Disaster Tourism and Rescue Selfies

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Disasters are Collective Representations

Collective Representation – Ideas that are given meaning by a group or society

Example: Death is natural and death is social

• Rules about what to say, not say
• What to do, not do
• How or when to pay respect
Disasters are Socially Constructed

Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann: social reality is constructed

What is appropriate and not appropriate during and after disasters

Versus
Disasters are Socially Constructed
Catastro-fun: recreational activities related to ongoing catastrophes such as natural disasters. Includes both appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.

Term coined in a play performed at UCB

Disasters as tourist sites, destinations
Photos next to danger
Inappropriate selfies related to disaster
Inappropriate reactions
From Selfie to Killfie (Dangerous Selfies)

This App Prevents Thrill-Seeking Selfie Takers From Dying (Hopefully)

Telling someone it’s dangerous when they’re already hanging off a skyscraper may not help save many lives.
Disaster, Death, and Tourism
"Social Character is not personality. Social Character is the more or less permanent organization of drives and satisfactions of an individual in a given society." – David Riesman from *The Lonely Crowd* (1950)
Social Character Types

Tradition Directed, Inner Directed, and Other Directed
Social Character types

• Tradition-directed: learning the rigid rules and roles of a society that values traditions, strong extended families. “Member of a clan, family, or tribe.” Primary emotion guiding social behavior is shame.

• Inner-directed: motivated from within by principles, guided towards goals. Thinks of oneself as an individual. Primary emotion guiding behavior is guilt.

• Other-directed: Predominant social character in USA, western Europe. Member of a group. Guided by the opinions of one’s peers (Yelp, Facebook, TripAdvisor, Angie’s List, etc.). Primary emotion guiding behavior is anxiety.
From Inner Directed to Other Directed

Versus
'INSTAGRAMMABILITY': MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR MILLENNIALS ON CHOOSING HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Instagram is more important than alcohol for today's young Brits.
Other Directed Tourism, Fun, and Disasters
The Dark Side to Other-Directedness

- Concern with belonging in a group, however...
- Consuming and manipulating friendships
- “...other-directed persons, in parent-child as in all other relationships, constantly resort to manipulation and counter manipulation.” (Riesman 53)
Dark Side of Other Directedness

Potentially toxic mix of
• Conspicuous Consumption (fun, food, attention)
• Peer Groups
• Social Media
• “Inside dopester”

How you can #SupportJapan - http://binged.it/fEh7iT. For every retweet, @bing will give $1 to Japan quake victims, up to $100K.

Here’s the text of that tweet:

How you can #SupportJapan – http://binged.it/fEh7iT. For every $1 to Japan quake victims, up to $100K.
More Dark Side of Other-Directedness
Summary of Introduction

• Different behaviors (rescue selfies, conspicuous donations, Killfies, inappropriate drone flying, other acts of catastro-fun) form an understandable, predictable pattern of behaviors.

• The pattern of behavior can be predicted and managed by understanding other-directed social character.
TOURISM | TOURIST
WHAT IS

DARK TOURISM?
PARTS OF DARK TOURISM:

Disaster tourism
Thanatourism
Tombstone tourism
Cemetery tourism
Holocaust tourism
Grief tourism
Genocide tourism
suicide tourism
war tourism
TYPES OF DISASTER TOURISTS:

VOLUNTEERS

RESEARCHERS

VISITORS
MOTIVATIONS FOR A DISASTER TOURIST

**Volunteer Tourist**
- Empathy
- Social-interest
- Authentic pride

**Disaster Tourist**
- Self-interest
- Hubristic pride
- Curiosity
The house with the green-framed windows was where Fred and Rose West once lived (Picture: File)
Binoculars at Israel's Quneitra viewpoint overlooking

Visitor posing for a picture at Auschwitz
People pose for the picture at the incident while television crew in the background
Manikarnika Ghat is one of the holiest among the sacred riverfronts, alongside the river Ganga, in the city of Varanasi.
The sight is frightening as there are more than 500 dead bodies coming on this Ghat daily! Yes, you read it right, daily.

This Ghat is considered as the ghat that brings you Salvation.

So people come with the corpse of their dear ones to get them cremated.

Around the ghat, you'll find noise of cries all the time. Also, there are many vendors selling the wooden logs to people for the same.

The sight is disturbing but worth watching once.

Hope people realise soon, the worth of wasting the natural resources and start using the electric crematory for the same process which takes a lot lesser time and is friendly to the nature.

Show less
See all 5 reviews by Janak S for Varanasi
Ask Janak S about Manikarnika Ghat

Thank Janak S

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.

Arunind T
India

Reviewed August 31, 2018

Cremation by Ganges

This is one of the ghats apart from Harishchandra where dead bodies are cremated by the river Ganges. You can watch this from a distance on a boat. Taking pictures is not recommended.

Thank Arunind T

SanjaiShukla
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Reviewed August 14, 2018

Cremation Place

This is a place for cremation of dead bodies. We can see the people cremating their beloved one's and offering prayers for their peace in heaven abode.

Thank SanjaiShukla

View more reviews
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ENCOURAGING DISASTER TOURISM

Culture directedness

- PRIMARY DISASTER TOURIST (INNER DIRECTED)
- SOCIAL MEDIA MOVIES PRIDE
- AUDIENCE (OTHER DIRECTED)
- LAW OF IMITATION TO ACQUIRE PRIDE
- SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE (MOTIVATING FACTOR)
Valeria Schexnayder, 65, a victim of Hurricane Katrina resides in the lower ninth street since 1964, she expresses her opinion on the tourists by saying “WORSE ARE THE CAMERAS, I FELT LIKE AN ANIMAL IN A ZOO”
THANK YOU
Bystander Activity and Managing Volunteers During Disasters

ERIKA WALKER
Bystander activity during times of disaster

Common assumptions of human behavior during a disaster

Many believe that individuals cease to act in a predictable manner.

They expect people to flee in panic

Suffer from psychological dependency

Disaster shock
The Media

The media has a way of exaggerating these human behaviors for a shock factor

Looting rarely happens

Price gauging is not a common act

And people rarely flee in a state of panic

Most people act rational and carefully think out their solution or plan of escape

This Unfortunately, is why some families tend to stay and not evacuate.
The Role Social Media Plays

In 2017, a 16 year old boy died while surfing during Hurricane Irma.

Behaviors such as swimming in flood waters, parasailing during dangerous Tropical Storms, and Surfing during a Hurricane are becoming a trend in the wake of a natural disaster.

Similar odd behaviors include the dangerous selfie trend.

Individuals are hanging off sides of cliffs, tall buildings and other dangerous situations just to take a selfie picture.

It's to get a reaction from those on social media.

Since 2011 more than 250 people have died from attempting to take these risky selfies and the number continues to rise.
Responders During Disasters

Responders come in waves

The first wave of responders are usually citizens and emergency personnel

These are regular people who are there to genuinely help victims

The Second Wave

Those who are there solely to document the damage and destruction caused by a disaster.

These people tend to be more selfish and only interested in the shock factor of a disaster for the media,
Managing Volunteers

Studies have proven that disaster volunteers who have been improperly trained can negatively affect the recovery process.

So how do we properly recruit, train, and manage volunteers for a disaster?

There are four phases of Emergency Management

Mitigation
Preparedness
Response
Recovery

Volunteers are apart of the 2 final phases
Recruitment

Recruiting volunteers involves enrolling volunteers for the local recovery process.

While recruiting we have to screen each individual.

In doing so we can prevent any person that uses the volunteering as a source to gain access to harm other individuals. Which could ultimately cause harm to the organization and recovery process.
Training

In the event of a sudden disaster taking place we have to involve spontaneous volunteers with hands on training.

Teach as we go

Those volunteers who are apart of certain Organizations such as Ameri Corps would have already had the appropriate training
Managing

Organization is key

Volunteering instructions are the first step

You must have role descriptions

Assign duties to certain individuals

Ensure that everyone understands their individual responsibilities

Coordinate with your local response officials

And ensure all volunteers have access to current information
References


References


