

Steven D. Reece

From: Jay Osborn <jay.osborn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 15:41
To: Steven D. Reece
Cc: Marla Raucher Osborn
Subject: Re: My Dissertation

Steven, it has taken me a while to start your thesis, and I can only read it on odd nights (you can take that as a compliment :) but I am well into it now; thank you for letting us know about its availability. And thank you very much for the kind note in the Acknowledgments section; that was very sweet. :)

The newspaper I read most (the Times) recently had an article on "long, absorbing books to get you through your vacation"; we don't have a solid idea of what is meant by this word "vacation", but your thesis is certainly a long, absorbing book. :) I decided not to skip over the middle chapters as you suggested and am at the head of chapter 4 now; you may be surprised to learn that I've already digitally highlighted a number of passages and references you quote in chapters 2 and 3. As for almost everything these days, I read with mercenary intent, i.e. how we can use what we read for our own projects. So you should not be surprised if a part of your work shows up somewhere in something we write up ahead for our websites; I hope you don't feel used. :)

Given the "free" time we have, I don't expect to finish your thesis soon, but when I do I will write again with some remarks. It has already been enjoyable to read the first few chapters; your writing style makes it feel like we have you in the room with us, and that's very nice indeed. :)

So, sorry for the delay but shabbat shalom backatcha two weeks later, a Merry Christmas to you and Deborah, and a big hug from Lviv, Jay (and Marla)

On Mon, Dec 9, 2019 at 4:52 PM Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

>
> Thank you for your comments! FYI. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska was the external reader and one of the signers of my dissertation. It was quite an honor to have her on my committee and to receive her comments about and her endorsement of my work.

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> From: Marla Raucher Osborn <marla.r.osborn@gmail.com>
> Sent: Saturday, December 7, 2019 04:21
> To: Steven Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org>
> Cc: Jay Osborn <jay.osborn@gmail.com>
> Subject: Re: My Dissertation

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> Thanks, have gone through Chapters 1 & 6 as you suggested, but I do
> plan to skim through the others....but before then, my favorite portion, and a quote from a dear friend and wonderful academic, used by you on p53 under "The Importance of the Jewish Cemetery" - Annamaria Orla-Bukowska:
> "With so few direct [Jewish] heirs remaining, the physical and spiritual legacy of centuries of . . . coexistence had to be bequeathed upon the society as a whole" (p. 198). Subsequently, she determines that the Polish people became heirs of Jewish heritage, with "a right to benefit from alongside a responsibility to care for this inheritance" (p. 198). Thus, she

views “the contributions of Polish non-Jews to Polish Jewish life” working in two dimensions: the first encompasses “efforts to restore and conserve the physical legacy (e.g., synagogues and cemeteries)” and the second entails “contributions of a psycho-spiritual type (e.g., tracing Jewish contributions to Poland’s history and culture, as well as commemorating Holocaust events)”

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> Certainly mirrors our own feelings on the topic, and of course has cross-border implications for our work in Rohatyn. Thank you for quoting her, in this passage.

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> Warm regards and congratulations again,

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> Marla

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> P.S. Shabbat shalom!

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> On Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 5:23 PM Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

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> Yes. A book will follow at some point! I am looking forward to hearing from you.

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> Blessings,

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> Steven

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> From: Marla Raucher Osborn <marla.r.osborn@gmail.com>

> Sent: Friday, December 6, 2019 10:21

> To: Steven Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org>

> Cc: Jay Osborn <jay.osborn@gmail.com>

> Subject: Re: My Dissertation

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> Thank you, downloaded (429 pages, OMG) - and I will try to read this weekend!

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> On Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 5:19 PM Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

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> Dear Jay and Marla,

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> You both continue to do excellent work. I am amazed at what you are doing!

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> I have finally finished my revisions to my dissertation following my successful defense. I have “published” it, which means that it is available electronically for you (and others) to download and read. You may access it by following the link to the Digital Commons @ Andrews University. You may also find it on Google Scholar, or ProQuest. I should finish all my remaining coursework and graduate in May.

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> In my dissertation, I mention you both at the end of my acknowledgments. Marla, I cite you anonymously one or two times. I cite a quote from Jay using a pseudonym, Rowan (2 times). I cite one of Jay’s publications/blog posts from Rohatyn Jewish Heritage regarding his observations from working in the Nasielsk Jewish cemetery and Jewish cultural heritage.

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> As far as reading the dissertation, I would recommend that you read Chapters 1 at the very least and then Chapter 6 which contains a discussion of the findings along with conclusions and recommendations. Chapters 2 and 3 are mechanical and deal with the academic literature and my methodology. Chapters 4 and 5 are my findings concerning my two research questions: How have Jews and Christians responded to the work of The Matzevah Foundation, and in what ways do Jews and Christians learn to dialogue? Chapter 6, consequently is my interpretation of the findings.

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> Please let me know what you think when you get a chance.

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> Shabbat Shalom,

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> Steven

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