2016 UVU Mormon Studies Conference

MORMONISM
AND THE ART OF
BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE
NEGOTIATING IDENTITIES IN AND AROUND MORMONISM

Schedule of Events

Monday, April 11, 2016
UVU Classroom Building, Room 101

7:00 p.m. Opening Keynote Address
“All Mormons Now?
The Religious Liberty Debate’s Nineteenth Century Future”
(co-sponsored with the Center for Constitutional Studies)

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
UVU Library Lecture Hall (LI-120)

8:30 - 9:45 The Question of Mormon Identity
“Latter-day Saints in ‘Zion’ and ‘Babylon’:
Mormon Identities in Majority and Minority Environ”
Richard Phillips, Associate Professor of Sociology & Religious Studies
University of North Florida

“That Slippery and Shifting Boundary Between Mormon and Non-Mormon”
David Knowlton, Associate Professor of Anthropology
Utah Valley University

10:00 - 11:15 Keynote Address
“Understanding Church Boundaries: How Big is the Tent?”
Michael Otterson, Managing Director of Public Affairs
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

11:30 - 12:45 Lunch

1:00 - 2:15 Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons & American Politics
Venue: Classroom Building, Room 101

David Campbell, Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy
University of Notre Dame

Quin Monson, Associate Professor of Political Science
Brigham Young University

Naomi Riley, Columnist
New York Post
(co-sponsored with the UVU Center for Constitutional Studies)
2:30 - 3:45  Situating Polygamy

“Reclaiming the Faith: Fundamentalism & a Broader Mormon Identity”
Lindsay Hansen Park, Assistant Director, Sunstone Foundation

“Progressive Polygamy: Feminism’s Strangest Bedfellow”
Brady Williams, Cast Member, My Five Wives
The Learning Channel

“Beyond the Boundaries of Forced Doctrine: Polygamy as Conscious Choice”
Jennifer Huss Basquiat, Professor of Anthropology
College of Southern Nevada

4:00 - 5:30  Gender, Authority, & Identity

“To Excommunicate or Not To Excommunicate: Evidence from the Mormon Gender Issues Survey”
Ryan Cragun, Associate Professor of Sociology
University of Tampa

“LDS Women and the Anatomy of Belonging”
Neylan McBaine, Contributor, Patheos
Author of Women at Church: Magnifying LDS Women’s Local Ward Impact

“When Feminists Excommunicate”
Mette Ivie Harrison, Contributor, Huffington Post
Author of The Bishop’s Wife

“Shifting Boundaries: What Have We Learned”
Maxine Hanks, Independent Scholar
editor of Women & Authority

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
UVU Library Lecture Hall (LI-120)

9:00 - 10:00  The Public Life of Mormonism

“Mainstream Enough? Navigating Recent Currents in American Public Perceptions of Mormons”
J.B. Haus, Assistant Professor of Church History & Doctrine
Brigham Young University

Respondents
Quin Monson, Associate Professor of Political Science
Brigham Young University
David W. Scott, Professor of Communication
Utah Valley University

10:00 - 11:00  Keynote Address

“Mormon Millennials and the Future of the Faith: Assimilation or Retrenchment?”
Jana Riess, Senior Columnist, Religion News Service
former Book Review Editor, Publisher’s Weekly
11:00 - 12:00  Secrecy & Boundaries

“Secrets and the Making of American Mormon Moments”
J. Spencer Fluhman, Associate Professor of History
Brigham Young University

“Good Secrets Make Good Boundaries: Mormon Divisions of the Social and the Cosmic”
Bradley Kramer, Instructor, Anthropology Program
Utah Valley University

12:00 - 1:00  Lunch

1:00 - 2:00  Parliament of the World’s Religions

“Feminist or Apologist: Emily S. Richards, Mormon Women, and the Politics of Female Representation at the 1893 World’s Parliament of the Religions”
Andrea Radke Moss, Associate Professor of History
Brigham Young University - Idaho

“Defining Christian Orthodoxy at the 1893 Chicago Parliament of Religions”
Reid Neilson, Managing Director, Church History Department
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

2:00 - 3:00  Mormon Identity & Interreligious Dialogue

“On Building Good Fences: Mormon Engagement with Religious Diversity”
Brian D. Birch, Director, Religious Studies Program
Utah Valley University

“Mormonism & the Program of Heterodoxy”
R. Dennis Potter, Associate Professor of Philosophy
Utah Valley University

3:00 - 4:00  Homosexuality & the Limits of Inclusion

Roni Jo Draper, Professor of Education
Brigham Young University

D. Christian Harrison, Leadership Team
Affirmation International
Participants

Jennifer Huss Basquiat is a professor in Anthropology at the College of Southern Nevada. She earned her doctorate in Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University in 2001 where she conducted field work examining the intersection of Mormonism and Haitian Vodou. She has been conducting field work in Centennial Park since 2010 and recently served as a consultant for National Geographic’s Polygamy USA. In addition to teaching, she is currently working on a book based on her field work, *Underground but in the Light: The Plural Community of Centennial Park*.

Brian D. Birch is director of the Religious Studies Program and the Center for the Study of Ethics at Utah Valley University. His research interests include interreligious studies, comparative Mormon theology, and the ethical dimensions of religious diversity. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Parliament of the World’s Religions and as a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy. His latest work includes the completion of a volume entitled *Mormonism Among Christian Theologies* with Oxford University Press and a new project *The Intellectual Life of Mormonism: Reason, Faith, and Science Among the Latter-day Saints*.

David Campbell is the Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame. His most recent book is *Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons and American Politics* (with John Green and Quin Monson). He is also the co-author (with Robert Putnam) of *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, which received the 2011 Woodrow Wilson Award from the American Political Science Association and the Wilbur Award from the Religious Communicators Council for the best non-fiction book of 2010. He has been featured in the national media, including the New York Times, Economist, USA Today, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Time, NBC News, CNN, NPR, Fox News, and C-SPAN.

Ryan Cragun is associate professor of sociology at the University of Tampa. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati and His research interests include Mormonism and the nonreligious. He is the author of more than fifteen publications in a variety of journals including the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, the *Journal of Religion & Health*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. He is involved in a variety of academic organizations including the American Sociological Association, Mormon Social Science Association, the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network, and the Center for Atheist Research.

Ross Douthat has been an Op-Ed Columnist for the New York Times since 2009 where he writes on politics, religion, ethics, and higher education. Prior to his move to the Times, Douthat served as Senior Editor for *The Atlantic*. He is the author of *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics*, and *Privilege: Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class*. He is the film critic for National Review and has also contributed to *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, the Claremont Review of Books, GQ, Slate, and other publications. He blogs at the New York Times site “Evaluations.”

Roni Jo Draper is professor of Education in the David O. McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University where she teaches courses in multicultural education, content area literacy, and research methodology. She is an advocate for awareness on issues relating to homosexuality and she is part of the “Mama Dragons” network that facilitates support groups and other activities to create understanding and inclusiveness in religious communities.

J. Spencer Fluhman is associate professor of history at Brigham Young University, where he teaches American religious history. He is currently editor of the *Mormon Studies Review*. His book, “A Peculiar People”: *Anti-Mormonism and the Making of Religion in Nineteenth-Century America*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2012 and won the Mormon History Association’s “Best First Book Award” in 2013. In 2014, he won the Mollie & Karl Butler Young Scholar Award in Western Studies from the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies.

Maxine Hanks is a theologian who specializes in women’s studies in religion with particular attention to Christian and Mormon contexts. Her book *Women and Authority* excavated Mormon feminist history, theology, and related discourse related to authority in ecclesiastical contexts. Subsequent books include *Mormon Faith in America* and *Getting Together With Yesterday*. She has served as a visiting fellow at Harvard Divinity School and as a research fellow with the Utah Humanities Council. Hanks has lectured at the University of Utah, Claremont Graduate University, the Mormon History Association, and the Sunstone Theological Symposium.

D. Christian Harrison is part of the Leadership Team for Affirmation Interational and is Brand Manager at Utah Foster Care Foundation. Christian came to Utah Foster Care with a professional background in brand and strategic communications. His previous experience in the internet start-up world and as creative director for several firms continues to serve him well at the Foundation, as he manages Utah Foster Care Foundation’s evolving brand. He identifies as an “entrepreneur, an urban enthusiast, gay, and Mormon.”
Mette Ivie Harrison is the author of numerous books for young adults, including *The Princess and the Hound* and *Mina, Mirror*. Recently, she began writing adult mysteries, including *The Bishop’s Wife* and *His Right Hand*. She holds a PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures from Princeton University and is a nationally ranked triathlete. A practicing Mormon, she is now a blogger for Huffington Post.

J.B. Haws is an assistant professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He is the author of *The Mormon Image in the American Mind: Fifty Years of Public Perception* (Oxford University Press, 2013). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah in American History and his research interests center on the place of Mormonism in twentieth- and twenty-first century America. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Office of Interfaith Outreach at BYU and participates in the Mormon/Evangelical Dialogue group.

David Knowlton is a sociocultural anthropologist who specializes in the anthropology of Latin America (with a focus on the Andes), the anthropology of Mormonism, and social theory. His current interests include the social organization of the transnational space of religion, the socioeconomic correlates of religious membership in Latin America, the phenomenology of Mormon life, and the relationship between neoliberalism and social movements in Bolivia.

Bradley Kramer holds a B.A. in Russian from Brigham Young University, a B.A. in History from the University of Utah, an M.A. in American History from the University of Utah, and Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan, with an emphasis on religion, religious language, and secrecy. Currently, he is the owner and curator at Writ’n Vision rare bookstore and fine art gallery in Provo, UT.

Neylan McBaine is a graduate of Yale University and the founder of the Mormon Women Project, a non-profit that publishes interviews with LDS women from around the world. Her writing has appeared in Newsweek, Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Segullah, the Washington Post’s “On Faith” religion blog, among others. Her book *Women at Church* has been hailed “a monumental piece of work” and "a remarkable resource that belongs in every Latter-day Saint home." Neylan is a brand strategist at Re/Mark, an agency in Salt Lake City, and previously worked on the I’m A Mormon campaign at Bonneville Communications.

Quin Monson is Associate Professor of Political Science at Brigham Young University and received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 2004. His research and teaching are in public opinion; campaigns, elections, and voting behavior; survey research methods; and religion and politics. He is the co-editor of several books monographs on congressional and presidential elections and his research has also appeared in academic journals and edited volumes including *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, and the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Andrea Radke Moss is a professor of history at Brigham Young University – Idaho where she specializes in women’s history in religious contexts. She is author of *Bright Epoch: Women and Coeducation in the American West* in 2008 (University of Nebraska Press). She has published a variety of works on women in the Great Plains, Mormon women at the Chicago World’s Fair, and women in higher education in the West. She is a contributor to the current *Women of Faith* series by Deseret Book and a guest blogger at The Juvenile Instructor.

Reid Neilson is Managing Director of the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He oversees all department operations, including the Church History Library, the Church History Museum, and the Granite Mountain Records Vault. A graduate of Brigham Young University, he received a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. Dr. Neilson is the award-winning author and editor of over twenty books and serves on the editorial boards of the Joseph Smith Papers Project and the Deseret Book Company.

Michael Otterson is Managing Director of Public Affairs for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Prior to his service as as the head of public relations and media for the LDS Church, he worked as a journalist and editor for newspapers around the world including the Liverpool Daily Post and the Japan Times. He has been a frequent contributor to the Washington Post’s On Faith series, Faith Street, and other social media outlets. He has overseen the development of the LDS Newsroom and led efforts to engage Latter-day Saint voices in the public square.

Lindsay Hansen Park is Assistant Director of the Sunstone Education Foundation and serves on the Sunstone Board of Directors. She is the founder of the Feminist Mormon Housewives podcast. Her work and voice have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Prevail*, and other national publications. She has also appeared on The Salt Lake Tribune’s Trib Talk addressing issues related to Mormonism in contemporary culture. Outside of Mormon Studies, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Whitefields Educational Foundation and is actively engaged in women’s rights advocacy and global activism.

Richard Phillips is associate professor of sociology and religious studies at the University of North Florida where he specializes in the construction and maintenance of religious identity. He is the author of *Could I Vote for a Mormon for President? An Election Year Guide to Mitt Romney’s Religion* and *Conservative Christian Identity and Same Sex Orientation: The Case of Gay Mormons*. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University in 2001 with a dissertation entitled *Saints in Zion, Saints in Babylon: Religious Pluralism and the Transformation of Mormon Culture*. 


Dennis Potter is associate professor of philosophy at Utah Valley University where he specializes in the philosophy of religion and the history of analytic philosophy. He has published widely in Mormon theology and related issues including “Liberation Theology and the Book of Mormon,” “Finitism and the Problem of Evil,” “What Does God write in His Franklin Planner? The Paradoxes of Providence, Prophecy, and Petitionary Prayer,” and “Religious Disagreement: Internal and External” for the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion. He is currently working on the philosophical dimensions of religious heterodoxy.

Jana Riess is a senior columnist for Religion News Service. She received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and Ph.D. in American Religious History from Columbia University. Since 2008, she has been an editor in the publishing industry, primarily working in the areas of religion, history, popular culture, ethics, and biblical studies. From 1999 to 2008, she was the Religion Book Review Editor for Publishers Weekly, and continues to write freelance articles and reviews for PW as well as other publications. She is the author or co-author of several books, including Mormonism and American Politics, Mormonism for Dummies, Flunking Sainthood, and The Twible.

Naomi Riley is a weekly columnist for the New York Post and a former Wall Street Journal editor and writer whose work focuses on higher education, religion, philanthropy and culture. She is the author of many books, most recently, Got Religion?: How Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back (Templeton Press, 2014). Ms. Riley’s writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the LA Times, and the Washington Post, among other publications. She appears regularly on Fox News. She is the co-editor of Acculturated (Templeton Press, 2010), a book of essays on pop culture and virtue.

David W. Scott is a professor in the Department of Communication at Utah Valley University specializing in religion and media. He is co-author of “Religious Community on the Internet: An Analysis of Mormon Websites” and of “Constructing Sacred History: Multi-media Narratives and the Discourse of ‘Museumness’ at Mormon Temple Square,” both in the Journal of Media and Religion. Scott completed a Ph.D. at the University of Georgia in Communication and his studies on media, religion and culture range from First Amendment issues to religiosity in South Park.

Brady Williams is a student in the Peace and Justice Studies student at Utah Valley University. His family was the subject of The Learning Channel’s reality television program My Five Wives, an American reality television series broadcast on TLC that began airing in 2013 and document the life of the polygamist family. The family began the series living in an undisclosed city outside of Salt Lake City, Utah, due to fear of prosecution for polygamy.