

Acknowledgments

Writing this book was a very long journey. It began with an article I published in 2010 about “violent dialogue” in Palestine/Israel, followed by a substantial development, elaboration, and refinement of my arguments in this book. There are many obstacles to writing a book: time, resources, a scholarly field’s receptivity to one’s ideas, and so on. But as countless others have indicated before me, *doubt* is the book author’s most formidable nemesis. Throughout the writing process, the force of doubt was ever present. I managed to keep it in the background for the most part, but when it came to the fore, there was little I could do beyond taking some time off from the manuscript, gathering myself, building up my defences, and then re-engaging with the material once more, until doubt came back to the fore, and on it went. Doubt can be made to retreat, but it never leaves once and for all. My greatest inspiration for moving forward in the face of doubt was the prospect of “doing something” about the suffering endured by so many people around the world, but especially in Palestine/Israel. It was the prospect of shedding new light on the problem of political violence that inspired me to carry on. I don’t know how much new light this book has managed to shed, and most troubling for me, I’m not sure that it will make even a very small difference for those who suffer political violence. But I simply felt that it was my duty to try to write something meaningful and impactful. And if and when this particular effort fails, I will simply continue to carry on with my duty to try to do something.

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