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Summary

Tourist against abandoned heritage.

Tourist experience of Poles in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

The aim of this dissertation is to show the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (CEZ) as a place which, despite the contamination of the area, functions as a tourist attraction, which means that, contrary to appearances, the CEZ cannot be treated as an abandoned place. Using the theoretical framework of tourism anthropology and heritage studies, a hypothesis was put forward that tourists, through the desire to protect the deteriorating city of Pripyat, take an active part in the interpretation of heritage. Moreover, through their tourist experience, they contribute to changing the image of Chernobyl from a post-catastrophic place into a space perceived, on the one hand, as a place of remembrance and, on the other hand, as an "amusement park". The project was divided into three stages. In the first one - an imaginary journey, the motivations of Polish tourists going to Chernobyl were analyzed through by questionnaires, the second stage - an experienced journey, during which, by means of participant observation and qualitative interviews with respondents, a description of tourist behaviour in the Zone was made, and the third stage - a remembered journey, in which an analysis of tourist souvenirs and blog entries on websites was carried out. Through the prism of a case study, the project illustrates the relationship between culture, heritage and memory against inevitable commercialization and virtualization, which allows to take an innovative look at the already classic issues of cultural studies.

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