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# Exhibiting Atrocity

Memorial Museums and the Politics of Past Violence

by Amy Sodaro

## DESCRIPTION

**Honorable Mention, 2021 Outstanding First Book Award from the Memory Studies Association**

Today, nearly any group or nation with violence in its past has constructed or is planning a memorial museum as a mechanism for confronting past trauma, often together with truth commissions, trials, and/or other symbolic or material reparations. *Exhibiting Atrocity* documents the emergence of the memorial museum as a new cultural form of commemoration, and analyzes its use in efforts to come to terms with past political violence and to promote democracy and human rights.

Through a global comparative approach, Amy Sodaro uses in-depth case studies of five exemplary memorial museums that commemorate a range of violent pasts and allow for a chronological and global examination of the trend: the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC; the House of Terror in Budapest, Hungary; the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre in Rwanda; the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago, Chile; and the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York. Together, these case studies illustrate the historical emergence and global spread of the memorial museum and show how this new cultural form of commemoration is intended to be used in contemporary societies around the world.

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## AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

AMY SODARO is an associate professor of sociology at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, The City University of New York. She is coeditor of *Memory and the Future: Transnational Politics, Ethics and Culture*.

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