

広島・長崎・チェルノブイリから 福島・南アフリカへの旅

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A “dark tour” from Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Chernobyl toward Fukushima and South Africa

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Abstract

This essay provides a consideration about the commonalities of dual conflicting values both in “dark tourism” and in research involving human subjects, especially research in disaster situations. The author’s understanding of “dark tourism” can be described as a sightseeing tour to visit a site of a war tragedy, natural disaster, or massacre, etc., commemorating the victims, learning the history, evoking efforts in the future to prevent faults or mitigate effects of disaster. On the other hand, such a tour has unethical aspects as a junket to enjoy the sites of tragedy. This has a commonality with research involving humans, especially in a disaster situation. In such a case, one may observe victims in a disaster situation from the selfish interests of an observer, and makes use of humans for other purposes, this may cause infringement of human rights and human dignity.

Because of such conflicts, the Japanese community has not been well engaged in research in disaster situations, and as a result, they do not have a well developed ethical theory of research in disaster situations.

Meanwhile, people in developing countries have been often confronting disaster situations, and these vulnerable people have acquired robust ethical theories of research ethics towards the establishment of human rights and human dignity.

This essay will describe such a contrast between Japan and South Africa, as one example, through consideration of what happened in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombing; and the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear disasters; as well as author’s actual “dark tour” in South Africa, where people have overcome their notorious history of apartheid.

Key words

dark tourism, atomic bombing, nuclear power plant accident, ethics of research in disaster situations, South Africa

Rinsho Hyoka (Clinical Evaluation). 2017 ; 45 : 419-29.