

Benjamin E. Park

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EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D., History, University of Cambridge
2011 M.Phil., Political Thought and Intellectual History, University of Cambridge
-with distinction
2010 M.Sc., Historical Theology, University of Edinburgh
-with distinction
2009 B.A., English and History, Brigham Young University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

18th and 19th Century US history, intersections of culture with religion and politics, intellectual history, history of gender, religious studies, slavery and antislavery, Atlantic history.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016- Assistant Professor of History, Sam Houston State University
HIST 1301: United States History to 1876
HIST 3360: American Religious History
HIST 3377: America in Mid-Passage, 1773-1876
HIST 3378: Emergence of Modern America, 1877-1945
HIST 5371: Revolutionary America (Grad Seminar)
HIST 5378: American Cultural and Religious History (Grad Seminar)
- 2014-2016 Kinder Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, University of Missouri
HIST 1100: United States History to The Civil War
HIST 4000: The Age of Jefferson
HIST 4004: 18th Century Revolutions: America, France, Haiti
HIST 4972: Religion and Politics in American History
- 2012-2014 Lecturer and Supervisor, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge
Paper 22: American History through 1865

PUBLICATIONS

Books

American Nationalisms: Imagining Union in an Age of Revolutions (Cambridge University Press, in press, January 2018).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “The Angel of Nullification: Imagining Disunion in an Era Before Secession,” *Journal of the Early Republic* (forthcoming, Fall 2017).
- “The Bonds of Union: Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Federalism’s Contexts,” *Early American Studies* 15:2 (Spring 2017): 382-408.
- “Seeking Early America’s Identities in the Atlantic World,” *49th Parallel: An Interdisciplinary Journal of American Studies* 33:2 (Fall 2014): 78-112.
- “Transcendental Democracy: Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Political Thought, the Legacy of Federalism, and the Ironies of America’s Democratic Tradition,” *Journal of American Studies* 48:2 (April 2014): 481-500.
- “Early Mormon Patriarchy and the Paradoxes of Democratic Religiosity in Jacksonian America,” *American Nineteenth Century History* 14:2 (Summer 2013): 183-208.
- “To Fill up the World: Joseph Smith as Urban Planner,” *Mormon Historical Studies* 14:1 (Spring 2013): 1-27.
- “‘I Object to the Names Deism and Infidelity’: Theodore Parker and the Boundaries of Christianity in Antebellum America,” *Journal of Religion and Society* 15:1 (January 2013): 1-24.
- “The Theology of a Career Convert: Edward Tullidge’s Evolving Identities,” *Dialogue: Journal of Mormon Thought* 45:3 (Fall 2012): 38-50.
- “Reasonings Sufficient’: Joseph Smith, Thomas Dick, and the Context(s) of Early Mormonism,” *Journal of Mormon History* 38:3 (Summer 2012): 210-224. (Special issue in honor of Richard Bushman.)
- “(Re)Interpreting Early Mormon Thought: Synthesizing Joseph Smith’s Theology and the Process of Religious Formation,” *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 44:2 (Summer 2012): 59-88.
- “‘A Uniformity So Complete’: Early Mormon Angelology and Microhistorical Theology,” *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies* 2 (2010): 1-37.
- “Salvation Through a Tabernacle: Joseph Smith, Parley Pratt, and Early Mormon Theologies of Embodiment,” *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43:2 (Summer 2010): 1-44.
- “‘Build, Therefore, Your Own World’: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Joseph Smith, and American Antebellum Thought,” *Journal of Mormon History* 36:1 (Winter 2010): 41-72.

Journal Essays and Book Chapters

- “The Perils of a Protestant Democracy: Mormon and Catholic Conceptions of Democratic Rule in the 1840s,” in *Somewhere Between Citizens and Foreigners: Perceptions of Mormons in American Political Culture*, ed. Keith Ereckson, Brent Rogers, and Spencer McBride (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, forthcoming).
- “Kings and Queens of the Kingdom: Gendering the Mormon Theological Narrative,” in *Beyond Biography: Sources in Context for Mormon Women’s History*, ed. Rachel Cope and Lisa Tait (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, forthcoming).
- “The Council of Fifty and the Perils of Democratic Governance,” in *The Council of Fifty: What the Records Reveal about Mormon History* ed. Matthew Grow and Eric Smith (Provo, UT: BYU Religious Studies Center, forthcoming).

- “A Wall Between Church and Academy,” in *Perspectives on Mormon Theology: Apologetics*, ed. Blair G. Van Dyke and Loyd Isao Ericson (Draper, UT: Kofford Books, 2017): 113-120.
- “Camelot’s Crucible: The Historiographic Context for *Refiner’s Fire*,” in “John Brooke’s *Refiner’s Fire*: A Twentieth Anniversary Retrospective,” *Journal of Mormon History* 41:4 (Fall 2015). (Roundtable organizer.)
- “The Book of Mormon and America’s Political and Intellectual Tradition,” *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 23 (Fall 2014): 174-182.
- “Benjamin Franklin, Richard Price, and the Division of Sacred and Secular in the Age of Revolutions,” in *Benjamin Franklin’s Intellectual World*, ed. Paul Kerry and Matthew Holland (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press 2012): 119-135.
- “Parley Pratt’s Writing as Restoration and Redemption,” in “Perspectives on Parley Pratt’s *Autobiography*: A Roundtable,” *Journal of Mormon History* 37:1 (Winter, 2011): 158-164. (Roundtable organizer.)
- “Developing a Historian Conscience: Wilford Woodruff and the Preservation of History,” *Preserving the History of the Latter-day Saints*, ed. Steven C. Harper and Rick Turley (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, 2010): 121-141.

Current Projects

- Transcendental Abolition: European Theology, American Thought, and Defining Democracy in the Nineteenth Century* (in progress).
- Democracy’s Discontents: A Story of Politics, Polygamy, and Power in Mormon Nauvoo* (in progress).
- “Spiritualizing Democracy: Theodore Parker’s Abolitionism and the Critique of Secular Politics” (under review).
- “Joseph Smith’s Kingdom of God: The Mormon Council of Fifty and the Antinomian Challenge to American Democratic Politics” (under review).
- “Courting Caroline Healey: Gender, Religion, and Conversion in the Shadow of Margaret Fuller” (in progress).

Book Reviews

- Review of Michael J. Klarman, *The Framers’ Coup: The Making of the United States Constitution* (New York: Oxford University Press), *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).
- Review of Patrick Mason and John G. Turner, *Out of Obscurity: Mormonism Since 1945* (New York: Oxford University Press), *Journal of Religion* (forthcoming).
- Review of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A House Full of Females: Plural Marriage and Women’s Rights in Early Mormonism, 1835-1870* (New York: Knopf), *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (2017).
- Review of Mark A. Lause, *Free Spirits: Spiritualism, Republicanism, and Radicalism in the Civil War Era* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), *Civil War Monitor* (2017).
- Review of John Bicknell, *America 1844: Religious Fervor, Westward Expansion, and the Presidential Election that Transformed the Nation* (Chicago: Chicago Review Press), *BYU Studies Quarterly* (2017).
- Review of Keith Michael Baker and Dan Edelstein, eds., *Scripting Revolution: A Historical Approach to the Comparative Study of Revolutions* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press), *H-Diplo* (2016).
- Review of Colleen A. Shehann, *The Mind of James Madison: The Legacy of Classical Republicanism* (New York: Cambridge University Press), *Journal of American Studies* (2016).

- Review of Jonathan Den Hartog, *Patriotism and Piety: Federalist Politics and Religious Struggle in the New American Nation* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press). *Journal of the Early Republic* (2016).
- Review of Stephanie Kirk and Sarah Rivett, eds., *Religious Transformation in the Early Modern Americas* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press). *Journal of American History* (2016).
- Review of Terryl L. Givens and Reid L. Neilson, *The Columbia Sourcebook of Mormons in the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press). *Journal of Mormon History* (2016).
- Review of Sam Haselby, *The Origins of American Religious Nationalism* (New York: Oxford University Press). *William and Mary Quarterly* (2015).
- Review of Claudia Stokes, *The Altar at Home: Sentimental Literature and Nineteenth-Century American Religion* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press). *Women's History Review* (2015).
- Review of W. Caleb McDaniel, *The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery: Garrisonian Abolitionists and Atlantic Reform* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press). *United States Intellectual History Blog* (2015).
- Review of Alex Beam, *American Crucifixion: The Murder of Joseph Smith and the Fate of the Mormon Church* (New York: PublicAffairs). *Christian Century* (2015).
- Review of J. Spencer Fluhman, *Peculiar People: Anti-Mormonism and the Making of Religion in Nineteenth-Century America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press). *Journal of Mormon History* (2013).
- Review of David Holland, *Sacred Borders: Continuing Revelation and Canonical Restraint in Early America* (New York: Oxford University Press). *Journal of Mormon History* (2012).
- Review of Samuel M. Brown, *In Heaven as It is on Earth: Joseph Smith and the Early Mormon Conquest of Death* (New York: Oxford University Press). *Patheos* (2012).
- Review of Christopher Flynn, *Americans in British Literature, 1770-1832* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate). *49th Parallel: An Interdisciplinary Journal of North American Studies* (2011).

Opinion Essays

- “The Mormons Only Need to Look to their Diverse Past for Help,” *Newsweek* (April 22, 2017).
- “The Democratic Lineage of Trump’s Ethnic Nationalism,” *Starting Points* (April 13, 2017).
- “Where is the Mormon Church on Trump? History Demands their Leadership,” *Washington Post* (January 28, 2017).
- “Mormon Tabernacle Choir Will Usher in the Trump Era,” *Religion Dispatches* (January 20, 2017).
- “The Mormon Council of Fifty: What Joseph Smith’s Secret Records Reveal,” *Religion & Politics* (September 12, 2016).
- “Theodore Parker and America’s Religious Nativism,” *Christian Century* (June 29, 2016).
- “Why Utah Felt the Bern: Mormonism’s Forgotten Progressive Past,” *Religion Dispatches* (March 25, 2016).
- “Ammon Bundy and the Paradoxes of Mormon Political Theologies,” *Religion & Politics* (January 11, 2016).
- “Kim Davis and the Anxieties of Christian America,” *Religion & Politics* (September 16, 2015).

- “How Charleston’s Emanuel AME Church Triggered White Southern Militarism,” *Talking Points Memo* (June 18, 2015).
- “Mormon Polygamy, Sex, and America’s Contested Tradition of Religion and Domesticity,” *Christian Century* (November 19, 2014).
- “North Carolina’s ‘Official Religion’: The Convolved History of Established Religions,” *Religion & Politics* (April 9, 2013).
- “Why do Mormons Love the Fourth of July So Much?,” *Religion & Politics* (July 4, 2012).
- “The American Tradition of Using Orthodoxy as a Bludgeon,” *Patheos* (July 21, 2011).
- “Art, Politics, and Religion: Jon McNaughton’s Agenda,” *Patheos* (May 17, 2011).

Reference Book Entries

- “George Bancroft” and “Philip Tappan,” in *The Dictionary of Early American Philosophers*, ed. John R. Shook (New York: Continuum, 2012).
- “Book of Mormon Witnesses,” in *Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. W. Paul Reeve and Ardis E. Parshall (New York: ABC-CLIO, 2010).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, “Transcendentalism and Social Reform,” Concord, MA, 2017.
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri, 2014–2016.
- Course Development Grant, University of Missouri (for “The Scots and the Making of America”), 2015.
- Exchange Fellow, American Political History Institute, Boston University, 2013.
- J. Talmage Jones Award of Excellence, Mormon History Association (one of three annual awards for “Best Article”), 2013, 2011.
- Best Graduate Paper Award, Mormon History Association, 2013.
- Hugh Nibley Fellow, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2013.
- Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2012.
- Santander Bursary Scholarship, Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, 2011–2012.
- Master’s Thesis Distinction, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, 2011.
- New Voices Award, Dialogue Foundation (annual award for excellence given to a junior scholar), 2011.
- Master’s Degree Distinction, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, 2010.
- Best Postgraduate Paper, Scottish Association for the Study of America, 2010.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “The Greatest Problem of Our Time’: The Perils of Religious Liberty in Nineteenth-Century America,” Sam Houston State University, 2016.
- “The Theological Problem of Slavery: The Transcendentalists’ European Answers to America’s Democratic Questions,” Rothermere American Institute’s Seminar in Constitutional Thought and History, Oxford University, 2016.
- “The Angel of Nullification: *Memoirs of a Nullifier* and the Politics of Cultural Belonging in Antebellum America,” Auburn University, AL, 2016.
- “Spiritualizing Democracy: Theodore Parker’s Abolitionism and the Critique of Secular Politics in Antebellum America,” Alabama Seminar on Early America, University of Alabama, 2016.
- “Nationalism Beyond the Nation-State: American Conceptions of Political Belonging in the Age of Democratic Revolutions,” Kinder Institute American History Colloquium, Columbia, MO, 2014.
- “Nationalism Contested: The Nullification Crisis and the Fracturing of National Interests,” British Association for Nineteenth Century History Workshop, University College of London, London, UK, 2014.
- “Grounding Nationalism: The America(s) of Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Pierce Butler,” American Political History Institute, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2013.
- “The Theology of Citizenship: Preachers and the Cultivation of Nationalism in Early America,” Brown Bag Lecture Series, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, 2012.
- “Reading the Transcendentalists,” Springville Public Library, UT, 2012.

Invited Public Panels: “The Spirit of Dialogue: Celebrating Fifty Years of Mormon Scholarship and Culture,” Orem, UT (September 2016); “Faith, Reason, and the Critical Study of Mormon Apologetics,” Utah Valley University (November 2015).

Selected Conference Papers

- “Racializing Regions: Colonizing Louisiana Territory and the Limits of Early American Union,” Organization of American Historians, Sacramento, CA, 2018.
- “James Branagan’s America(s): Religions, Politics, and Slavery in the Early Republic,” Religion and Politics in Early America, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, 2018.
- “Self-Rule in a Godly Society: Antebellum Challenges to Protestant Democratic Culture,” Society for United States Intellectual History, Dallas, Texas, 2017.
- “All Power Belongs Originally and Legitimately to the People’: Lockean Political Philosophy, Mormonism’s Danites, and Frontier Justice in Antebellum America,” Joseph Smith Papers Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- “The Politics of Clerical Influence: The Book of Mormon and Early America’s Disestablishment,” Book of Mormon Studies: Toward a Conversation, Logan, UT, 2017.
- “The Perils of a Protestant Democracy: Mormon and Catholic Conceptions of Democratic Rule in the 1840s,” Mormon History Association, St. Louis, MO, 2017.

- “The Democratic Lineage of Donald Trump’s Ethnic Nationalism,” Shawnee Trail Conference on American Politics and Constitutionalism, Austin, TX, 2017.
- “Religious Regeneration: Political Theologies of Belonging in the Americas and Europe During the Age of Revolution,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Charleston, SC, 2017.
- “The Redemption of a Nation: Religious Conceptions of Union in the Atlantic World in the Age of Revolutions,” American Historical Association, Denver, CO, 2017.
- “The Theology of Democracy: Theodore Parker’s Transcendentalist Critique of America’s Political Tradition,” American Society of Church History, Denver, CO, 2017.
- “The Digital Spaces of Early American Thought,” Society for United States Intellectual History, Palo Alto, CA, 2016.
- “The Transcendentalist Challenge to Democratic Theory,” Shawnee Trail Conference on American Politics and Constitutionalism, Columbia, MO, 2016.
- “Kings and Queens of the Kingdom: Gendering the Mormon Theological Narrative,” Beyond Biography: Sources in Context for Mormon Women’s History, Provo, UT, 2016.
- “The Political Remains of Eden: The Possibilities of Mormon Female Theology in Territorial Utah,” Northwest Regional American Academy of Religion, Portland, OR, 2015.
- “The Gendered Politics of Mormon Identity: Two Nineteenth-Century Examples,” Claremont Mormon Studies Annual Conference, Claremont, CA, 2015.
- “George Ripley’s *Species of Foreign Standard Literature* and the Geopolitics of Cultural Authority,” Society for United States Intellectual History, Indianapolis, IN, 2014.
- “The Bonds of Union: Benjamin Rush and the Balance of Regional and Local Allegiances,” The Republics of Benjamin Rush, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Dickinson College, PA, 2014.
- “Preaching Nationalism in the Early Republic: Thanksgiving Sermons and the Local Appropriation of Nationalism in New England,” Society for United States Intellectual History, UC-Irvine, CA, 2013.
- “The Age of Christianities: Thomas Paine’s Deism, America’s Identities, and the Fracturing of Political Theologies in the Newly United States,” Citizen of the World: The Use and Abuse of Thomas Paine c.1809-2009, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, 2013.
- “The Government of God and the Politics of Man: Edward Tullidge and Mormonism’s Political Theologies,” Conference on Faith and History, Gordon College, MA, 2012.
- “Native Muses and Exotic Others: Playwrights, Popular Novelists, and Depicting the Foreign in Early America,” James L. and Shirley A. Draper Graduate Student Conference in Early American Studies, University of Connecticut and American Antiquarian Society, 2011.
- “On Mormon Thought and its Context(s): Joseph Smith, Thomas Dick, and Determining Intellectual Influence,” Mormonism in Cultural Contexts: A Symposium in Honor of Richard Bushman, Provo, UT, 2011.
- “Contesting Reason, Constricting Boundaries: Transatlantic Responses to Thomas Paine’s *Age of Reason* and the Battle for an American Identity,” British Association for American Studies Postgraduate Conference, University of Oxford, 2010.
- “German Theology Comes to Boston: George Bancroft, Frederic Hedge, and the Politics of Foreign Ideology in Antebellum Boston,” Scottish Association for the Study of America, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2010.

“Embracing Europe, Rejecting Europe: German Theology and American Thought in Antebellum Boston,” Old Scottish Universities’ Ecclesiastical History Conference, Perth, Scotland, 2010.

“‘I Object to the Names Deism and Infidelity’: Theodore Parker and the Boundaries of Christianity in Antebellum America,” United States Intellectual History Conference, New York, NY, 2009.

“‘I Preach Abundant Heresies’: Theodore Parker and Conversion to Liberal Religion in Antebellum America,” Southwestern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2009.

“‘The First Great American Infidel’: Memorializing Theodore Parker,” Identity, Boundaries, and Movement, Florida State University, 2009.

SERVICE

Academic Service at SHSU

Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, 2017-.

Honors Council, Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, 2017-2020.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History, 2016-2017.

Professional Service

Executive Committee, Mormon History Association, 2017-2020.

Co-Editor, Mormon Studies Book Series, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2016-.

Program Co-Chair, Mormon History Association Annual Conference, Snowbird, UT, 2016.

Associate Editor, *Mormon Studies Review*, 2013-.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Mormon History*, 2012-2015.

Founder and Editor, *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, 2012-.

Co-Founder and Co-Editor, *Peculiar People: A Bi-Weekly Column on Religion and Public Life* (Patheos-sponsored column), 2012-2015.

Editorial Board, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 2011-2012.

Co-Founder and Contributing Editor, *Juvenile Instructor: A Mormon History Blog*, 2007-.

Manuscript Referee: Oxford University Press; State University of New York Press; Brigham Young University Press.

Journal Referee: *Journal of the Early Republic*; *Journal of Religious History*; *American Political Thought*; *Journal of Religion and Ethics*; *Politics, Religion, & Ideology*; *Eras Journal*; *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*; *Journal of Mormon History*; *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*; *BYU Studies Quarterly*.

Undergraduate Theses Supervised

Ceci Mourkogiannis, “Evangelicals and the Limits of Union in the Antebellum United States” (University of Cambridge, 2014).

Sarah Stein Lubrano, “Mormon ‘Mommy Bloggers’ Negotiate Religion, Culture, and Identity in the Digital World” (University of Cambridge, 2012).

Public Service

“Mormonism and the American Political Tradition,” Monthly Public Seminar sponsored by the Kinder Forum on Constitutional Democracy, Columbia, MO, 2015-2016.

“Old Town/New Country: The First Years of a New Nation,” Public Workshop with the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA. (Funded by Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts), 2013.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Organization of American Historians
American Historical Association
Society for Historians of Early American Republic
Society for United States Intellectual History
American Academy of Religion
American Society of Church History
Mormon History Association

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French: proficient speaking and reading
German: proficient reading
Spanish: moderate reading

REFERENCES

Sarah Pearsall
Senior Lecturer in Early America
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Jeffrey Pasley
Professor of History
University of Missouri
pasleyj@missouri.edu

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp
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Sarah Barringer Gordon
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Richard Lyman Bushman
Gouverneur Morris Professor of History
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Frank Cogliano
Professor of American History
University of Edinburgh
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Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
300th Anniversary University Professor
Harvard University
ulrich@fas.harvard.edu

David Holland
Bartlett Professor of Ecclesiastical History
Harvard Divinity School
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