

Visitor Discourses of European Holocaust Heritage: A Netnography

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Abstract : This presentation will identify the key findings from a recent netnographic discourse analysis of social media content generated in response to visits to three iconic European Holocaust Heritage sites: Ann Frank's House in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum and Memorial in Poland, and the Jewish Museum in Berlin, Germany. Four major discourses are identified under the headings of Holocaust heritage as social memory, reactions to Holocaust heritage, obligation and ritual, and transgressive visitor behaviour. Together, these discourses frame the values, existential anxieties, emotions, priorities, and expectations of visitors. The findings will interest those involved in the planning and management of Holocaust heritage for tourism purposes since they provide unique access to an archive of unmediated visitor feedback on European Holocaust heritage experiences.

Keywords : foucault, european holocaust heritage, discourse analysis, netnography, social media, dark tourism

Conference Title : ICWTTI 2023 : International Conference on World Travel and Tourism Industry

Conference Location : Rome, Italy

Conference Dates : April 13-14, 2023