

Deutsches Museum



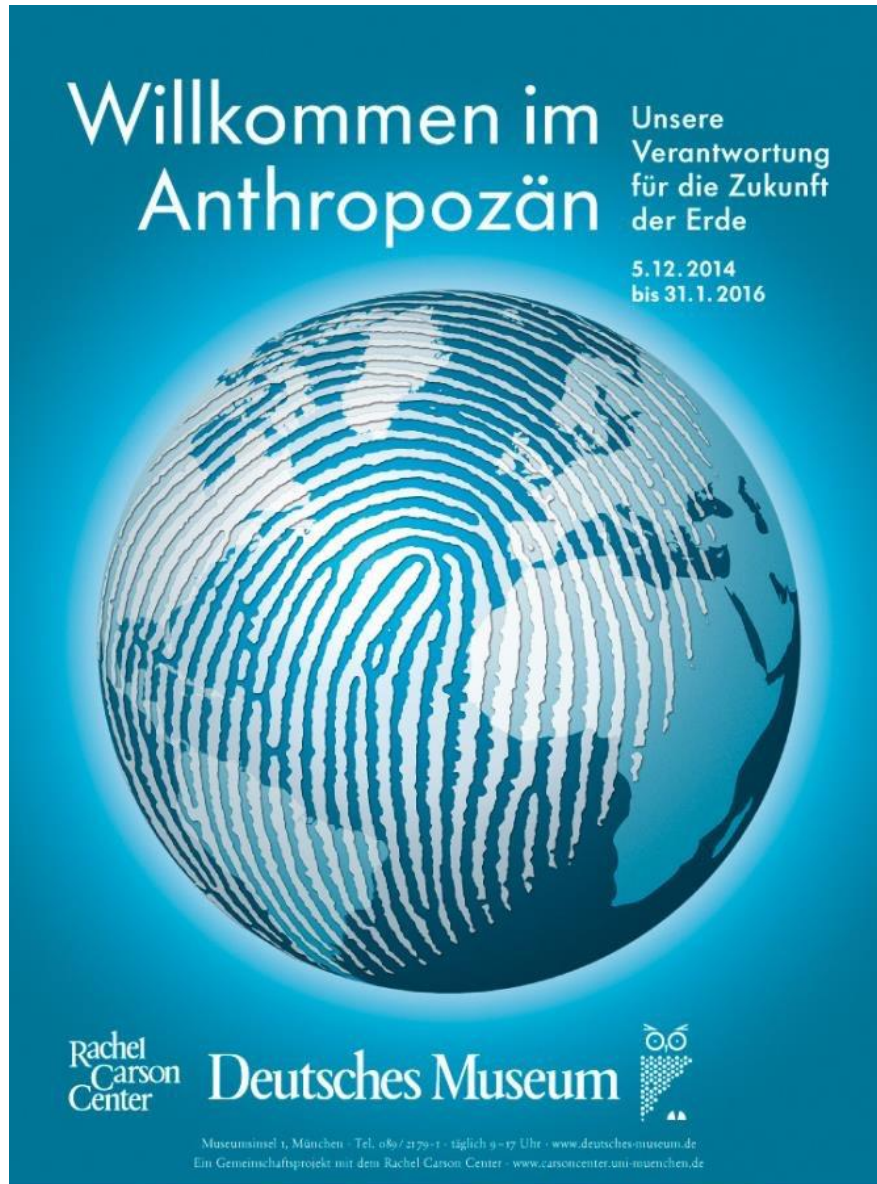
Exhibiting the Anthropocene – and the Technosphere – means breaking away from established knowledge orders

Helmuth Trischler (Deutsches Museum and Rachel Carson Center)

Workshop „Anthropogenic Objects Collecting. Practices for the Age of Humans”

Museum für Naturkunde, April 14, 2021





Opening December 4, 2014, by
Secretary General of UNEP, Achim
Steiner, and Jan Zalasiewicz, Head of
the Anthropocene Working Group

Running until September 30, 2016

Joint project of Deutsches Museum and
Rachel Carson Center

1,400 qm² (\approx 15,000 square feet)

Architects/Designers:

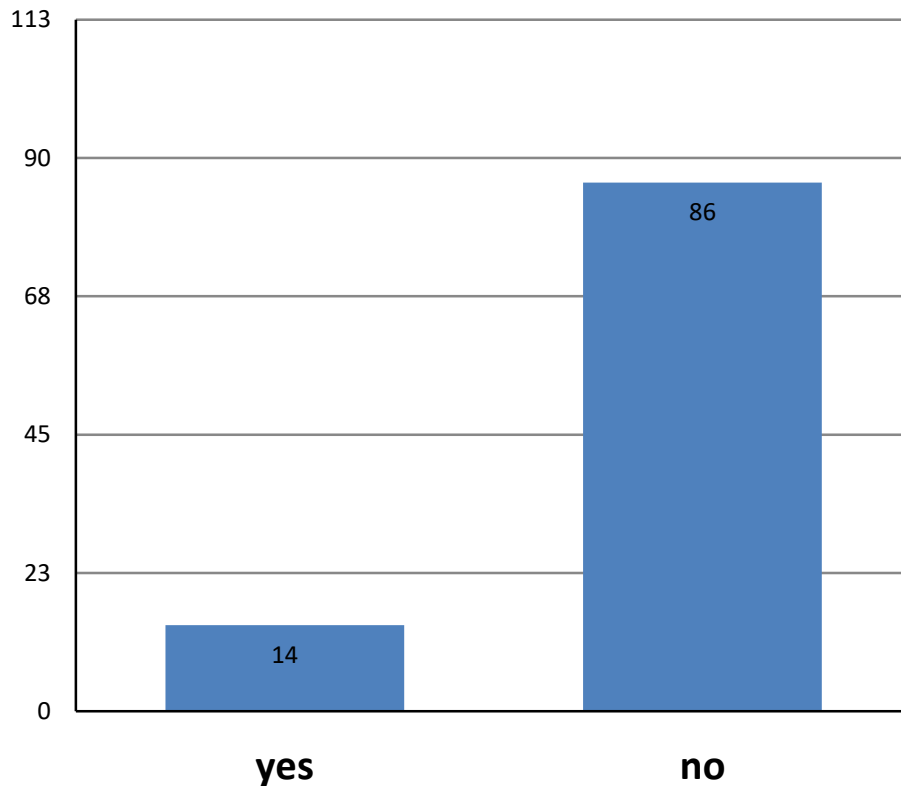
Klaus Hollenbeck Architekten

and krafthaus, das Atelier von facts and
fiction, Cologne

Challenges:

- 1) scope of the topic
- 2) openness and topicality of the Anthropocene concept
- 3) newness of the concept to visitors
- 4) trans-sectoral range of the exhibition

Do you know the term “Anthropocene”?



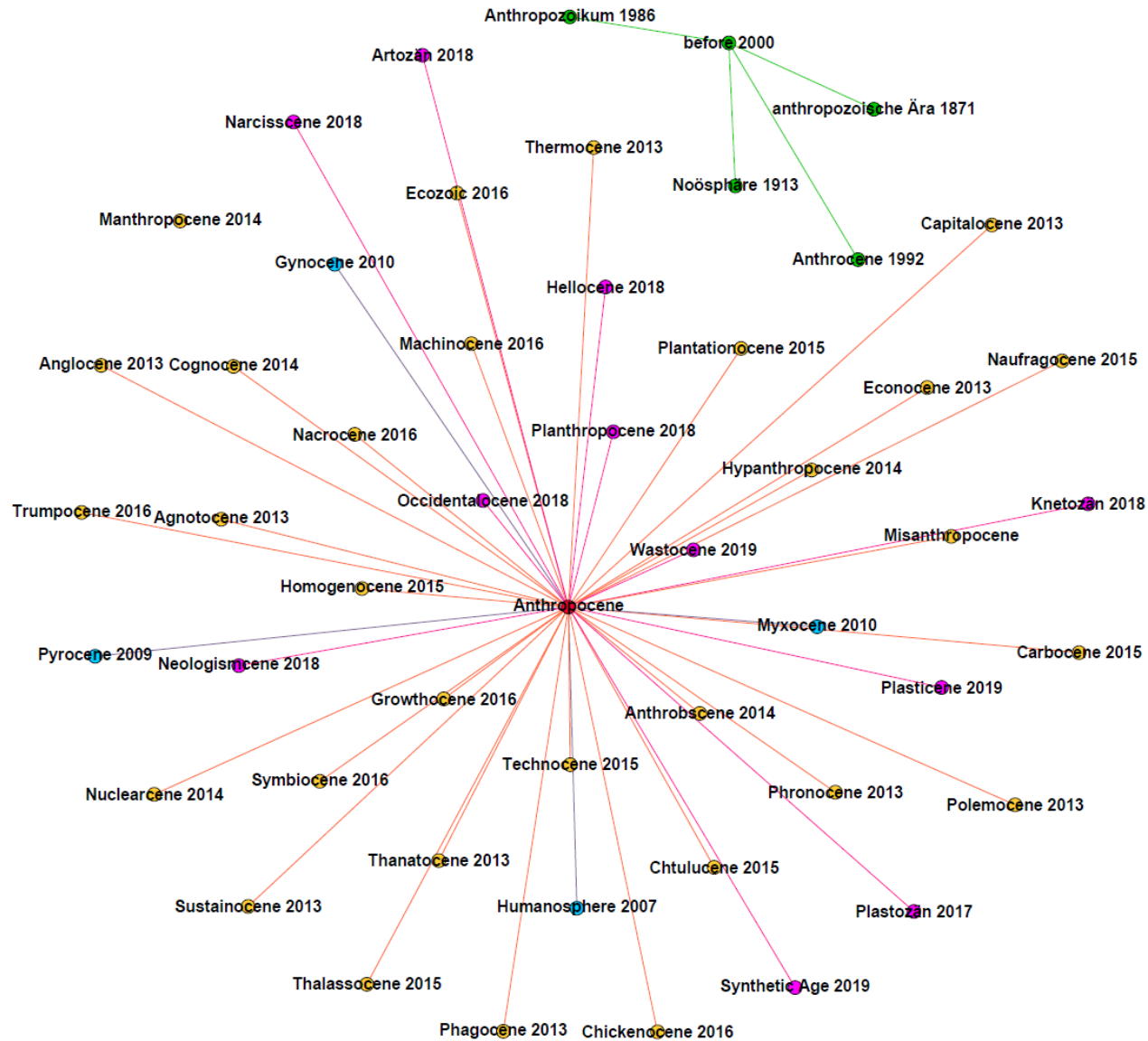
Visitor Survey, Deutsches Museum,
August 2012

If not, what do you think it could mean?

Exemplary answers:

„bacteria or stratum“
„archaeology“
„new type of propulsive power“
„something medical“

Despite growing interest in certain communities, the term Anthropocene has been still largely unknown to the broader public



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The floor plan shows a large rectangular building with a grid system. The grid lines are numbered 1 to 14 horizontally and A to H vertically. The overall dimensions are 61.20m by 30.70m. The plan includes a central green courtyard area, several smaller rooms and studios, and a large open space. Dimensions are provided for various sections and overall measurements.



Six Selected Topics

- ⑨ Urbanisation and Ressources
- ⑨ Mobility
- ⑨ Human-Machine-Interaction
- ⑨ Nature
- ⑨ Food
- ⑨ Evolution





Er wollte jeden von William Shakespeare
genannten Vogel in Nordamerika ansiedeln.
He wanted to introduce to North America
every bird mentioned by William Shakespeare.



Humans and Machines

The relationship between humans and machines is a complex one. It is a relationship that has shaped the world we live in today. From the simple tools of the past to the sophisticated machines of the present, humans have always sought to improve their lives through the use of technology. This relationship has been both a source of progress and a source of conflict. As we continue to advance, we must find ways to ensure that the benefits of technology are shared by all and that the human element is never lost.

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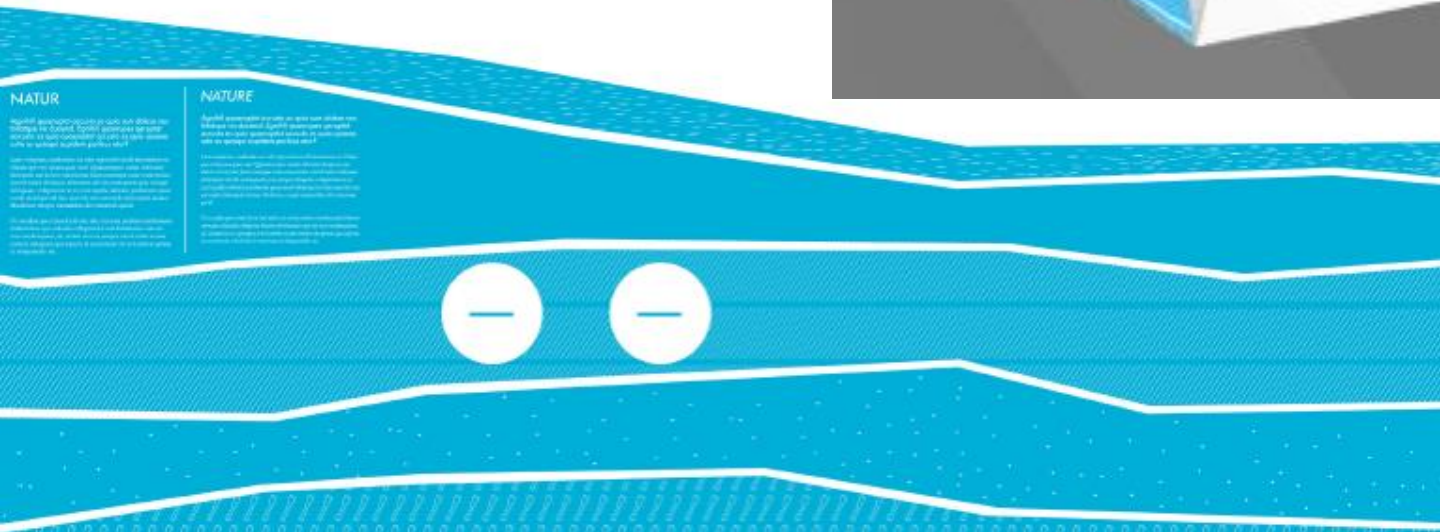
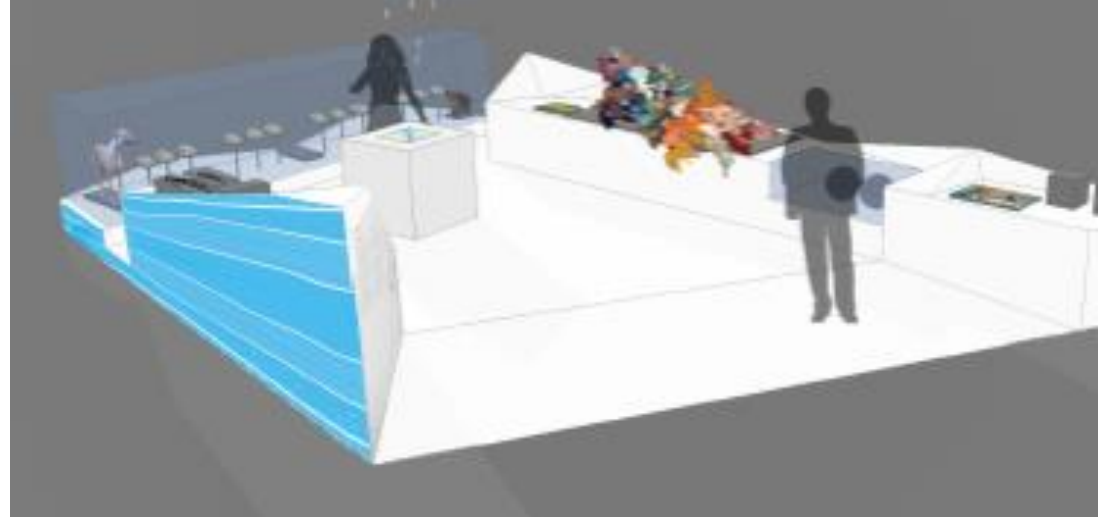


NEXT NATURE
SURVIVAL BLANKET





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von facts and fiction



... geological trace ...

... to showcase the geological dimension of the Anthropocene, i.e. the long-term effects of human actions creating a geological layer

... to tie back the selected phenomena to the Anthropocene hypothesis

... to surprise, fascinate and baffle the visitors









Monotony in the Garden of Eden

1. **Wirtschaftswachstum** (GDP-Wachstum) ist ein Indikator für die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung eines Landes. Ein hohes Wachstum deutet auf eine starke Wirtschaft hin, während ein niedriges Wachstum auf eine schwache Wirtschaft hinweist.

2. **Wirtschaftliche Stabilität** bezieht sich auf die Fähigkeit eines Landes, seine Wirtschaft über einen längeren Zeitraum hinweg stabil zu halten. Dies umfasst die Kontrolle von Inflation, den Wechselkurs und die Staatsverschuldung.

3. **Wirtschaftliche Freiheit** ist ein Maß für die Freiheit von Unternehmen und Einzelpersonen, ihre wirtschaftlichen Aktivitäten frei zu betreiben, ohne staatliche Eingriffe. Dies umfasst die Freiheit, zu investieren, zu handeln und zu produzieren.

4. **Wirtschaftliche Integration** bezieht sich auf die Integration eines Landes in die Weltwirtschaft. Dies umfasst die Teilnahme an internationalen Handelsabkommen, die Integration in globale Wertschöpfungsketten und die Nutzung internationaler Finanzmärkte.

5. **Wirtschaftliche Diversifizierung** ist die Ausweitung der wirtschaftlichen Aktivitäten eines Landes auf verschiedene Sektoren. Dies hilft, die Abhängigkeit von einem einzigen Sektor zu verringern und das Risiko von Wirtschaftskrisen zu mindern.

6. **Wirtschaftliche Modernisierung** bezieht sich auf die Einführung moderner Technologien und Produktionsverfahren in die Wirtschaft. Dies führt zu einer Steigerung der Produktivität und der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit.

7. **Wirtschaftliche Nachhaltigkeit** ist die Fähigkeit, die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung über einen längeren Zeitraum hinweg aufrechtzuerhalten, ohne die natürlichen Ressourcen zu erschöpfen.

8. **Wirtschaftliche Resilienz** ist die Fähigkeit, wirtschaftliche Schocks zu überdauern und sich von ihnen zu erholen. Dies ist besonders wichtig in Zeiten globaler Krisen wie der COVID-19-Pandemie.

9. **Wirtschaftliche Gerechtigkeit** bezieht sich auf die gerechte Verteilung von wirtschaftlichen Ressourcen und Chancen. Dies umfasst die Reduzierung von Armut und die Förderung der sozialen Mobilität.

10. **Wirtschaftliche Innovation** ist die Entwicklung neuer Produkte, Dienstleistungen oder Geschäftsmodelle. Dies ist ein Schlüsselfaktor für das langfristige Wachstum und die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit einer Nation.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Da drückt eine Hausfrau auf einen Knopf
schon reinigt sich die Wohnung von selber:
roboterähnliche Geräte werden die ganze Wohnung reinigen,
sich wie Keilmäuse auf von ihnen ausgestrahlten Wellen entkugeln,
ohne irgendwas anzustoßen.

Die ersten 10 Häuser von morgen, 1918

...wife has merely to press a button and the house cleans itself:
robot-like appliances will clean the whole house,
riding their way forward like bats using sound waves
without bumping into anything.

Housewife, 1918

Computer der Zukunft könnten mit 1000 Vakuumröhren auskommen
und nur 1,5 Tonnen wiegen.

Popular Science, 1947

Computers in the future may only have 1000 vacuum tubes
and perhaps weigh only 1.5 tons.

Popular Science, 1947

Diese ... hat viele Mängel, als dass es ernsthaft
als Kommunikationsmittel betrachtet werden kann.

Life, 1947

This ... has too many shortcomings to be seriously
considered as a means of communication.

Life, 1947





Flower bed of the future

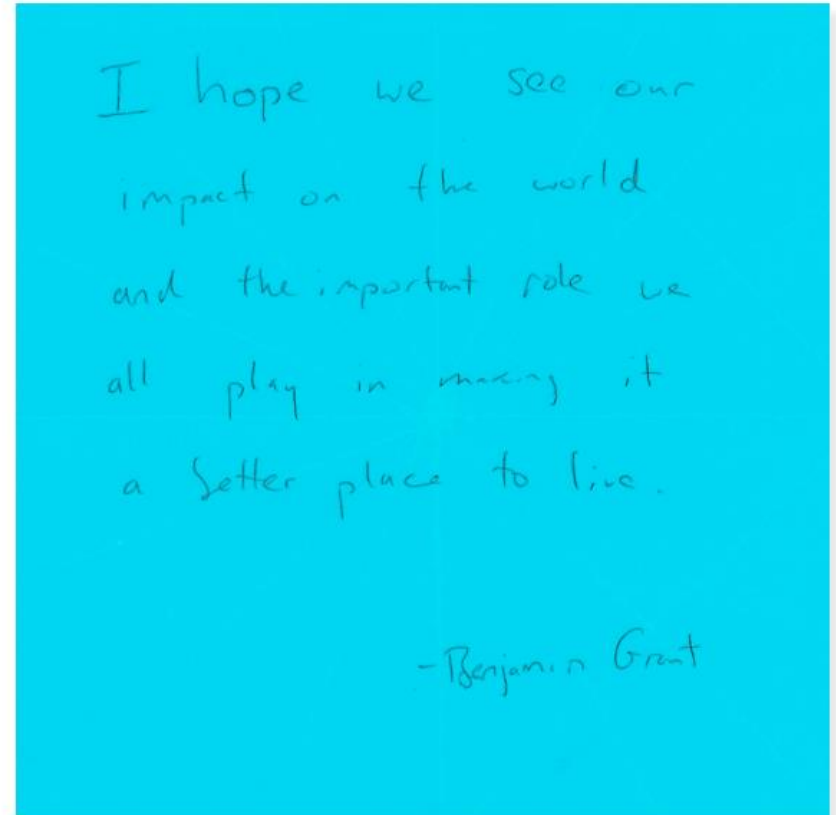


What will the Anthropocene look like in the future? What sort of future do you wish for? What dangers do you see, what motivations are there for change, what are you afraid of, and what are your hopes for the Anthropocene?

Visitors can take a sheet of paper and write on it their thoughts, wishes, fears, and suggestions. They fold the paper and place it on a vacant stem in the flower bed. The flowers planted by visitors during the course of the exhibition are being „harvested“ and presented here.

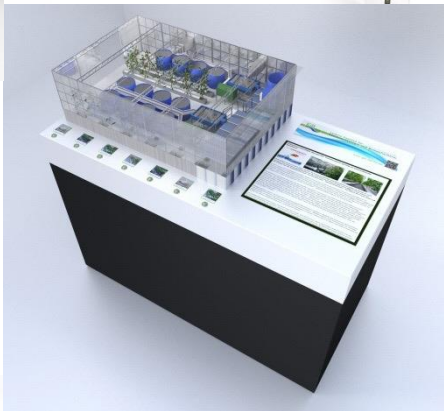
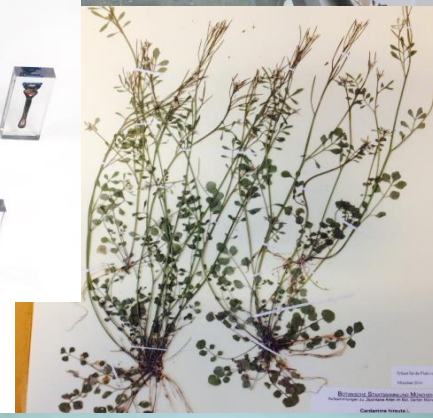
Click bottom right of presentation.

Flower bed of the future



I hope we see our impact on the world and the important role we all play in making it a better place to live.

Benjamin Grant



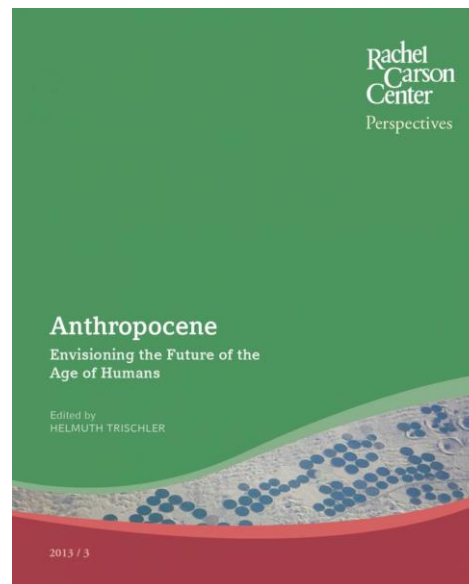
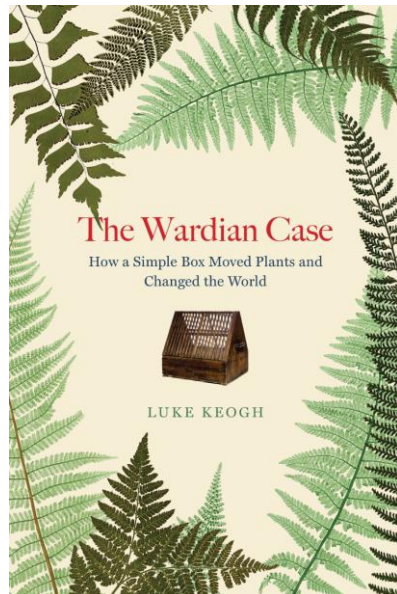
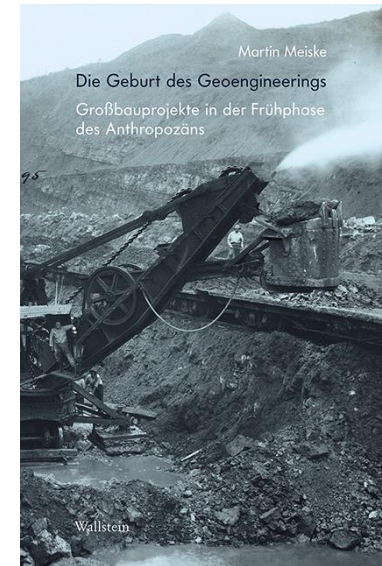
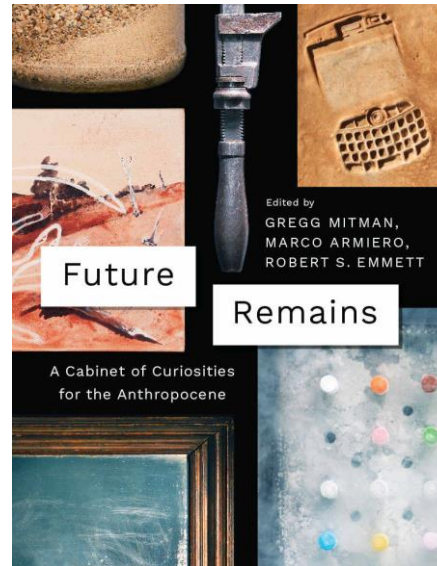
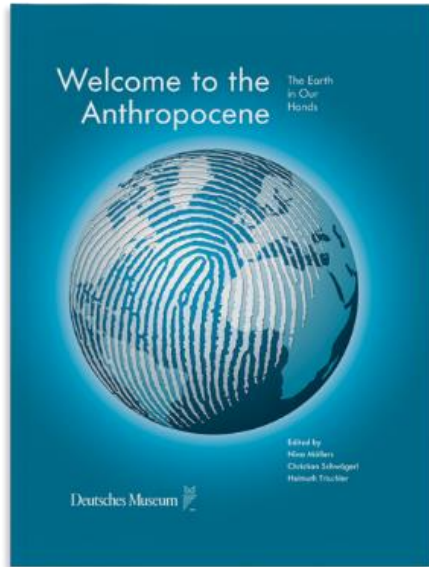
Epistemic Spiral: Exhibitions as Products and Generators of Scholarship – Sources of Input

- discussions with fellows at the Rachel Carson Center
- multiple workshops and conferences
- Anthropocene Campus
- debates with members of the Anthropocene working group
- participatory workshops with the public
- collaborative projects with partnering institutions worldwide (earthwide)

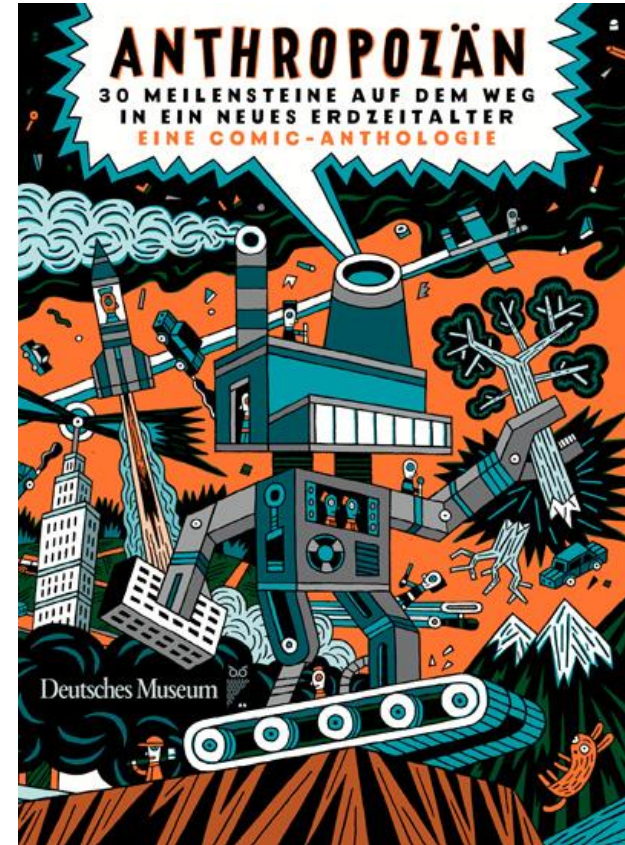
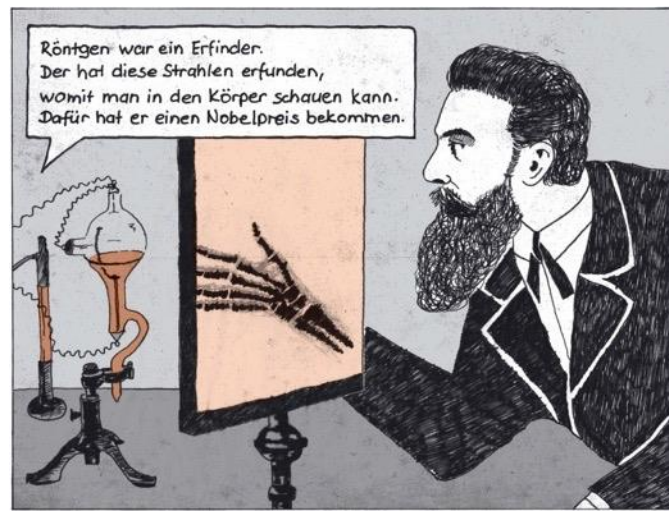
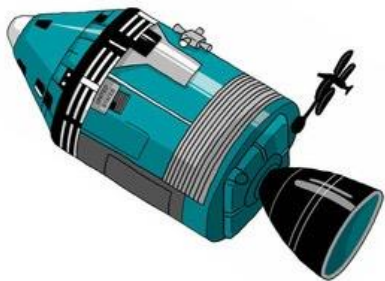
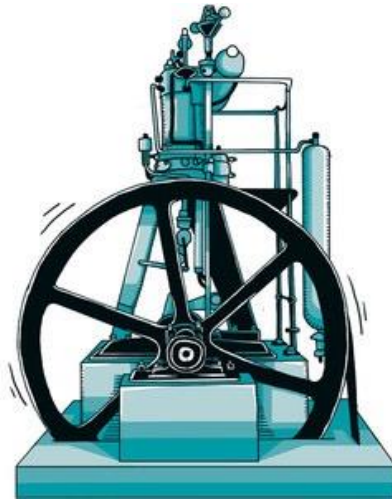
Epistemic Spiral: Exhibitions as Products and Generators of Scholarship – Outputs and Products

- *Museums and Climate Change* network: New York conference 2014, Munich conference 2015, etc.
- *Environmental Futures*-project jointly with KTH Stockholm and University of Wisconsin-Madison ==> *Anthropocene Slam* and *Anthropocene: A Cabinet of Curiosities*-exhibition and book
- numerous publications, including the exhibition catalogue, but also peer-reviewed articles
- innovative educational programs (graphic novel, lyrics festival)
- new strategic alliances (*Future Congress* with Federal Government, Club of Rome-lecture series, etc.)





Connecting the special exhibition with the permanent galleries through a graphic novel



Epistemic Spiral: Exhibitions as Products and Generators of Scholarship – New Ideas and Follow-up Projects

- Research group on *Practicing Evidence - Evidencing Practice*
- International Training Network *ENHANCE* and International Doctoral Program *Re-thinking the Environment*
- Numerous projects of RCC fellows on the Anthropocene
- Follow-up exhibition project on energy transitions at Deutsches Museum
- Munich Science Communication Lab on Planetary Health with Biotopia and Deutsches Museum as joint practice partners

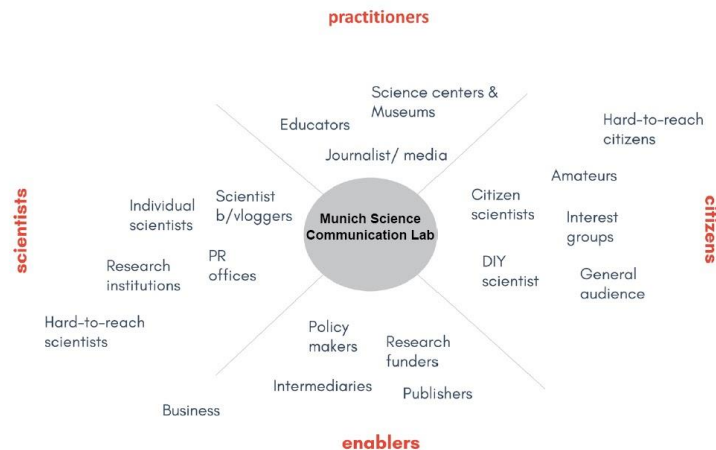


Launched in 2015: *Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health*

- Human health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked. Our civilization depends on human health, flourishing natural systems, and the wise stewardship of natural resources. With natural systems being degraded to an extent unprecedented in human history, both our health and that of our planet are in peril.



Munich Science Communication Lab on Planetary Health



Lessons learned

- The Anthropocene concept stimulates both (great) interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity.
- The Anthropocene asks for new narratives and new temporalities.
- The Anthropocene forces both academia and museums to leave their comfort zones and to critically reflect upon established concepts, practices, and institutional arrangements.
- In the framework of the Anthropocene boundaries – museum boundaries – become blurred, if not obsolete.
- The Anthropocene fosters inter-institutional collaborations.
- The public is not shying away from the complexity of the Anthropocene concept, if publics are addressed as responsible citizens.
- The Anthropocene can serve as a laboratory to experiment with new tools of communication and education in order to foster civic society and sustainability – or may even pave the way for a novel mode of knowledge production and communication, in other words: a new knowledge order.