

Recommendation of Dr Nicholas A. Marshall

Since 2010, I have had the privilege of knowing Dr Nicholas A. Marshall. During his first year in the Master of Excellence's international program *The Religious Roots of Europe*, I served as Marshall's teacher in the discipline "Contemporary Perspectives on the Three Monotheistic Religions", offered by Aarhus University, Denmark. His weekly assignments testified to a high level of reflection and the ability to communicate it in an excellent way. I also supervised him for his final thesis entitled *Chabad and the 'Elevation' of Women* where his curiosity, thoroughness, and intelligent reflection earned him our highest grade (12). During the following year, Marshall and I kept in contact because the program committee decided to employ him as a student instructor – a job that he performed to everybody's satisfaction in that his impeccable fulfilment of tasks was supplemented with his personal engagement and care for the wellbeing of his young fellow students.

In May 2011, the School of Culture and Society awarded Marshall a PhD fellowship at the Department of the Study of Religion. Marshall began his PhD studies under the supervision of Associate Professor Anders Klostergaard Pedersen and simultaneously continued his involvement with *The Religious Roots of Europe*-programme as a mentor to its MA students. He participated actively in the research unit meetings at the Study of Religion and at the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity. Furthermore, he participated in eight PhD courses, presented six papers at relevant conferences, of which five were arranged by prestigious international societies or high-ranking universities. He defined and taught two graduate courses, and taught one graduate course together with a senior colleague. He was engaged in editorial work and conference organisation as an assistant to members at the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity. During his PhD fellowship, he also managed to publish one review and one international monograph article.

In August 2015, I overtook full responsibility for supervising Marshall during his last phase of writing his dissertation entitled *The Meaning of Theurgy: A Minimalistic Approach to Theurgy and Previous Understandings of the Term in the Study of Late Antique Religion*. Once again, I witnessed Marshall's high level of reflection, attention to important details, advanced incorporation of relevant theories even beyond his immediate field of knowledge, meticulous analysis, and his courage to insist on a return to basics when inconsistencies in current scholarly opinion deem it necessary. The writing process also testified to Marshall's stamina, high work ethic, and willingness when pressed to work hard day and night to submit quality work on time.

During my many years of acquaintance with Dr Nicholas A. Marshall, I have come to appreciate not only his intelligence and scholarly merits, but also his caring, sensitive, loyal, and giving personality. It is therefore without hesitation that I give Dr Nicholas A. Marshall my very best recommendations.

Sincerely,



Dr Marianne Schleicher

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Religion

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Associate Professor

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