

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

Consent Form for Participation in Research Study

Andrews University

Department of Leadership
PhD Leadership Program
Berrien Springs, Michigan

Research activity

You are being asked to take part in a case study of The Matzevah Foundation regarding its work of caring for and restoring Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Participants in this research study focus group will be interviewed in a private location in Poland or the United States.

What the study is about

The purpose of this study is to explore elements of Jewish-Christian dialogue as demonstrated and encountered through the work of The Matzevah Foundation in caring for and restoring Jewish cemeteries in Poland. The principal aims of this study are two-fold: to understand firstly how have Jews and Christians responded to the work of The Matzevah Foundation and secondly to describe in what ways Jewish-Christian dialogue (or lack thereof) have been influenced by mutual cooperation in caring for Jewish cemeteries in Poland.

What you are being asked to do

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be interviewed in the context of a small group of people or what is known as a focus group. In the focus group interview, the group will be asked a series of open-ended questions about what they (you) have encountered or experienced in their (your) work or association with The Matzevah Foundation. You are free to answer these questions as you wish. The interview will last no longer than one and a half hours.

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

With your permission and the permission of the focus group, the interview will be recorded electronically using a digital audio recorder.

Potential risks and discomforts

For the most part, there will be no physical risks associated with this study. Every effort has been made to conduct the interview for the focus group in a comfortable setting and at a time that is convenient for you. During the course of the interview you may experience some emotional or psychological discomfort as you recall details from past encounters or experiences with anti-Semitism, racism, hatred, or other issues that may emerge from your interaction with the legacy of the Shoah (Holocaust), Jewish-Christian interaction, and/or the work of The Matzevah Foundation. If during the focus group interview, you or anyone becomes visibly distressed, upset, or unable to continue the interview, the interview will be terminated. If at any time during the course of the interview you or anyone else in the focus group feels unreasonably stressed, uneasy, or unable to continue, you or the focus group may choose to end the interview. According to the legal policy of Andrews University, the following must be provided:

In the unlikely event of injury resulting from this research, Andrews University is not able to offer financial compensation nor to absorb the costs of medical treatment. However, assistance will be provided to research subjects in obtaining emergency treatment and professional services that are available to the community generally at nearby facilities. My signature below acknowledges my consent to voluntarily participate in this research project. Such participation does not release the investigator(s), sponsor(s) or granting agency (ies) from their professional and ethical responsibility to me.

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

If you feel that you have experienced any psychological discomfort, you may contact Dr. Robin Park via phone or email for further assistance. Dr. Park is a board certified psychiatrist and may be reached by telephone at (314) 991-1033 or via email at office@sparrowps.com.

Potential benefits to participants and/or society

By participating in this study, you or this focus group will not benefit directly; however, your participation and the participation of the focus group at large may enrich you and other focus group members indirectly as you consider and respond reflectively to questions posed by this study. Collectively speaking, this study may potentially benefit both the Jewish and the Christian communities by discovering and elucidating elements and/or concepts concerning the potential transformation of assumptions and perceptions encountered within the Jewish and Christian communities directed toward “the other” and may lead to new pathways, expand avenues, or open new approaches to Jewish-Christian dialogue. Consequently, this study may lead to new possibilities in Jewish-Christian interaction, which may potentially allow forgiveness and possibly reconciliation to emerge beyond the level of contemporary, institutional, or interfaith dialogue.

Compensation

You will not be compensated in any way for your participation in the focus group for this study. You are agreeing to participate in this study out of your own goodwill.

Your answers will be confidential

Since you are being interviewed in the context of a focus group, other people are present, who will hear your responses. For this reason, no guarantee of confidentiality may be expected. Consequently the members of this focus group will know how you responded to the interview

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

questions and will form their own conclusions apart from this study. They may be able to identify you in future reports according to your responses and for this reason no guarantee complete confidentiality may be expected. Nevertheless, the nature of this study involves group discovery, which means that the emphasis will be placed upon what the group says instead of individual responses. This does not mean however that some individual responses will not be cited but may be used as illustrative examples to explain or support conclusions.

All data, notes, and records resulting from this focus group interview conducted as a part of this study must be kept private and confidential for a period of three years. Your answers along with the answers of the group will be kept confidential at all times.

Otherwise, when transcribing the interview, pseudonyms will be used as a means to identify you and the members of this focus group. Your responses or data will not be linked to you or the group personally.

Research notes and field records will be securely stored in a locked file cabinet. Electronic data in the form of audio recordings and transcriptions will be stored on a password protected hard drive and will be backed up and stored using the password protected, cloud service known as DropBox. These materials will be stored for three years.

Taking part in this study is voluntary

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your refusal to to participate in this study will involve no penalty. You may discontinue your participation in this study at any time without penalty and there will no change in the relationship with any of the organizations involved.

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

If you have questions

The person conducting this study is Steven D. Reece, who is a candidate for the PhD in Leadership at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. If you have any questions, please ask them at this time. Steven will be glad to answer your questions. If you have questions at a later time, you contact Steven D. Reece by email at sdreece@matzevah.org or by phone 404-663-2383. You may also send him a letter to his mailing address:

Steven D. Reece
6884 Tilton Lane
Atlanta, GA 30360

If you wish to talk to one of Steven D. Reece's advisors you may either contact Dr. Erich Baumgartner, who is the Coordinator for the PhD Leadership Program of the Department of Leadership at Andrews University by email at baumgart@andrews.edu or by phone at 269-471-2523 or you may contact Dr. Shirley A. Freed, who is Professor Emerita of Leadership and Qualitative Research at Andrews University by email at freed@andrews.edu or by phone at 269-471-4939.

The Institutional Review Board of Andrews University has reviewed my request to conduct this study. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Andrews University at 269-471-6361 or by email at irb@andrews.edu. For further information and to learn more about the research process at Andrews, you may access the university's IRB's website at http://www.andrews.edu/services/research/research_compliance/institutional_review/.

Please note that you will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.

The Third Space: The Meeting of Jew and Christian in the Act of Remembering, Restoring and Reconciling - A Case Study of The Matzevah Foundation

Statement of consent

I have read the above information provided to me in this form. I have been able to ask questions and receive answers to any questions that I may have had. Therefore, I consent to take part in the study by interviewed today.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Your Name (printed) _____

In addition to agreeing to participate, I also consent to having the interview recorded electronically using a digital audio recorder.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of person obtaining consent _____ Date _____

Printed name of person obtaining consent _____ Date _____

This consent form will be kept by the researcher for at least three years beyond the end of the study.