



Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Societies: An Action Research Study in Nigeria

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Abstract

Public history and memory-making have become critical themes in post-conflict societies across Africa, including Nigeria. These processes are essential for reconciliation, healing, and societal development. An action research approach was employed, involving participatory workshops, interviews with stakeholders, and analysis of existing documentation. Data collection focused on narratives from survivors and historical accounts provided by local authorities. Participants emphasised the importance of involving diverse community groups in history projects to ensure accuracy and relevance. A notable theme emerged regarding the role of storytelling as a healing mechanism for both victims and perpetrators. The research underscores the efficacy of collaborative public history initiatives in fostering social integration and national unity among conflict-affected communities in Nigeria. Communities should be actively involved in creating historical narratives, while policymakers should support such projects through funding and policy frameworks that acknowledge community contributions to peacebuilding efforts. Public History, Memory-Making, Post-Conflict Societies, Nigeria

Keywords: *African geography, post-conflict society, community engagement, heritage management, oral history, qualitative methods, cultural preservation*

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