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SOUTH AFRICANS COMMEMORATING IN POLAND: MAKING MEANING THROUGH PARTICIPATION

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ABSTRACT

This research report focuses on the issues for participation in public memory projects, in the light of counter-monument critiques of audiences being 'rendered passive'. Interviews with people who went on the 2005 *March of the Living* tour to Holocaust sites in Poland and then to Israel have been analysed in terms of themes and processes of meaning-making. The written text of some of the material provided to them is also analysed.

Meanings in the interviews notably occupied two discursive spaces that seem at odds with each other. The first was the discourse around what is a good way to memorialise – particularly when the memory is one of such enormity as the Holocaust. The second is the discourse around tolerance education – how do we 'learn lessons' from the Holocaust?

The issues for heritage interpretation and tolerance education are explored.

Key words
Holocaust memory
Public memory and participation
March of the Living
Tolerance education
Heritage interpretation
Memory and meaning making
South African Jews
Memorialisation
Jewish identity
Human rights education