Traces of engagement: Narrative-making practices with smartphones on a museum field trip

# Details

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## Sample

Two groups of three students were observed and video-recorded and their media productions were collected in Sweden.

## Implications For Educators About

Other

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

In this paper, we explore museum visitor learning through the examination of the engagement in narrative-making practices of school children while visiting a natural history museum. Two groups of children are given worksheets and encouraged to use their own mobile technologies to document their visits in relation to the subject of evolutionary mechanisms. Their engagement is occasioned through this worksheet and we show how they negotiate the interpretation of the task and then go on to complete it in quite different ways. We examine, in turn, how the students structure their visits with walking paths through the museum exhibitions, and how they structure the narratives they produce to complete the tasks by using the tools at hand and incorporating different parts of the exhibits.

# Outcome

"Visualizing the walking paths, time taken and media productionscreated to respond to task five of the worksheet, it is clear that the choices made by the students in terms of media modalities to use also had a distinct structuring influence on the ways the groups addressed the task, and on how they engaged with the scientific content of the exhibits. From these traces, we can see signs of how their understanding develops progressively and how the understanding is manifested in actions as they walk through the museum, engaging with the material of their exhibits." (Authors, in "Traces of Engagement")