



Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Rwanda: Negotiating Trauma Through Collective Narratives

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Abstract

Public history and memory-making have been pivotal in post-conflict societies like Rwanda, where historical narratives shape collective identity and societal healing. Employing ethnographic research methods to document the processes and outcomes of history education initiatives in post-conflict Rwanda, focusing on memory-making workshops and their impact on community dialogue. Public historians play a crucial role in facilitating communal healing by weaving together diverse oral histories and official records to create comprehensive narratives of national suffering and resilience. Policy-makers should invest more in professional training for public historians and support the establishment of archives dedicated to preserving Rwanda's complex historical heritage.

Keywords: *African Studies, Postcolonial Theory, Oral History, Memory Work, Commemoration Practices, Ethnography, Critical Pedagogy*

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