

ダークツーリズム： 命の尊厳への挑戦か，鎮魂の旅か

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Dark tourism: Is it a challenge to the dignity of humanity or a journey of requiescat?

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Abstract

Background : After the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, tourism to the quake hit zone has been promoted. As part of this promotion, the plan to remake the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plants as a tourist attraction of dark tourism is controversial. But the exploration of both the concept and impacts of dark tourism is still insufficient in Japan.

Method : Non-systematic, narrative review of literature concerning dark tourism.

Results : Though popular definitions of dark tourism are value neutral, dark tourism has serious ethical issues such as commodification of death while it has moralistic significance to respect sanctity of life. With the terror management theory (TMT) of sociopscho-thanatological perspective, dark tourism has a potential to provoke adoration of death paradoxically.

Conclusions : Though Janus-faced dark tourism might soften the resistance to the military affair or terroristic activity, we should not hesitate promoting dark tourism to enlighten the lay people on the ethical dimensions of humanity.

Key words

thanatology, memento mori, dual usage of death education

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