

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION:

Conversations about the past, present and future of university museums

## University Natural History Museums: Portals of Discovery in the Anthropocene

*A conversation between:*

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Many of the world's great universities have natural history museums founded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Faculty curators are often called upon to justify the considerable expense associated with maintenance of the enormous collections under their care. The research and educational value of these collections reside in their wealth of identified biological specimens, collected from natural populations at known times and locations. That value compounds with time because they increasingly represent populations, species, biological communities and ecosystems that no longer exist. Using museum collections, modern scientists can in effect time travel by accessing otherwise unavailable genomic and ecological information from collection specimens that allow us to track change through time.

This ability has never been more needed: our impact on the planet's biota, climate and ecosystems is such that profound ecological change, AKA the Anthropocene, is upon us. University natural history museums can play a key role in documenting that change, determining its scope and, via online outreach, communicating results to a global audience. The value and potency of university-based natural history museums may be greater now than ever before.

**October 24, 2017, 6:30 pm**  
**West Conference Room (4th floor)**  
**Rackham Building**  
**915 E. Washington Street, Ann Arbor**

All events are free and open to the public.

For additional information visit <http://ummsp.rackham.umich.edu>

