

# **Exhibition Methods in Difficult Heritage Museums and Its Psychological Effects on Recipients (visitors)**

## **Abstract**

Difficult Heritage is a concept which is synonymous to heritage that hurts, heritage of atrocity and places of pain or shame. Difficult heritage sites are places and institutions “that stand as legacy to painful periods in history, massacre and genocide sites, places related to former penal institutions, prisoners of war, battle fields and many more.” Difficult heritage sites management is a structured activity which supports a meaningful and holistic experience for visitors within the context of diverse and complex services scapes.

The aim of this study is to increase the understanding of how difficult heritage of the past is expressed within museum management in Britain and apply it in Iraq, in order to fulfill this purpose, four research questions have been formulated: what are the methods/ways used in the exhibition? What is the relationship between the displayed matter and the exhibition style? What are the exhibition methods that achieve the greatest possible sympathy for the recipient or visitor? What is the relationship between the psychology of Exhibition and displaying methods?.

The study assumes that in order to answer these practical questions, you need to reveal the dimensions of the difficult heritage that need to be highlighted and clarified, and here we mean genocide and atrocities, and we also need to abandon ideological methods in presenting the difficult heritage.

In this research project, I aim to examine models and best practices in developing collections for and displaying difficult heritage (especially, genocide) in the UK to transfer to Iraq. This involves field visiting and analyzing War and Holocaust Museums and Centers and Institutions on Genocide Studies and talking to UK experts (such as those in your center and also museums) on best practices for developing collections and curating exhibitions involving difficult heritage and genocide. In the 2nd part of my research, I will analyze and contextualize those strategies/ways for developing genocide collections and curating genocide exhibitions in Iraq.

This study is required, as well as academic need, from important Iraqi institutions, we have official support from the General Authority for Iraqi Antiquities, the Directorate of Mass Graves in the Iraqi Martyrs Foundation as well as the need to establish museums for the difficult heritage in southern and northern Iraq to preserve the Iraqi memory in the marshes, Kurdistan and cemeteries Collectivism and all kinds of difficult heritage, whether before ISIS or after ISIS.

## **Philosophy of Exhibition in museums (sympathy and understanding)**

The exhibitions of difficult heritage in museums, for example genocide, have two aspects: The first is materiel which exhibited itself, and the other is semantic or moral related to the ability to achieve the goal of the exhibiting which is evoke a great deal of human sympathy with the victims. That is what we will call the subjective aspect.

We can give an example of the apriority of the subjective aspect of the objective one :when we see a dead child during the shelling, the result that will be arise, it is a spontaneous reaction to the phenomenon, it is an objection against injustice. Then we try to justify our position by study history and cultural activities. In other words, the effect preceded the inference.