



Heaven & Earth

Mormonism and the Challenges of Science, Revelation and Faith

From its beginnings, Mormonism has wrestled with the implications of modern science and has produced a variety of theological responses. Some have argued for a strong division of labor while others have sought to harmonize spiritual and empirical truths. This conference will explore the landscape of Mormon thought as it relates to the relationships between science, theology, scriptural narratives, and LDS authoritative discourse. It will also explore abiding questions of faith, reason, and doubt and the reactions against the intellectualizing forces that bear on the truth claims of Mormonism.

Keynote Speakers



“Faith Seeking Understanding”

The Evangelical Experience, and Mormon Connections

Molly Worthen

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
author of *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism*



“Mormonism, Evolution & Science”

A Cosmos of Unfolding Beauty and Novelty

Steven L. Peck

Brigham Young University
author of *Science the Key to Theology* and *Evolving Faith: Wanderings of a Mormon Biologist*

Questions for Consideration

- What are the implications of contemporary science for Mormon thought?
- To what extent has Mormonism embraced forms of anti-intellectualism?
- What are the dynamics of faith and doubt in Mormon discourse?
- How should Latter-day Saints interpret scripture in light of contemporary scholarship?

for more information, visit www.uvu.edu/religiousstudies/heavenandearth

Participants

Philip L. Barlow

Brian D. Birch

David Bokovoy

Matthew Bowman

Deidre N. Green

Jamie L. Jensen

Steven L. Peck

Boyd Jay Petersen

Jana K. Riess

David W. Scott

Benjamin Spackman

Molly Worthen

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Mormonism and the Challenges of Science, Revelation, and Faith

Thursday, February 22

UVU Classroom Building (CB-511)

1:00 - 2:15

Eugene England Memorial Lecture

"Mormonism, Evolution, and Science: A Cosmos of Unfolding Beauty and Novelty"

Steven L. Peck, Associate Professor of Biology, Brigham Young University, author of *Science the Key to Theology and Evolving Faith: Wanderings of a Mormon Biologist*

2:30 - 3:45

Mormonism and Evolution

"The Evolution of Evolution Acceptance: A Road to Reconciliation for LDS Youth"

Jamie Jensen, Associate Professor of Biology, Brigham Young University, author of *"Influencing highly religious undergraduate perceptions of evolution: Mormons as a case study"*

"The Scientific Deformation and Reformation of Genesis: How Science Messed It Up But Also Fixes It"

Benjamin Spackman, doctoral candidate in History of Christianity & Religions of North America, Claremont Graduate University, author of *"Truth, Scripture, and Interpretation: Some Precursors to Reading Genesis"*

4:00 - 5:15

Panel Discussion

afternoon participants

moderated by Heath T. Ogden, Associate Professor of Biology, Utah Valley University

5:30 - 7:00

Reception - Utah Valley Institute of Religion

Friday, February 23

UVU Classroom Building (CB-511)

9:00 - 9:50

Science and the Critical Study of Scripture

"To Study and Explore By Wisdom':

Interpreting Mormon Scripture Through the Lens of Biblical Scholarship"

David Bokovoy, Online Professor of Bible and Jewish Studies, Utah State University, author of *Reading the Old Testament: Genesis - Deuteronomy*

"Adam and Eve in the Twenty-First Century: LDS Faith and Biblical Scholarship"

Philip L. Barlow, Leonard J. Arrington Chair in Mormon Studies & Culture, Utah State University, author of *Mormons and the Bible: The Place of Latter-day Saints in American Religion*

10:00 - 10:50

Keynote Address

"Faith Seeking Understanding:

The Evangelical Experience, and Mormon Connections"

Molly Worthen, Assistant Professor of History, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, author of *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism* and contributing writer for the *New York Times* on religion and American politics

11:00 - 11:50

Mormonism & the Challenges of Anti-Intellectualism

"She Blinded Me with Science: A Tale of Two Paradigms"

David W. Scott, Professor of Communication, Utah Valley University, author of "Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark?"

"Mormon Views on Evolution and Climate Change: Findings from The Next Mormons Survey"

Jana Riess, Senior Columnist, Religion News Service, author of The Next Mormons

12:00 - 12:50

Brownbag Panel Discussion

morning participants

moderated by Grant Underwood

Richard L. Evans Professor of Religious Understanding, Brigham Young University

1:00 - 1:50

The Dynamics of Faith & Doubt

"The Other Side of Death: A Kierkegaardian Approach to Doubt and Faith"

Deidre Green, Postdoctoral Fellow, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, author of "Becoming Equal Partners: Latter-day Saint Women as Theologians"

"On Sanctifying Doubt: A Critical Appraisal"

Brian D. Birch, Director, Religious Studies Program, Utah Valley University, author of "The Intellectual Cultures of Mormonism: Faith, Reason, and the Apologetic Enterprise"

2:00 - 2:50

Mormonism in a Secular Age

"Can Mormons be Mormon in a Secular Age?"

Boyd Petersen, Program Coordinator for Mormon Studies, Utah Valley University, author of "One Soul Shall Not Be Lost: The War in Heaven in Mormon Thought"

"Mormon Correlation and the Meanings of Religion in Modern America"

Matthew Bowman, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Henderson State University, author of The Mormon People: The Making of an American Faith

3:00 - 4:30

Panel Discussion

afternoon participants

moderated by Blair Van Dyke

Instructor, Department of Philosophy & Humanities, Utah Valley University

the conference is free and open to the public. For more information, contact

Brian Birch at brian.birch@uvu.edu or Boyd Petersen at boyd.petersen@uvu.edu