

**Cassuto, Leonard. *The graduate school mess: what caused it and how we can fix it*. Harvard, 2015. 309p index afp ISBN 9780674728981, \$29.95.**

Into the seemingly endless torrent of books on virtually every aspect of higher education—where to apply and attend, does it actually pay to go, how to finance it, the college debt crisis, institutional governance, technological wrinkles, even college athletics—comes *The Graduate School Mess*, which is one of the better entries. The title is a misnomer because Cassuto (English, Fordham Univ.) deals with only a slice of graduate education—the humanities. The heterogeneity of graduate education—the "big three" professional schools (law, business, medicine), doctoral study in the sciences, and issues surrounding research versus teaching institutions—is completely ignored. That may be understandable given the author's discipline, but it limits the volume's value, as do the constant normative, finger-pointing, academic harangues. Still, the volume is richly referenced and moves in soup-to-nuts fashion from graduate admissions to qualifying exams, the dissertation, the degree, and the job market. Prospective humanities graduate students, program directors, and faculty will probably find spending a few hours with Cassuto's book worth the investment. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.