

CFP *From the European South*, 19, Fall 2026

Special Issue: *Dark Tourism in Colonial, Postcolonial and Decolonial Contexts: Topographies of Suffering, Narrative Constructions and the Consumption of Place(s)*

Guest Editors: Eleonora Federici (University of Ferrara) and Marilena Parlati (University of Padova)

From the European South invites submissions for a special issue dedicated to exploring dark tourism in colonial, postcolonial and decolonial contexts, with a particular focus on the role literature, language, museum culture and storytelling in general may have in representing, but also cordoning off, global topographies of suffering, such as sites of catastrophes, genocide, environmental change and neocolonial exploitation. The editors of this issue aim to critically examine the complex relationships between dark tourism and colonial legacies, postcolonial realities and imagined communities, and also the possibilities entailed by decolonization processes. We specifically seek contributions that analyze how dark tourism sites are experienced, consumed and represented, especially in relation to the Global South.

With reference to publications about dark tourism (Lennon and Foley, *Dark Tourism the Attraction of Death and Disaster* 2000; Sion, *Death Tourism Disaster as Recreational Landscape* 2014), we wish to analyse how sites associated with death and disaster (assassination, slavery, genocide, war, tragic events) become tourist attractions. Linguistic, visual and multimodal elements help to create a representation of these sites as places of memory, education, but also, quite controversially, leisure.

We are also interested in the ways in which the consumption of 'shadow zones' shapes these processes, both in the present and in a future-oriented perspective. We are aware that no singling out of 'one' memory is less than intensely debatable, since any past idea about national memory as cohesive and intrinsic has luckily often - although not everywhere - been dismantled. Thus, we would also welcome papers that help usher in discussions on the risk that memory sites (dark, in particular) may serve to reinforce overpowering 'invented traditions' and monolingual master narratives (see Derrida, *The Monolingualism of the Other* 1998).

We suggest a few potential areas of focus which include, but are not limited to:

- The influence of literature on the experience, interpretation and discursive representation of dark tourism sites
- The impact of colonial and postcolonial literatures on dark tourism site representation and vice versa
- The role of fiction and non-fiction in shaping visitor expectations and experiences
- Written narratives, on-site storytelling, multi-format (including digital) narratives in dark tourism
- Digital consumption of dark tourism places: virtual tours and social media representations
- Linguistic and multimodal strategies in tourism texts (on site texts; leaflets, brochures, websites, blogs, social media)

- The role of art and tourism discourse in commemorating and interpreting sites of trauma, also in relation to reconciliation processes
- Resistance, resurgence and/or reconciliation in dark tourism sites: mapping topographies of suffering in colonial and postcolonial contexts
- Tourism and postcolonial memory: the commodification of traumatic pasts, and the role of dark tourism in (postcolonial) nation-building and place branding
- Indigenous tourism and dark sites: negotiating consumption, sacredness, and resistance
- Shadow zones: Conflicting narratives and dissonant memories in colonial, postcolonial, decolonial dark tourism sites
- ‘Authenticity’ and staged experiences in colonial/postcolonial/neocolonial dark tourism sites
- Intergenerational transmission of guilt, shame, and responsibility through dark tourism
- Dissonant memories: managing, re-presenting, revisiting conflicting historical narratives
- Indigenous cosmologies and their integration in (or exclusion from) dark tourism narratives

We welcome contributions from various disciplines, including but not limited to: anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, geography, history, literary studies, media studies, museum and heritage studies, philosophy, political science, postcolonial studies, religious studies, sociolinguistics, sociology, translation studies, tourism studies, urban planning.

Please submit your abstract (500 words) and a brief bio note by Wednesday **1 October 2025** to both Eleonora Federici (eleonora.federici@unife.it) and Marilena Parlati (marilena.parlati@unipd.it).

Notification of acceptance will be communicated by Monday **1 December 2025**, with completed papers due **1 March 2026**.

FES 19 will be published in **Fall 2026**.

PLEASE NOTE

From the European South considers all proposals on condition that they are

- your own original work, and does not duplicate any other previously published work, including your own previously published work;
- follow the journal’s “Author’s Guidelines” closely[<https://www.fesjournal.eu/author-guidelines/>]; •not a translation (IT or EN) of an already published text;
- have been submitted only to FES; it is not under consideration for peer review or accepted for publication or in press or published elsewhere;
- contain nothing that is abusive, fraudulent, or illegal.

Reading List/Suggestions

- Lennon, J. J., M. Foley, *Dark Tourism: the Attraction of Death and Disaster*, New York, Continuum, 2000
- Bauman, Z., *Consuming Life*, London, Polity, 2007
- Binik, O., *The Fascination with Violence in Contemporary Society*, London, Palgrave, 2020
- Carrigan, A., Dark Tourism and Postcolonial Studies: Critical Intersections, *Postcolonial Studies*, vol. 17, 3, pp. 236-250
- Dann G., *The Language of Tourism. A Sociolinguistic Perspective*, Wallingford, CAB International, 1996
- Derrida, J., *The Monolingualism of the Other, or, The Prosthesis of Origin (Cultural Memory in the Present)*, Stanford, Stanford UP, 1998
- Hall, S. (ed.), *Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices*, London, Sage, 1997
- Hobsbawm, E., T. Ranger (eds), *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge UP, 2012
- Nora, P., Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire, *Representations*, Vol. 26, Special Issue: Memory and Counter-Memory (Spring 1989), pp. 7-24
- Sion, B., ed., *Death Tourism Disaster Sites as Recreational Landscape*, London, Seagull, 2014
- Stone, P. R., R. Hartmann, A. V. Seaton, R. Sharpley (eds), *The Palgrave Handbook of Dark Tourism Studies*, London, Palgrave, 2018
- Sturken, M., *Tourists of History: Memory, Kitsch, and Consumerism from Oklahoma City to Ground Zero*, Durham, Duke UP, 2007
- Urry, J., J. Larsen (eds), *The Tourist Gaze 3.0*, London, Sage, 2011
- White L., E. Frew (eds), *Dark Tourism and Place Identity*, London, Routledge, 2013