



Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Burundi: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Public history and memory-making have become significant in post-conflict societies as they seek to understand and move beyond past traumas. Burundi's recent history includes a period of civil war followed by political instability, which has left deep scars on the society. The research employs a comparative methodological approach, drawing from case studies of public history initiatives in post-conflict African societies, including Burundi. Data collection includes interviews with historians, community leaders, and members of civil society organizations involved in memory-making efforts, as well as analysis of historical documents and public records. Historical narratives developed by local communities often emphasise themes of resilience, unity, and national identity, reflecting the broader societal goals of healing from conflict. However, there is a notable theme of criticism towards former leaders and institutions that played significant roles in perpetuating violence. Public history initiatives have proven effective in fostering collective memory-making processes among post-conflict societies, but they also serve as platforms for addressing complex political issues such as accountability and justice. Future research should explore the long-term impacts of public history on societal cohesion and conflict resolution strategies. Additionally, there is a need to enhance community participation and engagement in historical narratives development processes.

Keywords: *African Studies, Memory-Making, Public History, Post-Conflict Societies, Oral History, Heritage Management, Trauma Studies*

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