

Emotional engagement of exhibitions in the age of information

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The world is changing. Technology has created an environment where information is not just for the well-educated and well-connected but can now be found, read and understood by anyone. In 2019 most people above the age of 13 own a smart phone that allows them to answer every question they could possibly ask. So why would they visit a science centre/museum?

Science centres and museums used to be about artefacts and answers but exhibition developers around the country are realising that this old way of thinking is not sustainable in the information age. New approaches need to be developed in order for Science centres and museums to stay relevant and attractive in the new landscape.

Three institutions around the country are doing just that. The Museum of Discovery, Scienceworks and Questacon have all been looking at new and innovative ways exhibitions and visitor experiences can be developed that engage visitors to interact with the science but that don't deliver facts and answers.

All three have aimed their exhibitions at an older age group, all three have created experiences that use emotion as a stepping stone to further inquiry, yet all three have come up with very different and exciting exhibitions.

During the session, the panel will discuss the lessons learnt from three recent exhibitions that use emotion to strengthen science engagement.

Beyond Perception: Seeing the Unseen is a ground-breaking and unconventional permanent exhibition designed for teenagers and was the winner of the ASPAC 2018 Creative Science Award. Exploring the imperceptible worlds of science and technology, this innovative exhibition looks deeper, and sees further than ever before. Developed in consultation with scientists, acoustic engineers and teenagers, *Beyond Perception* is an intriguing space with a fresh and awe-inspiring new design approach. *Beyond Perception* will inspire visitors to look at how far we have come, and ask what will be next...

MOD. at the University of South Australia is a futuristic museum of discovery, a place to be and be inspired. With dynamic, changing exhibition programs, MOD. inspires young adults aged 15+ about science and technology, showcasing how research shapes our understanding of the world to inform the future. For visitors, MOD. is a free science experience like no other. A tourist icon bringing together the general public, researchers, students and industry to interact, learn and be inspired – MOD. is Australia's boldest, and South Australia's only, interactive public science and creativity space.

Born or Built? Our Robotic Future is an innovative and interactive travelling exhibition that discusses our future relationship with technology. The exhibition's design creates a beautiful, immersive and impartial environment to explore, not only how we behave towards, and feel about robots, but also to question and discuss the ethical questions that must be answered as we carve out our future.