

## Dark tourism and memorial tourism: Nexus and divergences between theoretical models

David González Vázquez<sup>1\*</sup>

Received: 18/12/2017 Accepted: 08/05/2018

<sup>1</sup>Assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Education at the University of Barcelona, Department of Applied Didactics and fellow member of the Research Group on Didactics of Heritage; Project manager at the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM)– University of Barcelona’s Solidary Foundation Address : Passeig de la Vall d’Hebron, 171. Universitat de Barcelona. Facultat d’Educació. Edifici Llevant, despatx 120. Barcelona, Spain. Email: david.gonzalez@ub.edu

\*Corresponding author      **Abstract**      In the context of the huge diversification in the field of cultural heritage, there are nowadays many touristic places whose main appeal lies in the connection with tragic events. Beyond the scope of cultural tourism, it may be confusing to classify them due to the extraordinary richness and heterogeneity of the different types of tourism as typified by tourism science. Thus, the scientific community uses several labels to name the tourism practices carried out in touristic places linked to tragedy. Among the many, it is worth pointing out dark tourism and memorial tourism, not only because of their undeniable academic impact, but also because of the media relevance gained. This article deals with the problems faced when it comes to determining the boundaries of what may be considered dark tourism or memorial tourism. After a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical contributions regarding both models, what is most relevant is why and in which contexts one term or the other is used.

© 2018 Varna University of Management. All rights reserved

**Keywords:** Dark tourism, thanatourism, memorial tourism, memorial heritage, dissonant heritage

**Citation:** González, D. (2018) Dark tourism and memorial tourism: Nexus and divergences between theoretical models. *European Journal of Tourism Research* 20, pp. 46-58