

# The 7th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science

## *Individual paper proposal*

### **From steam engines to plants in shopping carts: Wandering around the Anthropocene in a museum of science and technology**

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In the year 2014 the temporary exhibition *Welcome to the Anthropocene: The earth in our hands* opened at the Deutsches Museum. For fourteen months visitors were invited to walk in their own geological strata, cross tectonic plates and wander around the multiple temporalities and entangled histories of the so called age of humans.

The Anthropocene is a popular scientific concept proposing that the earth's history has entered a new geological epoch where human activity rivals earthly processes in influencing the trajectory of the Earth system. Further it presents a framework for thinking about the interconnectedness of humans and the environment.

From steam engines to plants in shopping carts, the exhibition displays a wide range of objects and stories in an attempt to translate a theoretical concept into an exhibition space.

In this presentation I will discuss the implications of engaging with the Anthropocene from a museological perspective. It will be argued that the Anthropocene, as a conceptual framework, challenges traditional categorizations and narratives of progress presented in museums of science and technology.

### **Keywords**

Museums of science and technology, Anthropocene, Progress, Multiple temporalities, Exhibitions

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