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The Colossal Stranger

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

The Colossal Stranger. A Cultural History of Diplodocus carnegii, 1902-1913.

1. Popular culture exerts an under-appreciated formative influence on scientific choices and priorities.
2. Andrew Carnegie's philanthropic empire, including its contribution to the arbitration movement, was an outstanding success.
3. The almost universal neglect by natural history museums of their institutional history is due to the misconception that nature and culture are mutually exclusive categories.
4. The assumption that contemporary biodiversity issues may only be illustrated using extant animals and not fossil ones jeopardizes a proper appreciation of change and adaptability in nature throughout the history of life.
5. The dinosaur as a cultural phenomenon is a result of the masculine mind, and its history is profoundly gendered.
6. The evocative presentation and exploitation of dinosaurs common in modern museums oversimplifies the story of life, and in so doing undermines the future of paleontology as an academic discipline.
7. The classical music canon is in no way an accurate representation of the best music that has come to us through the centuries, but rather the combined result of historical contingencies, clever marketing, education and snobbery.
8. There is an inversely proportional relationship between the amount of time someone spends using public transport, and the amount of time they spend complaining about it.