

Dear Members of the FGDA Committee,

The University of Wisconsin Press will publish my book manuscript *The Best Weapon for Peace: Maria Montessori, Education, and Children's Rights*, which will be out on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

My book argues that the cultivation of world peace was the primary motivation for Montessori's larger educational project. My study draws from theories of biopolitics, war-and-society studies, and the history of humanitarianism, as well as a broad range of unpublished archival material I collected from numerous libraries and archives, all of which reposition Montessori's work on peace from the margins to the center of her philosophy. The book will be part of the press's prestigious George L. Mosse Series in the History of European Culture, Sexuality, and Ideas. There it will find company with work by major historians such as Martin Jay, Jan Assmann, Dagmar Herzog, Stanley Payne, and, of course, George Mosse himself. For more information about the series, please see:

<https://uwpress.wisc.edu/series/mosse.html>

My manuscript received two strong peer reviews. Both are by important historians of modern Italian social history. History of gender and sexuality professor Lorenzo Benadusi rated the book as making a "substantial contribution" to the field; Professor Mary Gibson described it as making a "major contribution" (the highest possible recommendation). Both readers judged the manuscript as needing only "minor revision"—by which they mean line editing, light restructuring, clarifications, and correction of errors; i.e., issues not requiring additional research, conceptual reframing, or large-scale restructuring. I will be happy to provide more accolades for the book if needed.

I hired a professional indexer, Derek Gottlieb, who began working on March 25, 2021, to do the index. Gottlieb has indexed over 200 books in the past decade and specializes in indexing books in the humanities, and the social sciences specifically. The index is a roadmap to the book, listing names, places, and things in alphabetical order and giving the page numbers associated with each topic. For nonfiction books such as mine, a well-made index is crucial to directing readers to the information they are trying to find and is especially important for being cited by other scholars. As a result, indexing is a very detail-oriented process best left to a professional. Gottlieb charged me \$3.75 per-page rate, coupled with a \$500 flat fee; for a total of 1,606.53. I therefore applied for an OTPS reimbursement for the expense of hiring Gottlieb of \$1,000.

I am grateful for the support the FDGA committee has given to my work throughout the years. I remain available for any additional information you might need.

Best regards,

Erica Moretti