimulation of the catalytic Swr1 ATPase by nucleosome  
218 and H2A.Z-H2B dimer substrates then triggers histone dimer exchange (Luk et al.,  
219 2010; Ranjan et al., 2013), completing the cycle of H2A.Z/H2A replacement (Fig. 5).

220

221 We envision that H2A.Z eviction is coupled to transcription not only from protein-coding  
222 genes transcribed by Pol II but also ribosomal, 5S and tRNA genes transcribed by Pol I  
223 and Pol III. Because H2A.Z eviction is not correlated with mRNA transcription by Pol II  
224 (Tramantano et al., 2016), the constitutive global transcription of noncoding RNA by Pol  
225 II is additionally coupled to H2A.Z eviction. There is substantial evidence for low-level,  
226 heterogenous transcripts of several hundred nucleotides, initiating from multiple start-  
227 sites within yeast NDRs (Pelechano et al., 2013). For budding yeast, these noncoding  
228 RNA transcripts evidently result from Pol II initiation without substantial pausing (Booth  
229 et al., 2016). At metazoan promoters, turnover of H2A.Z enriched in +1 nucleosomes  
230 may be similarly coupled to transcription in the process of Pol II pausing and release  
231 (Tome et al., 2018). Likewise at metazoan enhancers, infrequent Pol II transcription of  
232 eRNAs (Tippens et al., 2018) could be responsible for eviction of H2A.Z, representing  
233 erasure of a permissive histone variant mark on the epigenome. Much remains to be  
234 learned about the functional significance of this process and its relationship to  
235 productive mRNA transcription, presenting an outstanding problem for future studies of  
236 chromatin dynamics in eukaryotic gene regulation.

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249

250 **Figure Legends**

251 **Figure 1. Diffusive behaviors of protein fusions to HaloTag (Halo) reveal**  
252 **chromatin-bound and free populations in live yeast.** (A, B) Normalized histograms  
253 and two-component Gaussian fits for H2A.Z-Halo (A) and Halo-H2B (B) show the log  
254 diffusion coefficient distributions. The Gaussian fit for HaloTag is shown for reference  
255 (“Halo only” in A). (C, D) Normalized histograms and two-component Gaussian fits for  
256 Swr1-Halo in WT cells (C) and the *swc2Δ* mutant (D). Solid line: sum of two-component  
257 fit; dashed line: individual component. Percent value of the slow component along with  
258 Bootstrap resampling errors and the number of trajectories (n) are indicated. (E)  
259 Cumulative distribution functions (CDF) of 10 ms displacements. (F) Spot-On results  
260 with fitting errors showing fractions of chromatin-bound molecules derived from  
261 modeling CDFs over 10-50 ms intervals. All molecules tracked with JF646 dye except  
262 Halo only, which was imaged with JF552.

263

264 **Figure S1.1. Cell growth, labeling and SPT analysis of Halo-tagged proteins**  
265 (A) Growth of strains bearing *SWR1*, H2A.Z (*HTZ1*) and H2B (*HTB1*) fusions to  
266 HaloTag. Saturated cultures at optical density 1.0 were spotted (1:5 serial dilutions) on  
267 CSM plates with or without 1% formamide or 150 mM HU (hydroxyurea) and incubated  
268 for 2-3 days at the indicated temperatures. WT and mutant strains *htz1Δ* and *swr1Δ* are  
269 shown for comparison. (B) Cells expressing H2A.Z-Halo and Swr1-Halo were stained  
270 with JF646 and the cell lysate was resolved on SDS-PAGE. Fluorescent scan of  
271 duplicate lanes show specific labeling of Halo-tagged H2A.Z and Swr1 proteins. (C)  
272 SDS-PAGE shows 10 nM JF646 saturates H2A.Z-Halo in yeast cells in a routine 2 hr

273 staining period. (D) Normalized histogram and two-component Gaussian fit for HaloTag  
274 (fused to NLS). The slow fraction is 5%. (E) Top: Profile of H2A.Z-Halo diffusivity in  
275 biological replicate, same condition as Fig. 1A experiment. (F) Profile of H2A.Z-Halo  
276 diffusivity in cells stained with JF552. All molecules tracked with JF552 dye except (E),  
277 which was tracked with JF552.

278

279 **Figure S1.2. Spot-On kinetic modeling analysis.** (A) Histogram of displacements  
280 over time intervals of 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 ms (dt 1-5) for H2A.Z. First four  
281 displacements were included for each track. Kinetic fitting shown as dashed line and  
282 measured displacements in color. Data was generated using the Spot-On web-interface  
283 (<https://SpotOn.berkeley.edu>). (B) Spot-On analysis of H2B. (C,D) Spot-On analysis of  
284 Swr1 in WT and *swc2Δ* cells. (E) Comparison of diffusive parameters for H2A.Z, H2B,  
285 Swr1 and Swr1 in the *swc2Δ* strain, extracted from MSD-based and Spot-On analytic  
286 platforms. Bootstrap resampling errors shown for MSD and fitting errors shown for Spot-  
287 On. All molecules tracked with JF646 dye.

288

289 **Figure S1.3. H2A.Z-Halo distribution in cell division cycle.** (A) FACS analysis shows  
290 DNA content of the synchronized cell population upon time of release from  $\alpha$ -factor  
291 arrest, from 0' – 120.' (B,C) Normalized histogram and two-component Gaussian fit for  
292 H2A.Z-Halo in cells synchronized in pre-S phase, and in S phase. (D) Spot-On results  
293 shows both Pre-S and S phase cells have 84 % chromatin bound H2A.Z. All molecules  
294 tracked with JF646 dye.

295

296 **Figure 2. H2A.Z chromatin binding is substantially reduced upon abrogation of**  
297 **the deposition pathway by SWR1 inactivation.** (A) Time course of H2A.Z-Halo  
298 labeling, rapamycin treatment and image acquisition in Swc5-AA cells. Rapamycin  
299 treatment for an hour before SPT, and imaging performed in continued presence of  
300 rapamycin. (B, C) Normalized histograms and two-component Gaussian fits for H2A.Z-  
301 Halo imaged in the Swc5-AA cells. Imaging data were acquired in absence of  
302 rapamycin (B) or presence of rapamycin (C). Spot-On results show that Swc5 depletion  
303 causes a reduction in chromatin-bound H2A.Z. (E) Overlay of tracks, color-coded  
304 according to log diffusion coefficients, obtained from representative nuclei. Number of  
305 tracks (n) is indicated for each nucleus. All molecules tracked with JF552 dye.

306

307 **Figure S2.1. Swc5 is required post-recruitment for SWR1 activity.** (A,B) Normalized  
308 histograms and two-component Gaussian fits for Swr1-Halo imaged in Swc5-AA cells in the  
309 absence (A) or presence (B) of rapamycin. (C) Spot-On analysis of the same imaging data.  
310 Anchor away of Swc5 did not reduce the fraction of chromatin-bound Swr1, which is  
311 consistent with ChIP-PCR results showing Swr1 binds to gene promoters in absence of  
312 swc5 (Morillo-Huesca et al., 2010), and *in vitro* data showing efficient nucleosome  
313 binding by the purified SWR1(swc5 $\Delta$ ) complex (Ranjan et al., 2013). All molecules  
314 tracked with JF646 dye.

315

316 **Figure 3. RNA polymerase II is critical for H2A.Z eviction.** (A) Normalized  
317 histograms and two-component Gaussian fits for H2A.Z-Halo imaged in cells co-  
318 depleted for Rpb1 and Swc5. (B) H2A.Z-Halo distributions in cells co-depleted for Ino80

319 and Swc5. (C) Spot-On results showing co-depletion of Rpb1 along with Swc5 inhibits  
320 H2A.Z eviction. All molecules tracked with JF552 dye.

321

322 **Figure S3.1. Efficient nuclear depletion of Swc5 in double anchor-away (SWC5-  
323 *FRB; RPB1-FRB*) strain.** (A, B) Deconvolution fluorescence microscopy shows nuclear  
324 depletion of Swc5-AA in rapamycin-treated, single anchor-away cells, and in Swc5-AA;  
325 Rpb1-AA double anchor-away cells. Images of JF646-labeled H2A.Z-Halo locate nuclei.  
326 Z-axis steps of 200  $\mu$ m were captured on a DeltaVision fluorescence microscope and  
327 deconvoluted ten-stacks were projected.

328

329 **Figure S3.2. H2A.Z diffusion histograms in cells for single AA of Rpb1 and Ino80.**  
330 (A, B) H2A.Z-Halo distributions in Rpb1-AA strain without (A) and with (B) depletion of  
331 Rpb1. (C) Spot-On results for chromatin bound H2A.Z upon Rpb1 depletion. Single AA  
332 of Rpb1 causes only a slight increase in chromatin-bound H2A.Z, which is likely due to  
333 concomitant inhibition of SWR1's biochemical activity at reduced concentration of free  
334 H2A.Z-H2B dimer (Wang et al., 2016). (D, E) H2A.Z distributions in single anchor-away  
335 of Ino80. (F) Spot-On results show Ino80 depletion has no effect on level of chromatin-  
336 bound H2A.Z. All molecules tracked with JF552 dye.

337

338 **Figure 4. Kin28 phosphorylation of RNA polymerase II CTD is critical for H2A.Z  
339 eviction.** (A) Schematic representation shows the three Pol II kinases Kin28, Bur1 and  
340 Ctk1 recruited at initiation, early-elongation and elongation phases respectively of Pol II  
341 and corresponding phosphorylation of indicated Rpb1 CTD sites. Set1 is the first of the

342 three RNA capping enzymes; it removes  $\gamma$ -phosphate from the RNA 5' end to generate  
343 5' diphosphate. (B, C, D, E) Normalized histograms and two-component Gaussian fits  
344 for H2A.Z-Halo imaged in cells co-depleted for Swc5 along with Kin28 (B), Bur1 (C),  
345 Ctk1 (D) and Cet1 (E). (F) Spot-On results show Kin28 is required to evict H2A.Z. All  
346 molecules tracked with JF552 dye.

347

348 **Figure S4.1. H2A.Z diffusion histograms in cells after single depletion of Kin28.**  
349 (A, B) H2A.Z-Halo distributions in Kin28-AA strain without (A) and with (B) depletion of  
350 Kin28. (C) Spot-On results for chromatin bound H2A.Z upon Kin28 depletion. (D)  
351 Reproduction of Gaussian fits for H2A.Z-Halo distributions in rapamycin-treated Swc5-  
352 AA cells (from Fig. 2C). (E) H2A.Z-Halo distributions in cells co-depleted for Swc5 and  
353 Rrp6. (F) Spot-On results for chromatin-bound H2A.Z upon double depletion of Swc5  
354 and Rrp6. All molecules tracked with JF552 dye.

355

356 **Figure 5. Cycle of H2A.Z eviction and deposition.** RNA polymerase II assembled  
357 genome-wide in the PIC and Rpb1 CTD Ser5 phosphorylated by Kin28 constitutively  
358 transcribes short noncoding RNAs (with m7G cap) and evicts H2A.Z-H2B dimers from  
359 the +1 nucleosome prior to termination. H2A.Z eviction should also occur in the course  
360 of mRNA transcription. Additional factors may be necessary for displacement of H3-H4  
361 tetramer. The directional arrow indicates the annotated transcription start site. The gap  
362 is filled by histone chaperone-mediated deposition of canonical histones to reform an  
363 H2A-containing +1 nucleosome, which is positioned by chromatin remodelers and  
364 sequence-specific transcription factors, maintaining the NDR. This recruits SWR1 which

365 is activated upon recognition of H2A-nucleosome and H2A.Z-H2B dimer substrates to  
366 activate one or two rounds of H2A.Z deposition. See text for discussion.

367

368 ***List of Supplementary Movies and Table***

369 **Movie S1:** H2A.Z-Halo imaged in wild type cells. Single molecules from four nuclei are  
370 observed.

371 **Movie S2:** H2A.Z-Halo imaged after anchor-away of Swc5. Single molecules from six  
372 nuclei are observed.

373 **Movie S3:** H2A.Z-Halo imaged in Swc5-FRB cells in absence of rapamycin. Single  
374 molecules from four nuclei are observed.

375 **Movie S4:** Swr1-Halo imaged in wild type cells. Single molecules from three nuclei are  
376 observed.

377 **Movie S5:** Swr1-Halo imaged in *swc2Δ* cells. Single molecules from three nuclei are  
378 observed.

379 **Movie S6:** Free-Halo tag molecule imaged in nuclei. Single molecules from five nuclei  
380 are observed.

381 **Supplementary file 1:** List of strains used in this study

382 **Supplementary file 2:** List of results from MSD and Spot-On analysis

383 **Materials and Methods**

384 **Yeast strains and plasmids**

385 The plasmid for HaloTag (Halo) fusions was generated by cloning HaloTag (Promega)  
386 in the pBluescript SK (-) vector followed by insertion of a KanMx cassette (Kanamycin)  
387 or NatMx cassette (Nourseothricin), following standard procedures (Gelbart et al.,  
388 2001). PCR amplification and standard yeast transformation methods were used for  
389 tagging the protein of interest at the C-terminus, with a serine-glycine (SG<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> linker to  
390 HaloTag.

391

392 For Halo-H2B, plasmid HTA1-SNAP-HTB1 (pEL458, gift from Ed Luk) was modified to  
393 replace the SNAP coding sequence with HaloTag, with a four amino acid GA<sub>3</sub> linker  
394 between HaloTag and the N-terminus of H2B. The plasmid expressing Halo-H2B was  
395 introduced in the FY406 strain (gift from Fred Winston) by the plasmid shuffle procedure  
396 (Hirschhorn et al., 1995). The endogenous H2B promoter drives expression of Halo-  
397 H2B as the sole gene copy in cells.

398

399 Free HaloTag was fused at the N-terminus to a bipartite SV40 NLS  
400 (KRTADGSEFESPKKKRKV, where two clusters of basic residues are underlined)  
401 (Hodel et al., 2006) and expressed from the pRS416 vector. Plasmid pAC1056  
402 expressing BPSV40 NLS-GFP (gift from Anita Corbett) was modified for free Halo  
403 expression.

404

405 Strains and plasmids used for anchor-away studies were obtained from Euroscarf. The  
406 transporter gene PDR5 was deleted in all strains for retention of HTL-dye conjugate in  
407 live yeast cells. Strain genotypes are listed in Table 1.

408

409 **Flow cytometry analysis**

410 Cells were fixed by adding two volumes of 100 % ethanol and stored for one hour at  
411 4°C. Cells were washed with 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5) buffer and digested with RNase  
412 (1 mg/ml) and RNase A (0.2 mg/ml) overnight at 37°C on a rotator. Proteins were  
413 digested with Proteinase K (1 µg/µl) at 50°C for 30 minutes. Cells were stained with 2  
414 µM SYTOX (Tris buffer) at 4°C for 4 hours and sonicated on Diagenode Biorupter 300  
415 for 10 sec at high setting. Cells were scanned on LSR II FACS instrument.

416

417 **Cell culture and labeling**

418 Cells were grown and imaged in CSM media (Complete Supplement Mixture)  
419 supplemented with 40 mg/L adenine hemisulfate. The JF646-HaloTag ligand was  
420 synthesized as previously described (Grimm et al., 2015). The new JF552 dye has a  
421 higher signal to noise ratio and is more photostable than JF646. The JF552 dye is a  
422 modification of JF549, with similar brightness, but enhanced cell permeability that allows  
423 its use for SPT in yeast (Zheng et al., 2019). For *in vivo* labeling, early log phase cells  
424 (O.D<sub>600</sub> 0.2) were labeled with JF-HaloTag ligand (10 nM for JF646 and 20 nM for  
425 JF552) for two hours at 30 degrees in suspension culture. Cells were washed four times  
426 with CSM to remove free dye.

427

428 Prior to use, 0.17 mm coverslips ( $\varnothing$  25 mm, Electron Microscopy Services) were flamed  
429 to remove punctuated surface auto-fluorescence and to suppress dye binding, and  
430 coated with Concanavalin A (2 mg/ml) for 30 min at room temperature, and air-dried for  
431 one hour. Coverslips were assembled in a  $\varnothing$  35 mm Attofluor chamber (Invitrogen). A 1  
432 ml cell suspension was immobilized for 10 minutes and live cells were imaged in CSM  
433 media at room temperature. For anchor away experiments, rapamycin (1  $\mu$ g/ml) was  
434 added one hour prior to imaging, and cells were imaged in the presence of rapamycin.

435

436 **Cell cycle synchronization**

437 Cells were synchronized in G1 by adding  $\alpha$  factor for 2 hours (3  $\mu$ g/ml at 0 min and  
438 additional 2 and 1  $\mu$ g/ml at 60 and 90 minute respectively). High autofluorescence did not  
439 allow SMT in presence of  $\alpha$  factor, which was removed by replacing culture medium.  
440 Cells released from G1 at room temperature took 40 minutes to enter S phase. Both for  
441 Pre-S and S phase SMT, cells were stained and synchronized in suspension culture  
442 and immobilized right before SMT.

443

444 **Wide-field single molecule Imaging with epi-illumination microscope**

445 Single-molecule imaging was conducted on a Zeiss Observer Z1 microscope with a  
446 Zeiss Plan-Apochromat 150X/1.35 glycerin-immersion objective. Cells of interest were  
447 identified under infrared illumination (750nm, 10nm FWHM) using a near IR-CCD  
448 camera (IDS UI-3370CP-NIR-GL) and Semrock 743nm/25nm FWHM filter. A 555nm  
449 (Crystalaser) or 637nm (Vortran) laser was used for dye excitation, typically at 100mW  
450 total power (TTL pulsed). All laser beams were spectrally filtered and combined using a

451 custom beam combiner (by J.W., details available upon request). A Semrock FF01-  
452 750/SP filter was included at the output to remove any residual near infrared emission  
453 from lasers. Combined laser beams were collimated into a 2m-long Qioptic fiber  
454 (kineFLEX-P-2-S-405.640-0.7-APC-P2) with output through a 12mm EFL reflective  
455 collimator (Thorlabs). The resulting Ø6mm Gaussian beam was introduced into the back  
456 port of the microscope. The following cubes were utilized in the microscope turret to  
457 direct excitation light towards the sample and filter fluorescence: 1) for JF646 - 648  
458 beamsplitter and 676/29 nm filter, 2) for JF552 - 561 beamsplitter and 612/69 nm filter.  
459 Images were acquired with a Hamamatsu C9100-13 back-illuminated EM-CCD camera  
460 through additional FF01-750/SP and NF03-405/488/561/635E quad-notch filters. The  
461 camera was operated at -80°C with a typical EM gain of 1200 and directly controlled by  
462 laser emission via the TTL signal.

463

#### 464 **Image acquisition**

465 Images were obtained using either 637-nm laser (JF646) or 555-nm laser (JF552), of  
466 excitation intensity  $\sim$ 1KW/cm<sup>2</sup> and for each field of view  $\sim$ 7000 frames were captured.  
467 Single molecules were tracked using DiaTrack Version 3.05 software, with the following  
468 settings; remove blur 0.1, remove dim 70-100, maximum jump 6 pixels. Single molecule  
469 images were collected after pre-bleach of initial intense fluorescence (glow). While  
470 imaging with JF646, a 405-nm laser excitation (1-10mW/cm<sup>2</sup>, TTL pulses 2-5 ms per  
471 frame) was triggered to maintain single fluorophore detection density. Immobilized cells  
472 in CSM media were imaged over a 90-minute imaging session.

473

474 **Analysis of single-molecule images**

475 Movies with two dimensional single molecule data were analyzed by DiaTrack Version  
476 3.05 (Vallotton and Olivier, 2013), which determines the precise position of single  
477 molecules by Gaussian intensity fitting and assembles particle trajectories over multiple  
478 frames. In Diatrace remove blur was set to 0.1, remove dim set at 70 and max jump set  
479 at 5 pixels, where each pixel was 107 nm. Trajectory data exported from Diatrace was  
480 further analyzed by a custom computational package ‘Sojourner’ (by S.L.). The package  
481 is available on Github (<https://rdrr.io/github/sheng-liu/sojourner/>). The Mean Squared  
482 Displacement (MSD) was calculated for all trajectories 6 frames or longer. Diffusion  
483 coefficients for individual molecules were calculated by unconstrained linear fit ( $R^2 > 0.8$ )  
484 of the MSD values computed for time lags ranging from 2  $dt$  to 5  $dt$ , where  $dt = 10$  ms is  
485 the time interval between frames, and slope of linear fit was divided by 4 (pre-factor for  
486 2-dimensional brownian motion) (Qian et al., 1991). The histogram of log converted  
487 diffusion coefficients was fitted with double gaussian function from the ‘mixtools’  
488 package (Benaglia et al., 2009) to estimate the fraction of chromatin-bound molecules  
489 (mean range between  $0.050 - 0.112 \mu\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Standard error on the mean of each  
490 gaussian fit parameter was estimated using a bootstrap resampling approach (Efron,  
491 1979).

492

493 The Spot-On analysis was performed on trajectories three frames or longer using the  
494 web-interface <https://spoton.berkeley.edu/> (Hansen et al., 2018). The bound fractions  
495 and diffusion coefficients were extracted from the CDF of observed displacements over  
496 different time intervals. For Brownian motion in two dimensions, the probability that a

497 particle starting from origin will be found within a circle of radius  $r$  at time interval  $\Delta\tau$  is  
498 given as follows.

$$P(r, \Delta\tau) = \frac{r}{2D\Delta\tau} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4D\Delta\tau}}$$

499 where  $D$  is diffusion coefficient. In Spot-On, the cumulative displacement histograms  
500 were fitted with a 2-state model.

$$p(r, \Delta\tau) = F_1 \frac{r}{2(D_1\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4(D_1\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)}} + Z_{CORR}(\Delta\tau, \Delta Z, D_2) F_2 \frac{r}{2(D_1\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4(D_1\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)}}$$

501 where  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are bound and free fractions,  $\sigma$  is single molecule localization error,  
502  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are diffusion coefficients of bound and free fractions, and  $Z_{CORR}$  is correction  
503 factor for fast molecules moving out of axial detection range (Hansen et al. 2018). The  
504 axial detection range for JF646 on our setup is 650 nm. The following settings were  
505 used on the Spot-On web interface: bin width 0.01, number of time points 6, jumps to  
506 consider 4, use entire trajectories-No, Max jump ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 1.2. For model fitting the following  
507 parameters were selected:  $D_{\text{bound}}$  ( $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ) min 0.001 max 0.1,  $D_{\text{free}}$  ( $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ) min 0.15  
508 max 5,  $F_{\text{bound}}$  min 0 max 1, Localization error ( $\mu\text{m}$ )- Fit from data-Yes min 0.01 max 0.1,  
509  $dZ$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) 0.65 for JF646 and  $dZ$  0.6 for JF552, Use Z correction- Yes, Model Fit CDF,  
510 Iterations 3.

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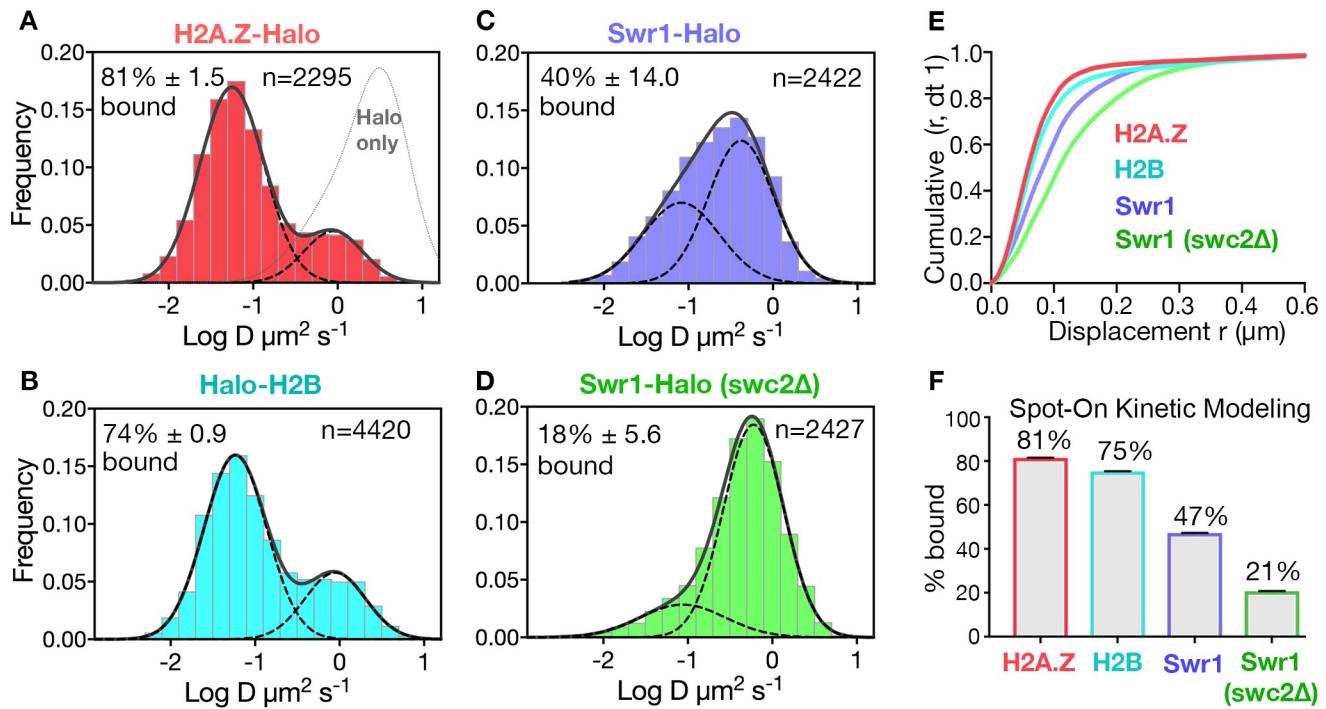
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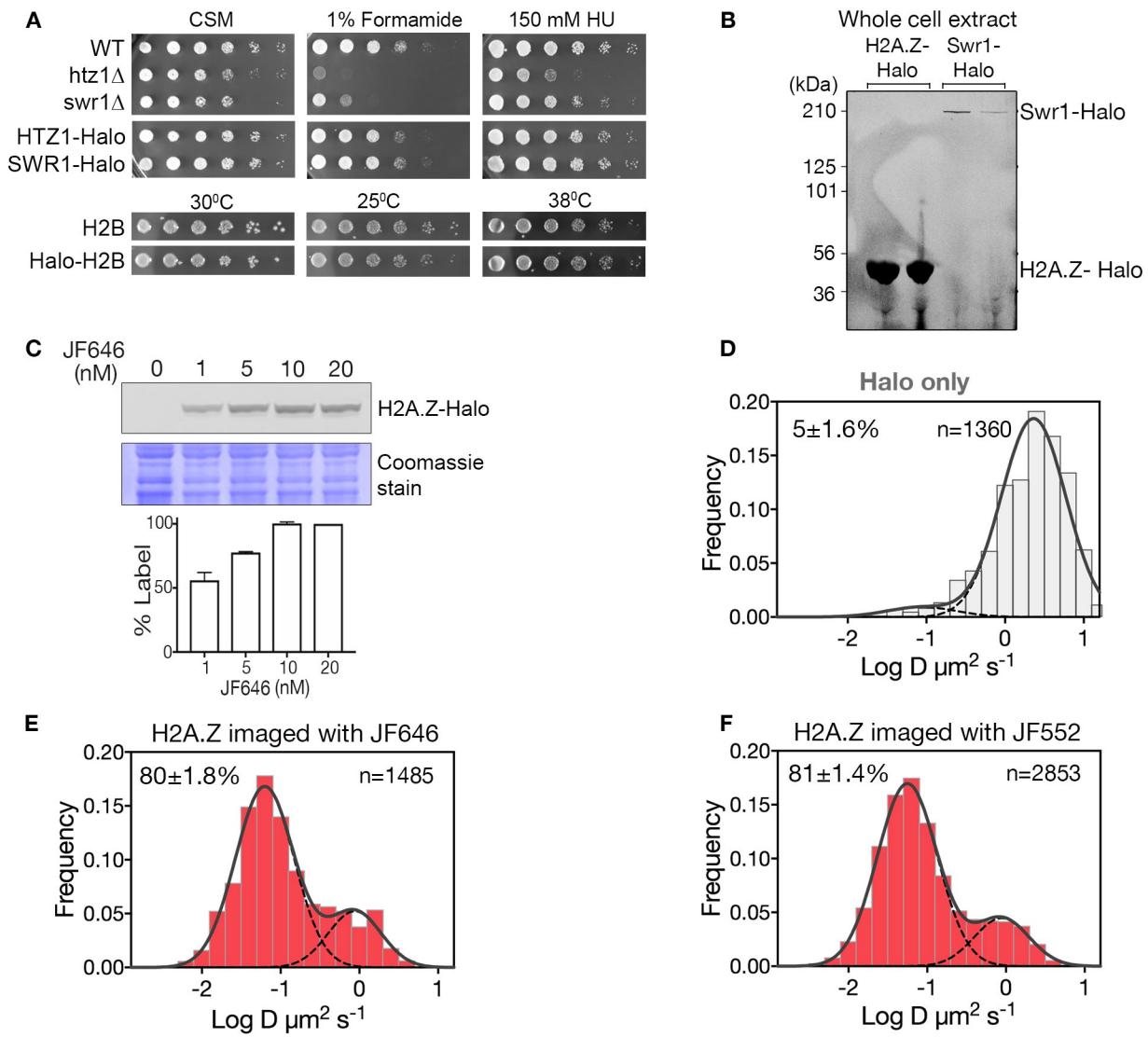
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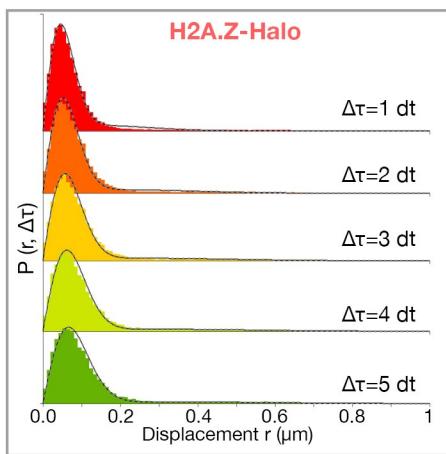
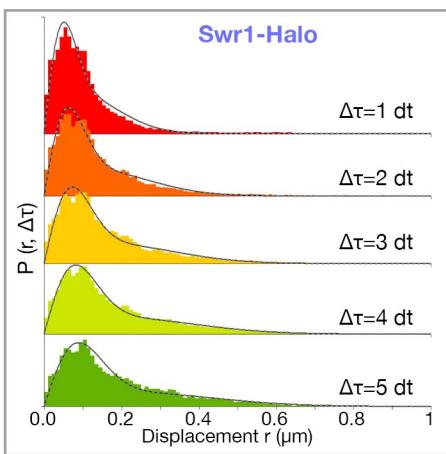
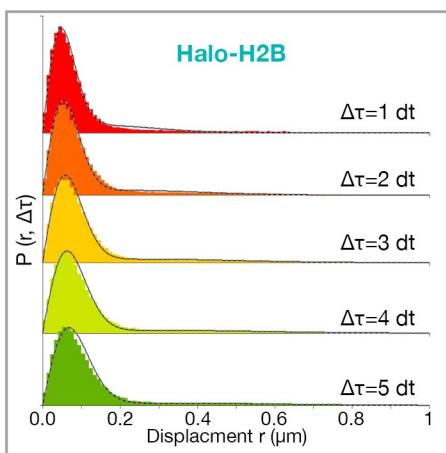
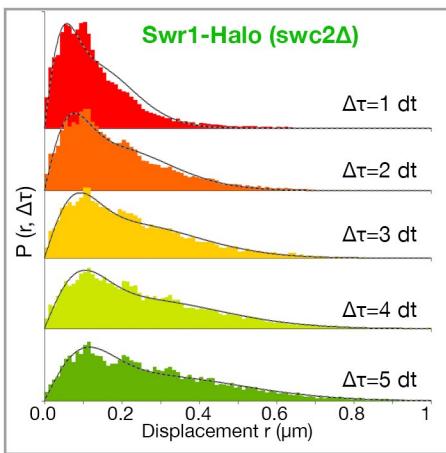
651 Zheng, Q., Ayala, A.X., Chung, I., Weigel, A.V., Ranjan, A., Falco, N., Grimm, J.B.,  
652 Tkachuk, A.N., Wu, C., Lippincott-Schwartz, J., *et al.* (2019). Rational Design of  
653 Fluorogenic and Spontaneously Blinking Labels for Super-Resolution Imaging. *ACS*  
654 *Cent Sci* 5, 1602-1613.



**Fig. 1**

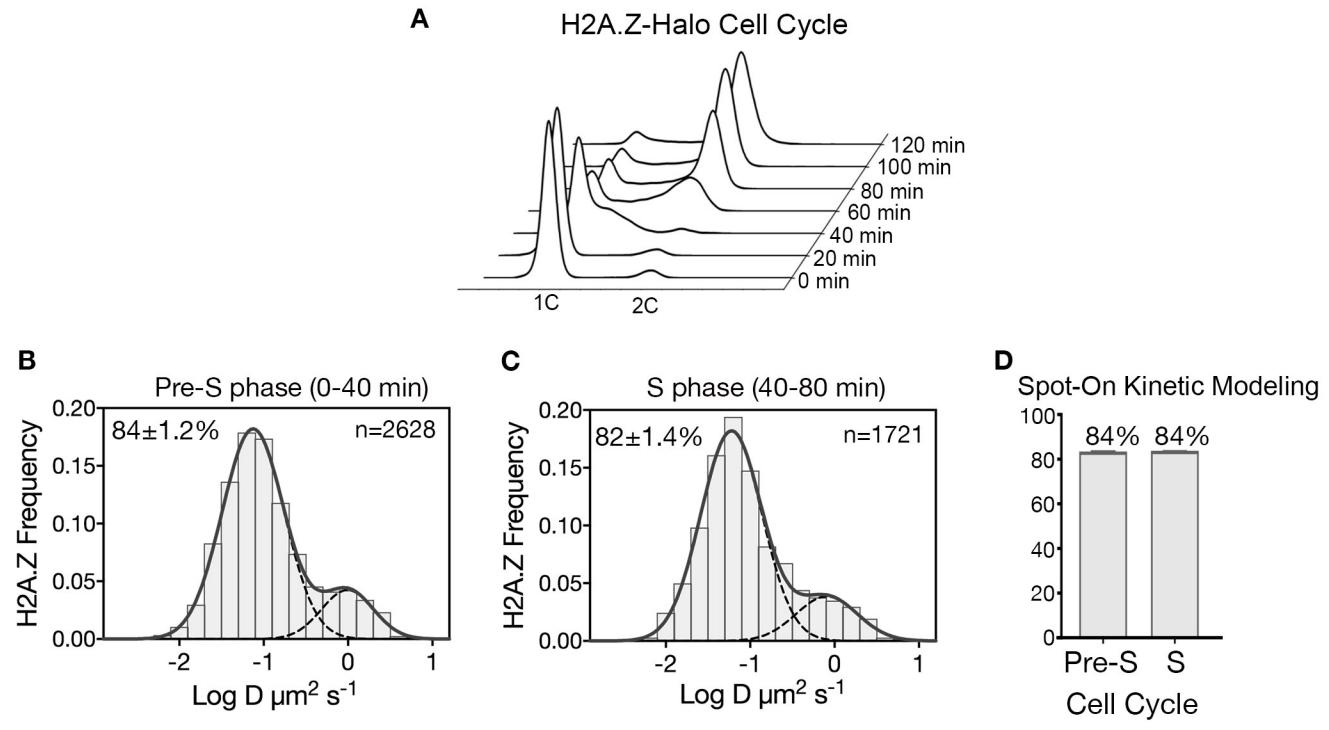


**Fig. S1.1**

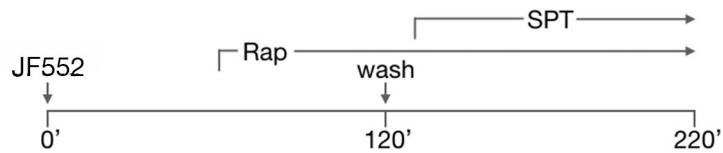
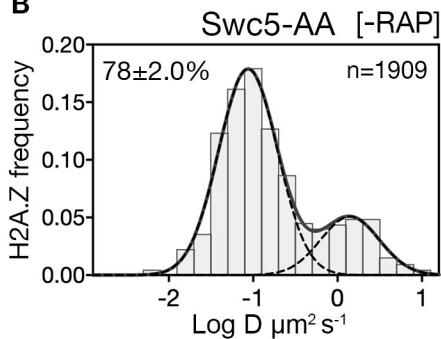
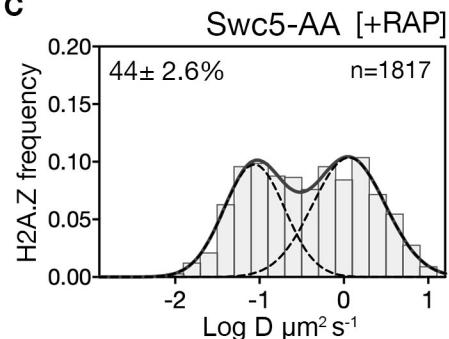
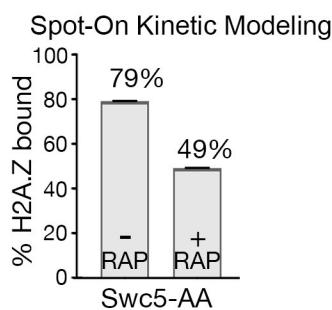
**A****C****B****D****E**

	MSD			Spot-On		
	D bound ( $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ )	D free ( $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ )	% bound	D bound ( $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ )	D free ( $\mu\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ )	% bound
H2A.Z	$0.056 \pm 0.002$	$0.886 \pm 0.066$	$80.5 \pm 1.54$	$0.029 \pm 0.0002$	$1.177 \pm 0.009$	$81.7 \pm 0.07$
H2B	$0.058 \pm 0.001$	$0.888 \pm 0.039$	$73.9 \pm 0.99$	$0.028 \pm 0.0002$	$1.286 \pm 0.008$	$75.6 \pm 0.06$
Swr1	$0.082 \pm 0.028$	$0.419 \pm 0.066$	$39.7 \pm 14.07$	$0.063 \pm 0.0003$	$0.618 \pm 0.002$	$47.2 \pm 0.11$
Swr1 (swc2Δ)	$0.087 \pm 0.034$	$0.598 \pm 0.026$	$18.0 \pm 5.64$	$0.070 \pm 0.0001$	$0.766 \pm 0.001$	$20.7 \pm 0.07$

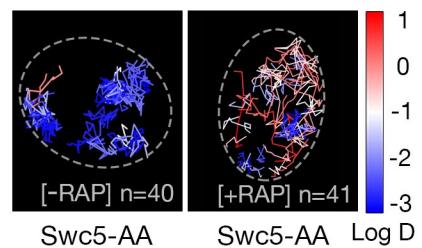
**Fig. S1.2**



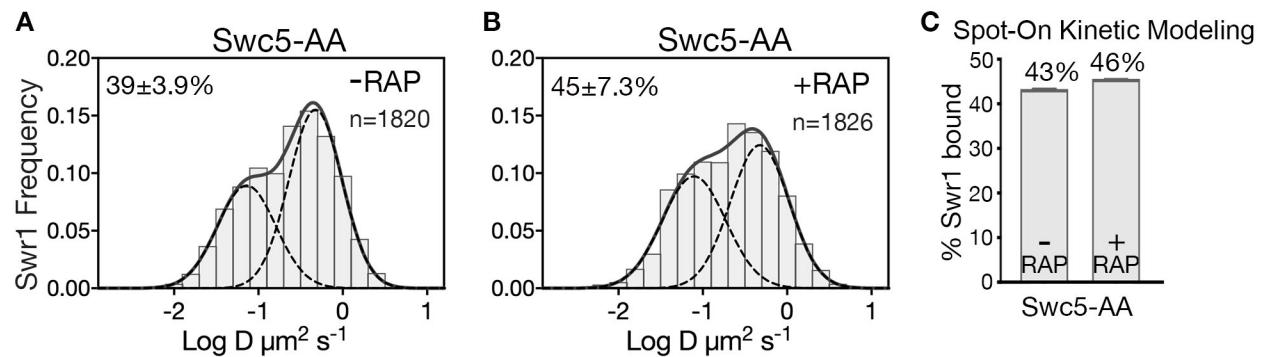
**Fig. S1.3**

**A****B****C****D****E**

H2A.Z tracks in nuclei

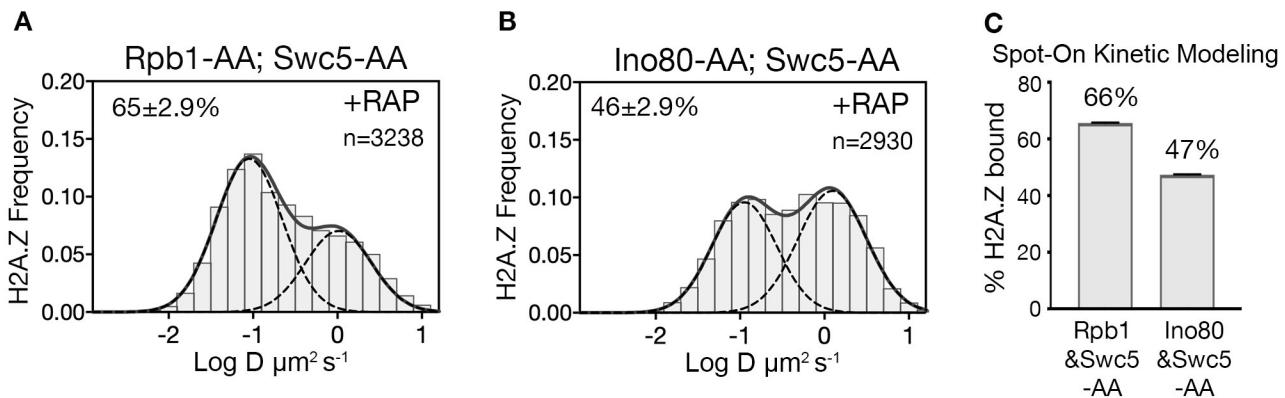


**Fig. 2**

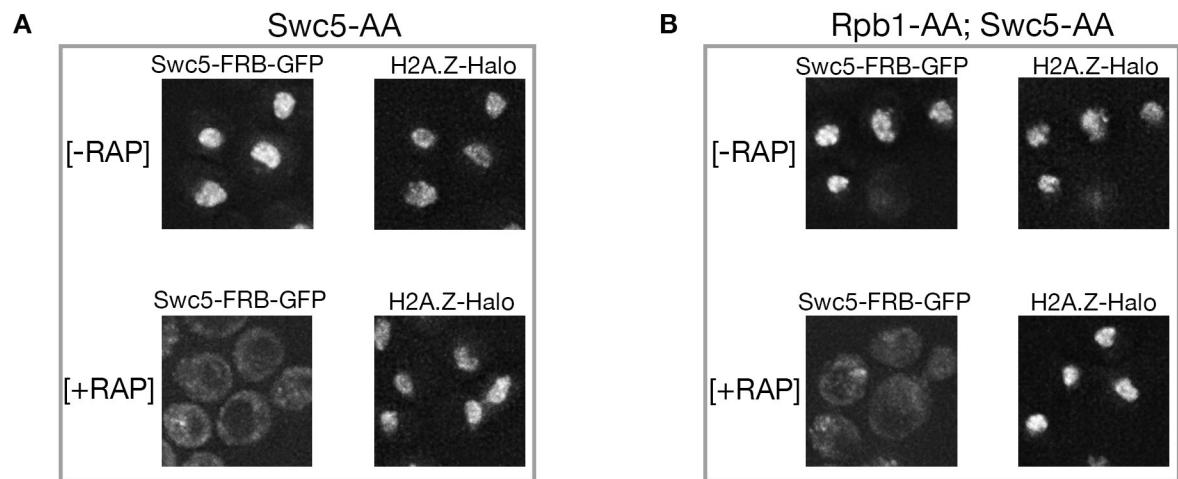


**Fig. S2.1**

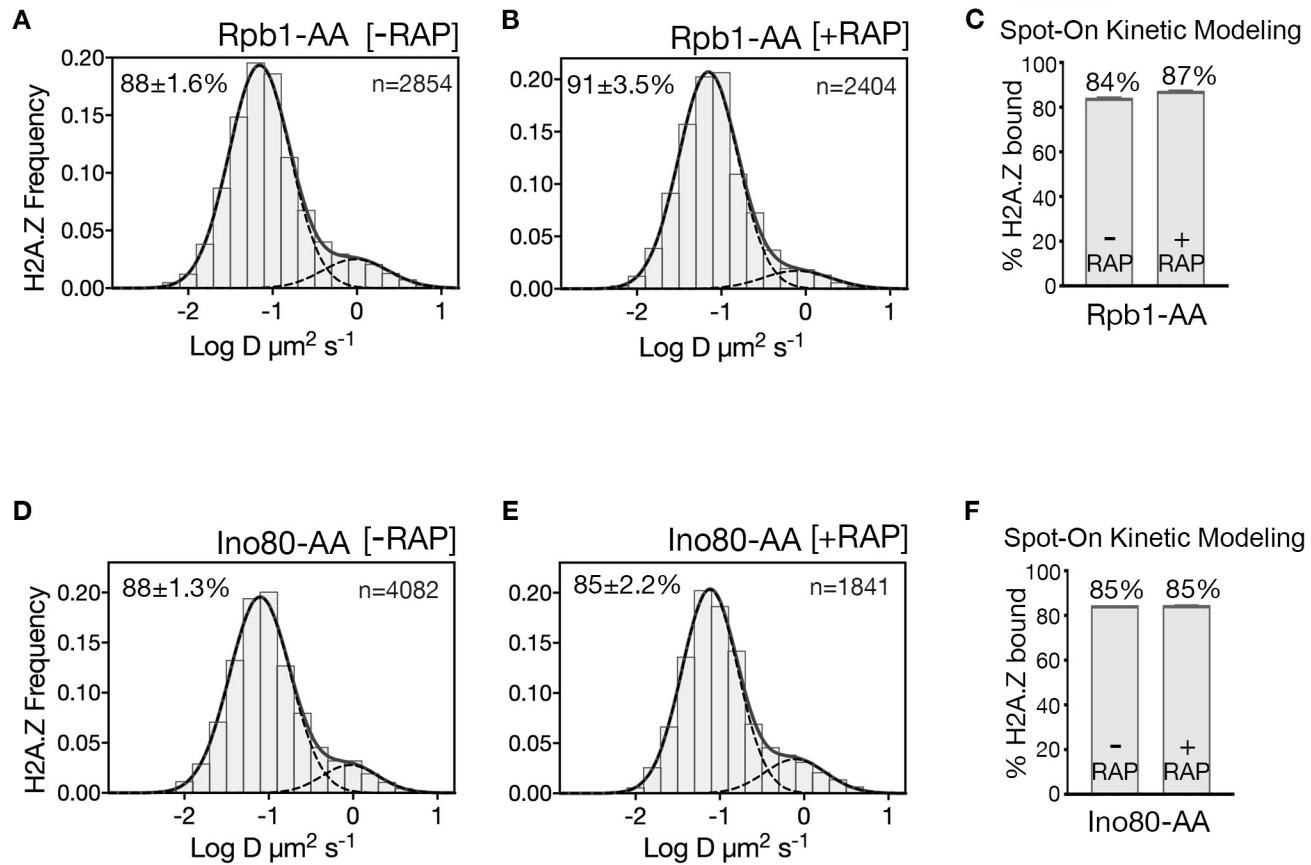
Double AA conditions below to be compared with Fig. 2C,D



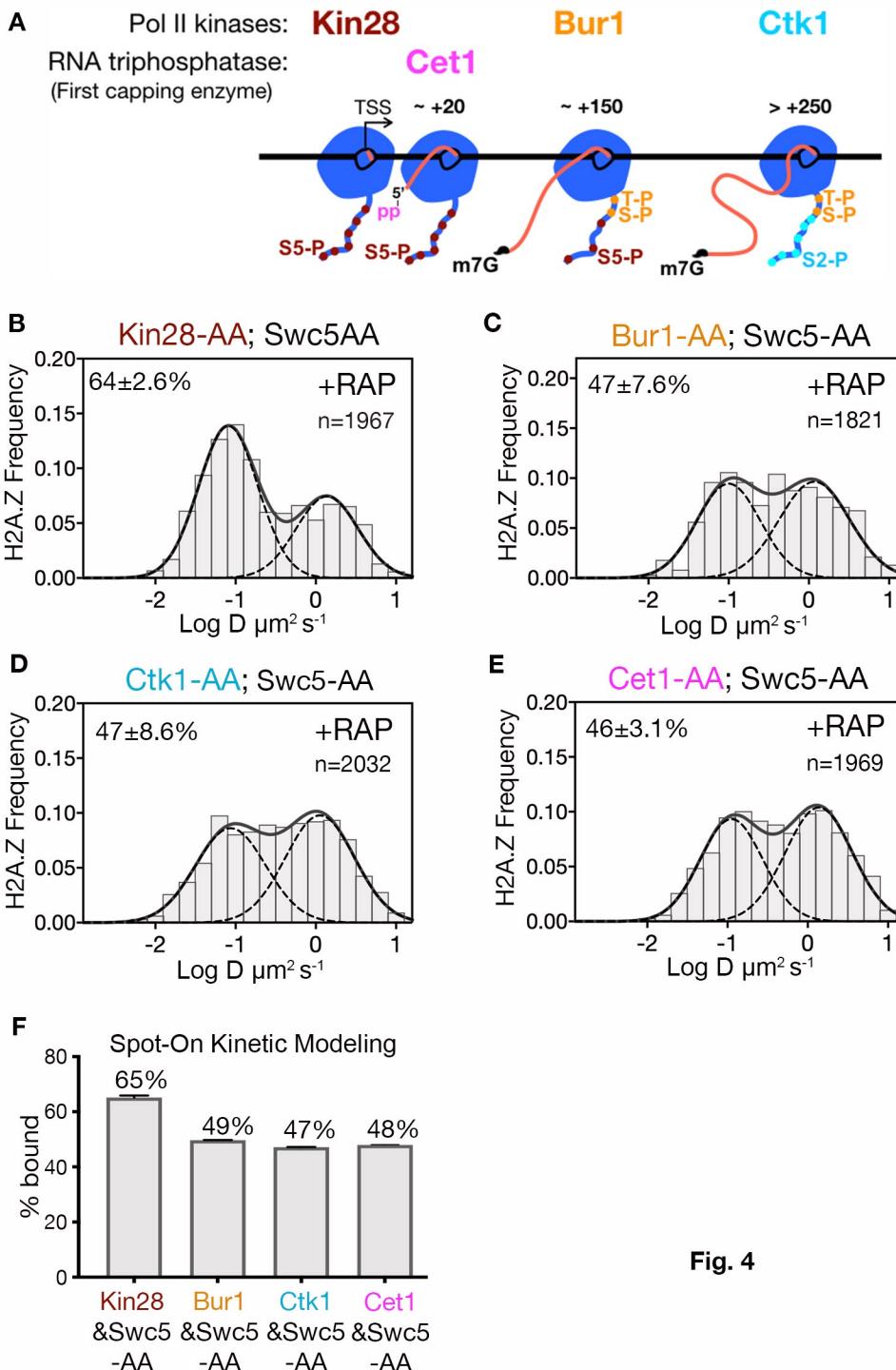
**Fig. 3**



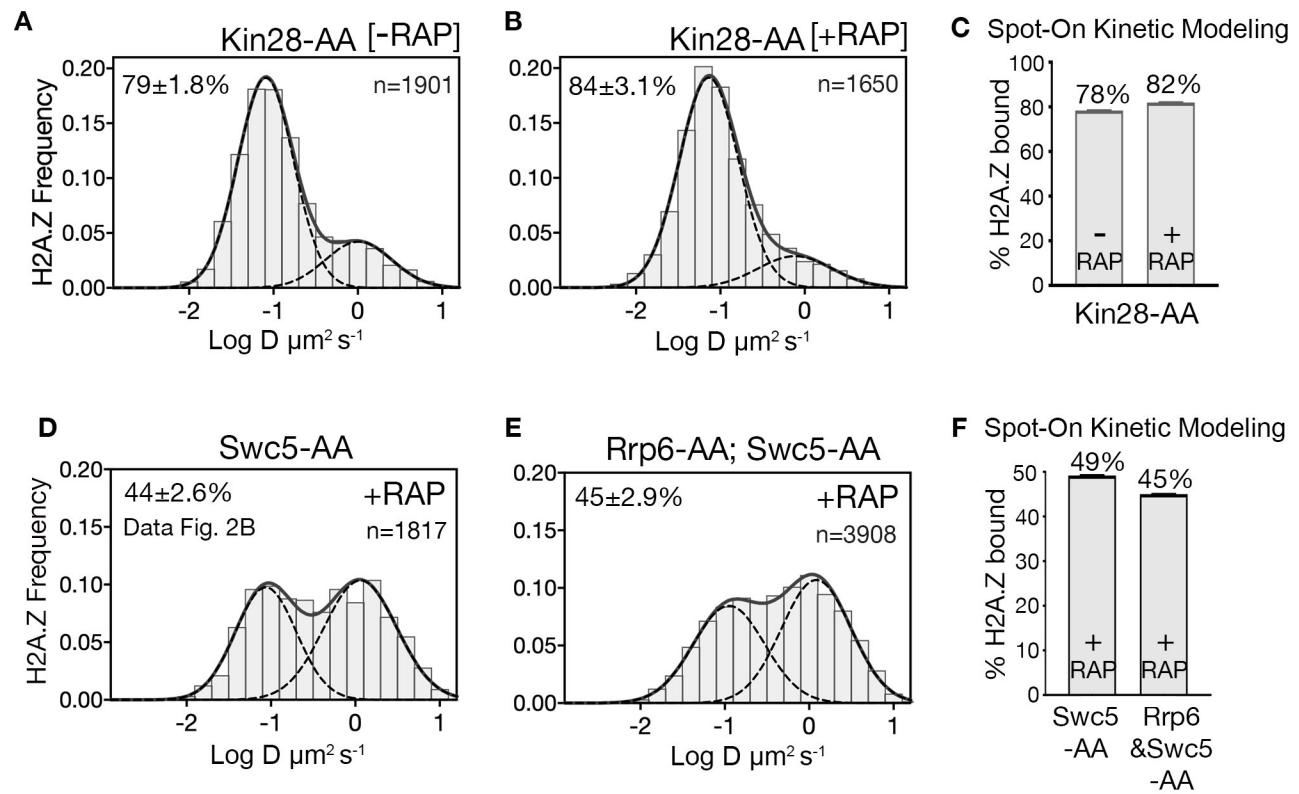
**Fig. S3.1**



**Fig. S3.2**



**Fig. 4**



**Fig. S4.1**

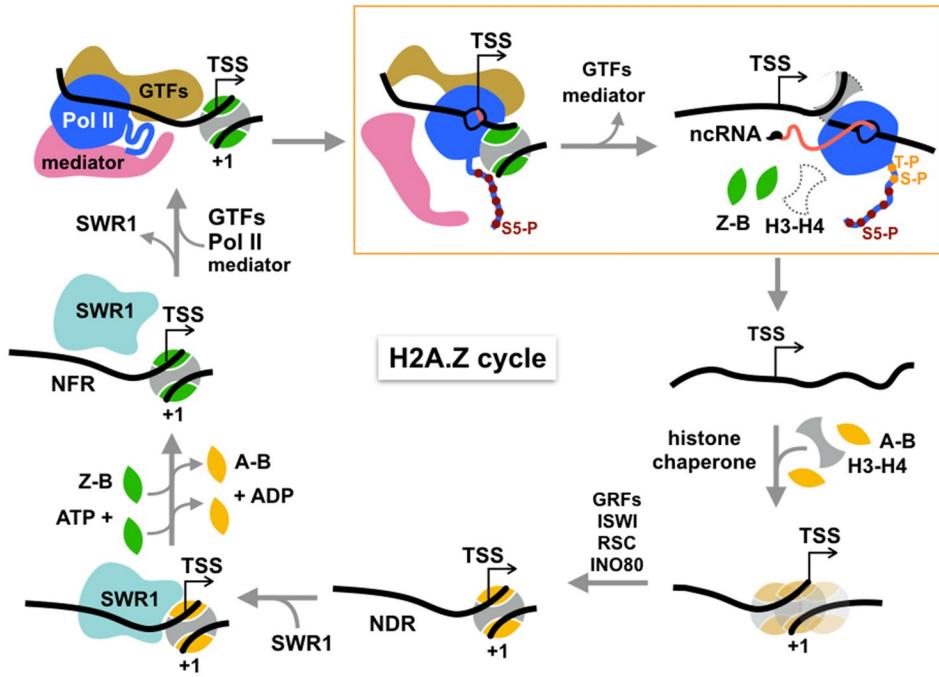


Fig. 5