

# **Analyzing Guided Tours of Natural History Museums: with the National Taiwan Museum Exhibition “Walking within Skeletons: Dinosaurs Coming!” as an Example**

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## **Abstract**

The Age of the Anthropocene represents a closer relationship between humans and the earth; natural history museums shoulder a heavy responsibility in this era, that is, to explain the effects of geological change and human activity. Guided tours in museums are a self-conscious and ambitious activity; museum guides and museum-trained volunteers act as persuasive communicators, while the audience acts as the receiver of a message. In the realization of communication, they may even exchange roles, building a connection between museums and the general public.

This article will use the guided tour of the National Taiwan Museum Land Bank Exhibition Hall permanent exhibition “Walking within Skeletons: Dinosaurs Coming!” as an example. This exhibition introduces the five most recent mass extinctions, displaying the enigmas of evolution through fossil records, in the hopes of the audience understanding how life is fragile, yet also brings into existence the variety and diversity of future generations. This essay will analyze the communication process, both language and non-language, and how museum guides interact with the audience through words and gestures, assisting in specific museum exhibition areas, increasing the audience’s curiosity and understanding of natural history, and at the same time shaping the uniqueness of natural history museums.

Keywords: Natural History Museums, Guided Tours, National Taiwan Museum, Museum Guides