

Critical Tourism Studies Proceedings

Volume 2017

Article 32

2017

Loss and Travel: A Critical Review of Literature

Uditha Asankula Ramanayake

University of Waikato, New Zealand, rmuar1@students.waikato.ac.nz

Cheryl Cockburn-Wooten

Alison McIntosh

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.library.tru.ca/cts-proceedings>

 Part of the [Tourism and Travel Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ramanayake, Uditha Asankula; Cockburn-Wooten, Cheryl; and McIntosh, Alison (2017) "Loss and Travel: A Critical Review of Literature," *Critical Tourism Studies Proceedings*: Vol. 2017 , Article 32.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.library.tru.ca/cts-proceedings/vol2017/iss1/32>

This Abstract is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ TRU Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Critical Tourism Studies Proceedings by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ TRU Library. For more information, please contact kgaynor@tru.ca.

Title: Loss and Travel: A Critical Review of Literature

Author: Uditha Ramanayake¹, Cheryl Cockburn-Wootten¹, & Alison J. McIntosh²

Affiliation: University of Waikato¹; Auckland University of Technology²

Contact: rmuar1@students.waikato.ac.nz

Session Type: Presentation

Abstract:

Loss is a universal human experience that every person encounters (Hooyman & Kramer, 2008). In our life journey, loss comes in many forms, including suffering the death of a loved one, living with chronic illness, facing disabilities, giving birth to a child with disabilities, separation, being abused, unemployment, and many others. Even positive changes such as relocation, career movement, or retirement may also bring feelings of loss (Bozarth, 1994). Additionally, this all coincides with changes relating to aging, both physical and mental well-being (Kazeminia, Del Chiappa, & Jafari, 2015). These changes signal the reality of significant losses, which are often viewed negatively, affecting their experiences and inclination to travel (Nimrod & Rotem, 2010). Specifically, many scholars neglect that, for some, loss can prompt positive reflection of their own mortality, existence, and purpose, which may (re)shape their travel experiences (Eisenhandler, 2005). Additionally, how loss can be shaped by both context and historical, personal significant life events has not been considered. This paper aims to critically review these issues within the tourism literature to ascertain how loss is conceptualised and understood in relation to its impact for travel. Overall, we endeavour to situate tourism and loss within a perspective that acknowledges humane, emotional, and existential lived experience.

References:

- Bozarth, A.R. (1994). *Life is goodbye, life is hello: Grieving well through all kinds of loss*. Hazelden Publishing.
- Eisenhandler, S.A. (2005). Religion is the finding thing. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 45(1–2), 85–103.
- Hooyman, N.R., & Kramer, B.J. (2008). *Living through loss: Interventions across the life span*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Kazeminia, A., Del Chiappa, G., & Jafari, J. (2015). Seniors' travel constraints and their coping strategies. *Journal of Travel Research*, 54(1).
- Nimrod, G., & Rotem, A. (2010). Between relaxation and excitement: Activities and benefits gained in retirees' tourism. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 12(1), 65–78.