

# Benjamin E. Park

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## **EDUCATION**

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- 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**

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18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century US history, intersections of culture with religion and politics, intellectual history, history of gender, religious studies, slavery and antislavery, Atlantic history.

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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- 2019- Co-Editor, *Mormon Studies Review* (University of Illinois Press)  
Volume 8, January 2021  
Volume 7, January 2020  
(Associate Editor, 2013-2019)
- 2016- Assistant Professor of History, Sam Houston State University  
Director of Graduate Studies, 2020-  
Chair, Undergraduate Studies, 2017-2020
- 2014-2016 Kinder Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, University of Missouri  
2012-2014 Lecturer and Supervisor, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Books***

*A Companion to American Religious History*, ed. (New York: Wiley-Blackwell, February 2021, in press).

*Kingdom of Nauvoo: The Rise and Fall of a Religious Empire on the American Frontier* (W. W. Norton/Liveright, 2020; paperback, forthcoming August 2021).

- Best Book, Mormon History Association
- Nominee, Best Book, John Whitmer Historical Association
- Finalist, Best Audiobook, Association for Mormon Letters

- Reviews in *The New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Booklist* (starred), *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus*, *Association for Mormon Letters*, *Washington Independent Review of Books*, *Illinois Times*, *Pi Beta Kapa*, *Church History*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of Mormon History*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

*American Nationalisms: Imagining Union in the Age of Revolutions, 1783-1833* (Cambridge University Press, 2018; paperback edition, 2019).

- Finalist: Sally and Morris Lasky Prize in Political History
- Reviews in *William & Mary Quarterly*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *American Political Thought*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *H-Nationalism*, *Choice*

### **Current Projects**

*An American Original: Mormonism and the Saga of Religion in the United States* (under contract, W.W. Norton/Liveright).

*A Higher Law: The Religious Underpinnings of Abolitionism* (under contract, Princeton University Press).

“Spiritualizing Democracy: Theodore Parker’s Abolitionism and the Critique of Secular Politics” (under review).

“Courting Caroline Healey: Gender, Religion, and Conversion in the Shadow of Margaret Fuller” (in progress).

### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“The Danite Constitution and Theories of Democratic Justice in Frontier America,” *Brigham Young University Studies Quarterly* 60:1 (Spring 2021): 43-64.

“Joseph Smith’s Kingdom of God: The Council of Fifty and the Mormon Challenge to American Democracy,” *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 87:4 (December 2018): 1029-1055.

“The Angel of Nullification: Imagining Disunion in an Era Before Secession,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 37:3 (Fall 2017): 507-536.

“The Bonds of Union: Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Defining the Nation in the Early Republic,” *Early American Studies* 15:2 (Spring 2017): 382-408.

“Seeking Early America’s Identities in the Atlantic World,” *49<sup>th</sup> 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.

- J. Talmage Jones Award for Excellence, Mormon History Association  
“‘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.
- J. Talmage Jones Award for Excellence, Mormon History Association  
“‘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***

- “William Law’s Diary and the Perils of Suspect Sources,” *Journal of Mormon History* 47:2 (April 2021): 123-27.
- “The Centrality, Diversity, and Malleability of American Religion,” in *A Companion to American Religious History*, ed. Benjamin E. Park (New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2021): 1-6.
- “Joseph Smith, Plural Marriage, and Kinship,” in *Routledge Handbook on Mormonism and Gender Studies*, ed. Amy Hoyt and Taylor Petrey (New York: Routledge, 2020): 75-85.
- “The Precarious Protestant Democracy: Mormon and Catholic Conceptions of Democratic Rule in the 1840s,” in *Contingent Citizens: Shifting Perceptions of Latter-day Saints in American Political Culture*, ed. Keith Erikson, Brent Rogers, and Spencer McBride (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020): 42-57.
- “Frederick Douglass, Theologian,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 87:4 (December 2019): 1209-1219.
- “Kings and Queens of the Kingdom: Gendering the Mormon Theological Narrative,” in *Mormon Women’s History: Beyond Biography*, ed. Rachel Cope, Amy Easton-Flake, Keith A. Erikson, and Lisa Olsen Tait (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2017): 209-226.
- “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, 2017): 43-54.
- “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): 177-187. (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.

### ***Book Reviews***

- Review of Daniel T. Rodgers, *As a City on a Hill: The Story of America’s Most Famous Lay Sermon* (Princeton: Princeton University Press) and Abram C. Van Engen, *City on a Hill: A History of American Exceptionalism* (New Haven: Yale University Press), *American Historical Review* (forthcoming).

- Review of Michael MacKay et. al., *Producing Ancient Scripture: Joseph Smith's Translation Projects in the Development of Mormon Christianity* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press), *Journal of the Early Republic* (forthcoming).
- Review of Joanna Brooks, *Mormonism and White Supremacy: American Religion and The Problem of Racial Innocence* (New York: Oxford University Press), *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* (forthcoming).
- Review of Peter Coviello, *Make Yourself Gods: Mormons and the Unfinished Business of American Secularism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (2020).
- Review of Gregory A. Prince, *Gay Rights and the Mormon Church: Intended Actions, Unintended Consequences* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press), *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (2020).
- Review of Steven C. Harper, *First Vision: Memory and Mormon Origins* (New York: Oxford University Press), *American Religion* (2020).
- Review of Erica Armstrong Dunbar, *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman* (New York: 37 Ink, 2019), *Civil War Monitor* (2020).
- Review of Reid L. Neilson and Carson V. Teuscher, eds., *Pacific Apostle: The 1920-21 Diary of David O. McKay in the Latter-day Saint Island Missions* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), *H-Diplo* (2020).
- Review of Megan Kate Nelson, *Three Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West* (New York: Scribner), *Civil War Monitor* (2020).
- Review of David Walker, *Railroading Religion: Mormons, Tourists, and the Corporate Spirit of the West* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), *Church History and Religious Culture* (2020).
- Review of Joanne B. Freeman, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to the Civil War* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux), *History: Reviews of New Books* (2019).
- Review of Philip F. Gura, *Man's Better Angels: Romantic Reformers and the Coming of the Civil War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), *Civil War Monitor* (2018).
- Review of Michael J. Klarman, *The Framers' Coup: The Making of the United States Constitution* (New York: Oxford University Press), *Journal of Southern History* (2018).
- 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**

- “What Senator Mike Lee Tells Us About the Future of the GOP,” *Religion & Politics* (April 27, 2021).
- “‘Murder Among the Mormons,’ Latest True Crime Doc from Netflix, Highlights Issues of Faith, Skepticism, and Authenticity,” *Religion Dispatches* (March 1, 2021).
- “Mormons and Evangelicals Share an Ironic Skepticism of Democracy,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (October 9, 2020).
- “Mitt Romney and His Father Both Fought for Civil Rights. But There is a Crucial Difference,” *Washington Post* (June 10, 2020).
- “How an 1843 Revelation on Polygamy Poses a Serious Challenge to Modern Mormonism,” *Religion Dispatches* (May 14, 2020).
- “The Nauvoo Crisis that Continues to Shape the Modern LDS Church,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (February 25, 2020).
- “How Mitt Romney’s Impeachment Vote Was Influenced by His Mormon Faith,” *NBC Thought* (February 6, 2020).
- “What the Two ‘Mormon’ Senators Tell Us About the LDS Battle Over Sexuality,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (November 14, 2018).
- “Trump and the Division of Nationalism,” *Houston Chronicle* (October 24, 2018).
- “The Revolutionary Roots of America’s Religious Nationalism,” *Religion & Politics* (March 20, 2018).
- “Trump’s View of America as a White Nation Is as American as Apple Pie,” *History News Network* (January 15, 2018).
- “Jeff Sessions is a Hypocrite on States’ Rights. But So is Everyone Else,” *Washington Post* (January 10, 2018).
- “Mormons After Monson: What Comes Next?” *Religion News Service/Salt Lake Tribune* (January 4, 2018).
- “Mormons and the Boy Scouts, Once Joined at the Hip, Are Now Heading Down Different Trails,” *Religion News Service/Salt Lake Tribune* (October 17, 2017).
- “How Funding for the Humanities Helps Public College Students Become Better Texans,” *Dallas Morning News* (August 3, 2017).
- “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 Convoluted 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**

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Best Book, Mormon History Association, 2021

- For *Kingdom of Nauvoo*

Finalist, Best Audiobook, Association for Mormon Letters, 2021

- For *Kingdom of Nauvoo*

Finalist, Sally and Morris Lasky Prize, Lebanon Valley College Center for Political History, 2019.

- For *American Nationalisms*

Visiting Fellow, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, 2018.

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.

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**

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### *Invited Talks*

- “The Problem and Potential of Nationalism at America’s Founding,” Daughters of the American Revolution, Huntsville, TX, 2021.
- “Thomas Paine’s Worst Nightmare: Mormon Nauvoo and the Boundaries of Religious Liberty in Early America,” Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, Iona College, NY, 2020.
- “Kingdom of Nauvoo: The Rise and Fall of a Religious Empire on the American Frontier”
- Utah State University, February 2020
  - Brigham Young University, February 2020
  - Dixie State University, March 2020
  - Southern Utah University, March 2020
  - University of Utah, March 2020
  - Utah Valley University, March 2020
  - University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2020
  - Claremont Graduate University, March 2020
  - Knox College, March 2020 (postponed)
  - Arizona State University, April 2020 (postponed)
  - Stanford University, April 2020 (postponed)
- “How The Mormon Empire Was Nearly Built in Texas,” Phi Alpha Theta Lecture, Lamar University, Lamar, TX, 2019.
- “When the Mormons Built a Theocracy on the American Frontier,” College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, 2018.
- “The Mormons vs. Democracy on the Banks of the Mississippi,” Kinder Institute Public Lecture Series, University of Missouri, MO, 2018.
- “What Holds America Together? The Place of Diversity in American Nationalism,” Books & Bridges Lecture, Weller Book Works, Salt Lake City, UT, 2018.
- “Joseph Smith’s Religious Liberty, and Ours,” Religious Pluralism and Democracy Symposium, Utah Valley University, Orem, UT, 2018.
- “Algernon Sidney Johnston’s Nationalism: What A South Carolina Novel about Intergalactic Travel, Carnivorous Demons, and Romantic Bonds Tell Us About Early American Union and Disunion,” Wells Fargo Lecture Series, Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World, Charleston, SC, 2017.
- “Theologies of Revolution and Retrenchment: Situating Religion in the Age of Revolutions,” College of Charleston Faculty Workshop, Charleston, SC, 2017.
- “Beyond *Nature* and *Walden*: Why the Transcendentalists are Important to American Democracy,” Books & Bridges Lecture, Utah Humanities Book Festival, Salt Lake City, UT, 2017.
- “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: “Research and Audience in the Digital Age,” American Historical Association (January 2022); “Contextualizing the Hofmann Saga in Mormon History” (March 2021); “The Suffrage Movement in America’s Intellectual Tradition,” US Intellectual History Conference (November 2020); “How Historians Write About Politics, Then and Now,” Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, Iona College, NY (October 2018); “Approaches to the American Survey,” Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses, American Historical Association, Houston, TX (September 2017); “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*

- “Religion, Birch, and the Conspiratorial Style of the 1960s,” American Historical Society, New Orleans, LA, 2022.
- “Situating Religious Diversity in the US History Curriculum,” American Society of Church History, online conference, 2021.
- “The Missouri Crisis and America’s Nationalist Fracturing,” Organization of American Historians, Washington DC, 2020 (cancelled—COVID).
- “The Mormon Kingdom and Manifest Destiny’s Discontents,” Space, Time, and Religion Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 2020.
- “Citizenship in Nation and Empire: Mormon Theocracy and America’s Constitutional Tradition,” American Society of Church History, New York City, NY, 2020.
- “*The Democratization of American Christianity: A Thirty-Year Retrospective*,” Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA, 2019.
- “Establishing the Ancient Order: Navigating Power and Politics in Early Nauvoo,” Joseph Smith Papers Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, 2019.
- “Higher Principles, Common Law, and the Constitution: Transcendentalism’s Evolving Democratic Theory,” Organization of American Historians, Philadelphia, PA, 2019.
- “Prophet, Priest, King, and President: The Mormon Solution to Democratic Excess,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, Atlanta, GA, 2019.
- “Publishing, Blogging, and the Scholarly Sphere in the Twenty-First Century,” American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, 2019.
- “Thomas Paine’s *Age of Reason* and the Splintering of America’s Religious Nationalism,” Revolutionary Texts in a Digital Age, Iona College, New Rochelle, NY, 2018.
- “Theodore Parker, Joseph Smith, and the Antinomian Challenge to American Democracy,” Transcendentalist Intersections: Literature, Philosophy, and Religion, University of Heidelberg, Germany, 2018.
- “Rights of Religious Minorities: The Mormon Constitutions,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Cleveland, OH, 2018.
- “Racializing Regions: Colonizing Louisiana Territory and the Limits of Early American Union,” Organization of American Historians, Sacramento, CA, 2018.
- “James Branagan’s America(s): Religion, 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, 2017.
- “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 Relief Society and Political Mobilization: Gendered Power in Mormon Nauvoo,” John Whitmer Historical Association, Nauvoo, IL, 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**

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### *Academic Service at SHSU*

- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, 2020-.
- University Graduate Council, 2020-.
- Faculty Senate, 2018-.
- University Core Curriculum Assessment Committee, 2018-2020.
- Chair, Search Committee for Mexican-American History, 2018-2019.
- Sponsoring Promising Undergraduate Research Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2018-.
- Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, 2017-2020.
- Webmaster, Department of History, 2017-2019.
- Honors Council, Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, 2017-.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of History, 2016-2017.

### *Professional Service*

- Co-Editor, *Mormon Studies Review*, 2019-.
- Book Award Committee, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2019-. (Chair, 2020-.)
- Program Committee, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2020.
- Co-Chair, Editor Search Committee, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 2019.
- Board of Directors, Dialogue Foundation, 2018-.
- Program Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Cambridge, MA, 2019.
- 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*, 2013-2018.
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Mormon History*, 2012-2015.
- Founder and Editor, *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, 2012-2018.
- 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*, 2007-2016.

Manuscript Referee: Yale University Press; Oxford University Press; University of Utah Press; Oklahoma University Press; University of Illinois Press; State University of New York Press; Routledge; Brigham Young University Press.

Journal Referee: *New England Quarterly*; *Journal of the Early Republic*; *Journal of Southern History*; *Early American Studies*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Journal of Southern History*; *American Political Thought*; *Journal for the Illinois State Historical Society*; *American Catholic Studies*; *Journal of Religion and Ethics*; *Politics*,

*Religion, & Ideology; Eras Journal; Theological Librarianship; Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature; Journal of Mormon History; Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought; BYU Studies Quarterly; Theological Librarianship; Religious Educator.*

Tenure Referee: Hamilton College; Southern Illinois University; Utah Valley University.

***Courses Taught at Sam Houston State University***

HIST 1301: United States History to 1876  
HIST 3300: Historian's Craft  
HIST 3360: American Religious History  
HIST 3374: US Religions to 1865  
HIST 3375: US Religions since 1865  
HIST 3376: America to 1783  
HIST 3377: America in Mid-Passage, 1783-1876  
HIST 3378: Emergence of Modern America, 1877-1945  
HIST 3380: The American Civil War  
HIST 4368: Era of the American Revolution, 1763-1789  
HIST 4399: Senior Research Seminar (Age of Revolutions)  
HIST 5301: Historical Methods (Grad Seminar)  
HIST 5307: Intellectual History (Grad Seminar)  
HIST 5371: Revolutionary America (Grad Seminar)  
HIST 5372: Early National America (Grad Seminar)  
HIST 5373: US Civil War  
HIST 5378: American Cultural and Religious History (Grad Seminar)  
HONR 3332: Honors Seminar in the Humanities (The Age of Hamilton)  
UNIV 1301: Introduction to Collegiate Studies

***Courses Taught at University of Missouri***

HIST 1100: United States History to The Civil War  
HIST 4000: The Age of Jefferson  
HIST 4004: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Revolutions: America, France, Haiti  
HIST 4972: Religion and Politics in American History

***PhD Dissertation Committees***

Steven Peterson, "Mormon Pilgrimage" (Montana State University, in progress)

***MA Theses Chaired***

Sarah Johnson, "Culinary Writing and Understanding the Civil War" (Sam Houston State University, in progress)

***MA Thesis Committees***

Raymond Scherrer, "Who Lost Missouri? The Uneasy Alliance Between the Missouri State Guard and the Confederacy, 1861-1862" (Sam Houston State University, 2021)  
Breelin Shafer, "The Lively Experiment: Roger Williams, Rhode Island, and Religious Freedom" (Sam Houston State University, 2021)  
Riley Sullivan, "Tennessee's Long Civil War: The Study of Memory in the Tennessee Civil War Veteran Questionnaires" (Sam Houston State University, 2021)  
Lauren Lewis, "The Most Damnable Thing?: Women Who Want to be Women and the Fight to Rescind the Equal Rights Amendment in Texas" (Sam Houston State University, 2020).

- Lisbeth Hargraves, “The Nimitz Graybook: How the United States Naval War College Influenced the Pacific Campaign During World War II” (Sam Houston State University, 2020).
- Preston Mack, “Achieving Surprise at Anzio and Normandy: The Importance of Diversion in European Amphibious Operations, 1943-1944” (Sam Houston State University, 2020).
- Serena Barbieri, “Anti-Heroes: Deserters’ Motivations in the Civil War” (Sam Houston State University, 2019).
- Brittany Godburn, “Witchcraft Trials and Accusations in Pre-Modern Scotland” (Sam Houston State University, 2019).
- John Keck, “Continental and *Coureurs de Bois*: The American Invasion of Canada and Illinois in the Revolutionary War” (Sam Houston State University, 2018).
- Tracy Lewis, “Elizabeth Bayley Seton, Catholicism, and Republican Womanhood” (Sam Houston State University, 2017).

### ***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***

- Coauthor and Cosigner of an Amici Curiae Brief in Opposition to President Donald Trump’s Refugee Ban, Filed with the Supreme Court, August 2017.
- “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.

### ***Media Appearances***

Radio/Television/Podcast Interviews: 99% Invisible; NPR; RadioWest; KHQA; KUTV; BYU Radio’s Top of Mind; Australia Broadcast Corporation’s NightLife; Vermont Public Radio’s Brave Little State; KUER; Meaning of Life; KCSJ’s “Having Read That”; New Books in History; BYU Radio’s The Lisa Show; The Whiskey Rebellion Podcast; The Age of Jackson; History That Doesn’t Suck; This Week in Mormons; A Thoughtful Faith; Year of Polygamy; the Cultural Hall Podcast.

Newspaper/Magazine Interviews: *Washington Post*; CNN; *Vice*; *Newsweek*; *The Atlantic*; *Slate*; *The Guardian*; *Univision*; *Houston Chronicle*; *Salt Lake Tribune*; *Deseret News*; *Religion News Service*; *Religion Dispatches*; *Presence*; *Perspectives on History*; *The New Humanist*.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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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**

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

**REFERENCES**

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Available upon request