



# Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Liberia: An Ethnographic Study

Chantelle Gbowee<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Cuttington University

**Published:** 21 July 2011 | **Received:** 08 April 2011 | **Accepted:** 30 May 2011

**Correspondence:** [cgbowee@outlook.com](mailto:cgbowee@outlook.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18935296](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18935296)

## Author notes

*Chantelle Gbowee is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Cuttington University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Public history and memory-making are critical in post-conflict societies as they help communities heal from trauma and construct a shared narrative of their past. The research employs participant observation, in-depth interviews, and archival research methods within a post-conflict context in Liberia. Data collection was conducted over six months with a sample size of 25 community members, including museum staff and visitors. Participants highlighted the significance of personal narratives in shaping collective memory, with approximately 70% indicating that such narratives are crucial for understanding historical events. Public history initiatives play a vital role in Liberian society by fostering dialogue around past conflicts and helping individuals connect with their heritage. Further research should explore how these efforts impact intergenerational transmission of knowledge and values. Policy makers should invest more resources into public history projects to ensure they are accessible and inclusive, particularly for marginalized groups who may have been excluded from official historical accounts.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Oral History, Heritage Tourism, Memory Work, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Community Histories, Ethnographic Methods*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge