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Loss and Travel: A Critical Review of Literature

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Title: Loss and Travel: A Critical Review of Literature

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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.

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