



Public History as a Matrix for Memory-Making in Post-Conflict African Societies: A Theoretical Framework

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Abstract

{ "background": "Public History as a Matrix for Memory-Making in Post-Conflict African Societies: A Theoretical Framework explores how public history initiatives can serve as a framework for memory-making processes in post-conflict contexts, particularly in Cape Verdean society.", "purposeandobjectives": "The purpose of this article is to develop a theoretical framework that elucidates the role of public history in facilitating collective remembrance and reconciliation among communities affected by conflict. The objectives are to identify key elements within public history projects conducive to effective memory-making processes, analyse their impact on societal cohesion, and propose guidelines for practitioners.", "methodology": "This article employs a conceptual analysis approach, drawing from existing literature on public history, post-conflict recovery, and social memory studies in African contexts. The theoretical framework is developed through a review of relevant theories and case studies.", "keyinsights": "Public history initiatives have demonstrated effectiveness in shaping collective memories by engaging communities directly in the creation and preservation of historical narratives. A key insight from this analysis is that successful public history projects often involve active participation from diverse community sectors, such as local historians, educators, and community leaders, contributing to a more inclusive and authentic portrayal of events.", "conclusion": "The theoretical framework proposed offers a robust model for understanding how public history can be leveraged to support memory-making in post-conflict settings. It highlights the importance of inclusivity and active participation in historical narratives as catalysts for societal healing and collective identity formation.", "recommendations": "Practitioners should prioritise community engagement, authenticity, and diversity in their public history initiatives to ensure they contribute meaningfully to collective remembrance processes. Additionally, ongoing dialogue between historians and the broader community is essential for sustained memory-making efforts.", "keywords": "Public History, Memory-Making, Post-Conflict Societies, Cape Verde", "contribution_statement": "This article introduces a novel theoretical framework that bridges public history studies with post-conflict recovery literature, providing practical guidelines for practitioners aiming to facilitate effective memory-making in affected

Keywords: *Cape Verdean, Post-Conflict, Memory Studies, Public History, Heritage Preservation, Ethnography, Critical Theory*

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