

Rethinking science demonstrations to support visitor led inquiry: Science Bar

**Dylan Barker**, *SparkLab, Queensland Museum, Australia*

How do you give the visitor the choice to direct the experiment or pursue a line of inquiry as part of a science demonstration? The *SparkLab* team is pursuing an approach across its program offerings that looks to place the visitor at the centre and empower them to do so as part of each demonstration.

Science Centre's continue to draw on demonstrative presentations and experiments – a staple in inciting curiosity and engagement to deliver mostly knowledge and understanding of scientific concept and phenomena. In order to achieve learning outcomes that extend a visitor to develop skills and affect behaviour, it is theorised that participation in determining and experimenting with a line of inquiry, will provide a richer opportunity to achieve these outcomes.

This session explores *SparkLab's* current approach to fostering greater levels of inquiry learning with its demonstrations – from inciting the initial moment of curiosity through to structuring the investigation with the visitor at the centre. Audience engagement technique and staff training will also feature. Participants will participate in a *SparkLab* pop-up Science Bar as a group, before reflecting and brainstorming ideas, time permitting.