

I am currently a candidate in the PhD program in theological studies offered conjointly by the University of St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto. My area of research is historical theology, specifically Jewish-Christian relations focusing on the 19th to 21st century with special attention to the Holocaust. I am interested in the encounter between Judaism and Christianity within the context of the Second World War (before and after), and in particular the history of Christian anti-Judaism and the revisions to Catholic theology that follow. One such revision can be found in the Second Vatican Council's document entitled *Nostra aetate* — the "Declaration on the Relation of the Church to non-Christian Religions." Leading up to the finalized version of *Nostra aetate*, there was discussion concerning the dangers associated with the anti-Judaic terms of "deicide" (i.e. the Jewish people killed Jesus Christ) and "supersessionism" (i.e. Christianity supersedes Israel as God's chosen people); and although article four of *Nostra aetate* does not directly repudiate these claims, the sentiment following the Council is that of the need to rid Catholic theology of religious language that is harmful towards the Jewish community. In the years following Vatican II, the relationship between Christianity and Judaism strengthened greatly. However, work still remains to be done. It is important that scholarship continue to dedicate significant attention in order to address effectively the questions posed in the relationship between Judaism and Christianity.

As a third-year doctoral candidate, I have successfully completed my coursework, language requirements, general examinations and thesis proposal which has allowed me to begin researching and writing my dissertation. The research project I am pursuing is, "**The Development and Influence of Gregory Baum's Theological Thought on the Post-Vatican II Relationship Between Christians and Jews in Canada and Internationally.**" This topic was recommended to me by distinguished scholar and Jewish theologian Dr. David Novak.

Context: Gregory Baum was the child of a German Jewish family who immigrated to Canada in 1939. Today, he is considered by many to be a world-renowned Canadian scholar, Catholic theologian and expert in Jewish-Christian relations. In his capacity as an official advisor at Vatican II, Baum was one of the authors of an early document entitled *Quaestiones de Judaeis*, which would later become *Nostra aetate* (Attridge 2007, 9). During the four years of the Council that followed, he continued to play a central role in its development. Following Vatican II, he committed himself to working for the reform of the Roman Catholic Church's teaching and preaching about Jews and Judaism. The Jewish origin of his family had now acquired significance for Baum — the consciousness of his Jewish roots impelled him to wrestle against the Church's anti-Jewish rhetoric (Baum 2018, 32).

Objectives: To date, there exists no extensive scholarly works or dissertations directly on this topic. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of this research project is to bring Baum's theological thought on the relationship between Christians and Jews into the contemporary discussion of Jewish-Christian relations both in Canada and internationally. The second objective is to inspire a deeper understanding of the importance of interreligious dialogue and religious pluralism in our world today; and the third objective is to bring awareness to the history of both anti-Judaism (religious hatred of Jews) and antisemitism (racial hatred of Jews) within the broader context of religion, theology and history and the more focused context of the Holocaust. These objectives will also aid in the fight against anti-racism and antisemitism.

Methodology: The methodological approach for this research project is historical, focusing on the intellectual history of Baum as it relates to the theological relationship between Jews and Christians. As of recently, intellectual historians have been criticized for not being global enough in their discovery, therefore, the emphasis of this project is to include a more universal approach

and avoid being too Anglocentric or Eurocentric and generally ‘Western’ (Moyn and Sartori 2013, 7). Therefore, my approach to this intellectual history will be global — I will relate Baum’s theological thought on the relationship between Christian and Jews not only within the Canadian context but as it relates to Jewish-Christian relations internationally. The main data collection process will include a focus on both primary and secondary sources, consultation of archives and a look to oral histories wherever they may be found. The process in which this methodology will be expressed is as follows: an accumulation and discovery of facts and data; a collection and reading of the research material; a critical analysis and synthesis of the evidence discovered; and a use of analytical and logical inductive reasoning. A significant amount of time will be spent extracting evidence from archival records, particularly from the University of St. Michael’s College and McGill University where Baum taught for many years. Other places of research will be the Canadian and Ontario Jewish Archives; the archival records from the Archdiocese of Toronto and Montreal; and the Augustinian archives in King City, Ontario; the Library and Archives of Canada (LAC) in Ottawa; and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) archives.

Significance: This research project is significant because it will assist in countering antisemitism, promote fruitful dialogue between Judaism and Christianity, and preserve memory and historical consciousness for future generations. Furthermore, it will contribute significantly to Canadian history and Canada’s biography by bringing to light the notable and central role Baum has played in advancing Jewish-Christian relations in this country and around the world.

Advancement of Knowledge: Seeing as there are no extensive scholarly works or dissertations directly on this topic, it is important that Baum—who is a renowned Canadian scholar and expert in Jewish-Christian relations—be brought into the current and ongoing discussion of the encounter between Judaism and Christianity. My approach and its findings will bring an important and significant voice into the progression and advancement of Jewish-Christian relations in Canada and internationally; not only within the context of theology but also within the academic disciplines of history and religious studies.

Preparation: I come to this project as someone who belongs to neither religious tradition, therefore, I am a neutral-third party. My interest is to promote dialogue and appreciation, to strengthen religious relations and advance human understanding. I have successfully completed my coursework and general examinations on topics such as Jewish-Christian relations, Vatican II, religion and the Holocaust, Gregory Baum, and religious historical methodology — all of which have prepared and excited me for this project. I have fulfilled my language requirements in French and German, thus allowing me to engage with materials written in those languages. I have also been awarded the Ontario Graduate Scholarship for two consecutive years which has helped shape my research project and methodological approach. I am confident that my academic training and research experience has provided me with the necessary expertise to succeed in this project; and I believe my doctoral committee will be an asset in this endeavour as well. My advisory committee is comprised of my supervisor Dr. Michael Attridge and committee members Dr. Darren Dias and Dr. Mark McGowan. Drs. Attridge and Dias have expertise in the history of the Second Vatican Council, *Nostra aetate* and Jewish-Christian relations more generally; and Dr. McGowan is an expert in Canadian religious history and historical methodology. Furthermore, each committee member either knew Baum personally or worked alongside individuals who did as he was a professor at St. Michael’s College for many years.