

## BRIEFLY NOTED

**JACKIE FELDMAN.** *A Jewish Guide in the Holy Land: How Christian Pilgrims Made me Israeli* (Indiana: University of Indiana Press, 2016). Pp. 205. \$28.00 paper. ISBN 9780253021373.

In *A Jewish Guide in the Holy Land* anthropologist and professional tour guide Jackie Feldman draws on his own experience guiding Christian pilgrims in Israel to explore the effects of tourism on a contested landscape. He examines two primary themes throughout the book: the relationship between Christian pilgrims and local tourism workers, and the construction of religious sites in Israel by visitors. Feldman argues that interactions with Christian pilgrims allow local tourism workers to explore aspects of their personal and religious identities that might otherwise be fixed. This argument is based largely on an autoethnographic analysis of Feldman's own experience navigating his identity as a Jewish American immigrant to Israel and a Jewish guide for Christian pilgrims. Feldman also explores the construction of meaning at tourist sites in Israel, which often host multiple historical, political and religious narratives. He argues that Christian pilgrims have a specific method of taking in sites that uses carefully selected vantage points to highlight one specific interpretation of a site that resonates with their narrative. This book is divided into seven chapters, each of which explores a discrete aspect of Christian pilgrimage in Israel, including: tourism work and identity; the shared history of Christianity and Judaism in Israel; interactions between tour guides and Christian religious leaders; the intersection of religion and politics in Zionist and Palestinian solidarity tours; Christian religious values in material exchanges of souvenirs; and touristic expectations. Feldman explores all of these topics through the lens of his own encounters with Christian religious tourists and with Jewish and Arab tourism workers in Israel. Overall, Feldman argues that there is room in Israel for multiple historic and religious narratives through diverse touristic interpretations of historical sites. While tourists often come to the "Holy Land" with an idea of what they will find there, encounters between Christian pilgrims

and tourism workers can be a way for guides to navigate, perform, and explore their own identities. ✂

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