

David Resnick

Humanizing the Enemy: A Case Study in Jewish Moral Education

Educating for humane values in the face of ongoing ethnic, national, and/or religious conflict is surely one of the great challenges of our time. Many religious traditions embrace universal values, but how to maintain those values in the heat of conflict is the crux of the educational challenge. The weight of tradition is one such maintenance factor, but those same traditions sometimes include texts with flawed moral messages from a contemporary point of view (e.g. sexism and ethnocentrism). This problem is examined through the case of the Beautiful Captive of war (Deuteronomy 21:10-14). A moral dilemma is generated by contradictory ethical stands within the Jewish tradition regarding the captive's rights, between which students have to choose. It is the dilemma within the tradition itself which is the engine for moral development. This dilemma is explored in the context of a kind of religious education which strives for *critical commitment to sacred tradition*. That kind of education is analyzed for its roots in self-persuasion (E. Aronson), moral agency in varying social settings (A. Bandura), and an educational philosophy based on norms and conscience (T. Green). Other issues touched on are international human rights, the relationship of abstract moral vignettes to real-life situations and behavior, and the relationship of religious to moral education.

David A. Resnick

Academic Background

1968	B.A. in Psychology	University of California Los Angeles
1970	M.A. in Hebrew Literature	Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTSA)
1977	Ph.D. in Psychology	Columbia University
	Dissertation topic: <i>The Development of Children's Comprehension of Proverbs</i>	

Employment

1978-1981	Assistant Professor of Education and Acting College Dean, JTSA	
1981-1983	Project Director, Oxtoby-Smith, Inc. (New York City market research firm)	
1983- present	Jewish Education Service of North America, Inc. (New York City)	
	Acting Executive Vice-President	1984-1986
	Israel Representative	1986-
1987-present	School of Education, Bar-Ilan University, Israel	
	Lecturer	1989-1997
	Senior Lecturer	1997-

Honors & Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association
Frankforter Prize for Educational Research (Bar-Ilan University)
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

Conference Chairmanships

Research Network in Jewish Education	Jerusalem 1998
Minority Education in Pluralistic Democracies	Bar Ilan University 1998
Minority Education in the "New" Middle East Studies, Jerusalem 2001	Institute for Advanced

Selected Publications

"Esther's Bulimia: Diet, Didactics, and Purim Paideia" *Poetics Today*, 1994, 15(1), 75-88.
"Strictly Subversive – Films of False Liberation" *Comparative Education Review*, 1996, 40(2), 204-211.
"Jewish Multicultural Education: A Minority View" *Religious Education*, 1996, 91(2), 209-221.

"Jekyll and Hyde in the Classroom: A Comparative Case Study of Educational Failure"
International

Review of Education, 1996, 42(1-3), 227-241.

"Film Images of Private Schools", *Journal of Educational Thought*, 2000, 34(1), 73-91.

"A Meaningful but Modest Positive Psychology" *American Psychologist*, 2001, 56(1), 78.