

Jedediah S. Rogers, editor

foreword by Klaus J. Hansen

“The charge for the Council of Fifty was to help elect Joseph Smith president of the United States, to scout out potential colonies in Texas and Oregon, and to organize a political ruling body to prepare for Christ’s imminent return.”

—Jed Rogers

REVELATION  
IN  
CONTEXT  
OR  
How the new gospel topics  
essays are shaping modern  
MORMONISM

Presented by the Sunstone Education Foundation  
at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
in San Diego, CALIFORNIA  
on the 31st of January MMXV

THIS BEING A PROGRAM DESCRIBING THE  
VARIOUS EVENTS FOR THE INFORMATION AND  
CONVENIENCE OF ALL ATTENDEES

# PROGRAM

**10:00 a.m.**

*Welcome and Introduction*

Lindsay Hansen Park,  
Sunstone Assistant Director

Room **325**

**10:15-10:45 a.m.**

*Opening Speaker*

Brad Kramer

Room **325**

**11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Session I: Polygamy & Violence**

*Polygamy*

Lindsay Hansen Park, Jana Riess,  
George D. Smith

Moderator: Paula Goodfellow

Room **323**

*Peace & Violence*

Joanna Brooks, Morris Thurston,  
Amanda Farr-Knickerbocker

Moderator: Stephen Carter

Room **325**

**12:30-2:00 p.m.**

**Lunch**

**2:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Session II: Mormon Theology**

*Race & the Priesthood*

Armand Mauss, Mica McGriggs,  
Russell Stevenson, Kaimi Wenger

Moderator: Amanda Farr-Knickerbocker

Room **323**

*Are Mormons Christian?*

Jana Riess, Lorie Winder Stromberg,  
Dan Wotherspoon, Sara Burlingame

Moderator: Lorian Dunlop

Room **325**

**3:45-5:15 p.m.**

**Session III: Early Church History**

*The Book of Abraham*

John Larsen, Christopher C. Smith,  
Susan Staker

Moderator: Tom Kimball

Room **323**

*First Vision &*

*Book of Mormon Translation*

Devery Anderson, Seth Bryant,  
Micah Nickolaisen, Camilla Smith

Moderator: Sara Burlingame

Room **325**

**5:30-6:00 p.m.**

*Keynote Address*

George D. Smith

Room **325**

## PRESENTER BIOS

**DEVERY S. ANDERSON** is an editor at Signature Books in Salt Lake City. He is co-editor of *JOSEPH SMITH'S QUORUM OF THE ANOINTED* and *THE NAUVOO ENDOWMENT COMPANIES*. He is also editor of *THE DEVELOPMENT OF LDS TEMPLE WORSHIP*. His book *THE BOY WHO NEVER DIED: THE SAGA OF THE EMMETT TILL MURDER* will be published in August by the University Press of Mississippi.

**JOANNA BROOKS** is the associate dean of graduate and research affairs at San Diego University. She is author of *THE BOOK OF MORMON GIRL: A MEMOIR OF AN AMERICAN FAITH (2012)* co-editor of the forthcoming *MORMON FEMINISM: FORTY YEARS OF ESSENTIAL WRITINGS (Oxford UP, 2015)* and *DECOLONIZING MORMONISM (University of Utah, 2016)*.

**SETH BRYANT** is a convert to Community of Christ from the LDS Church. He serves as the associate pastor of its Salt Lake City congregation, and as a member of the Western USA Field Team. Seth completed graduate studies in religion at Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida.

**SARA BURLINGAME** is a faith organizer for the Human Rights Campaign. She is a Unitarian Universalist who was raised as a Bahai in the Intermountain West. She writes and speaks nationally about interfaith dialogue between Mormons and others. She makes her home in Cheyenne, Wyoming with a funny, kind man and their three rowdy boys.

**AMANDA FARR-KNICKERBOCKER** has a degree in educational sciences with an emphasis in biology, chemistry, and physics. She lives in San Diego with her husband and five children, three of whom are foster children. She is a support group leader for foster parents of medically-fragile, drug-exposed, and HIV-positive children in San Diego.

**BRAD KRAMER** has a PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan. His dissertation research examined sacred language, religious secrecy, and women and feminism in patriarchal religious communities. He is an instructor at Utah Valley University, and the publicity and the marketing director for Greg Kofford books.

**JOHN LARSEN** is director of the Whitefields Education Foundation and host of the *MORMON EXPRESSION* podcast. He has been involved in Mormon Studies for over ten years while working as a project director for the University of Utah. Although John grew up as a seventh-generation Mormon, he took the journey out of Mormonism about eight years ago.

**ARMAND L. MAUSS** is professor emeritus of sociology and religious studies at Washington State University. He is the author of many articles and several books in Mormon Studies, including *ALL ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN: CHANGING MORMON CONCEPTIONS OF RACE AND LINEAGE (University of Illinois Press, 2003)*.

**MICA MCGRIGGS** is a PhD candidate in counseling psychology at Brigham Young University. Her academic research focuses on multicultural sensitivity in psychology. She is a new permablogger at *FEMINIST MORMON HOUSEWIVES*, where she discusses her love of intersectional feminism. Mica is a lifelong member of the LDS Church.

**MICAH NICKOLAISEN** is a lifelong Latter-day Saint residing in Mesa, Arizona. He is an avid consumer of Mormon Studies, and has participated for several years in the online Mormon community as a blogger and podcaster. He is interested in helping individuals navigate faith transitions and build community outside of traditional religious institutions and cultures.

**LINDSAY HANSEN PARK** is the assistant director for the Sunstone Education Foundation and the founder of the *FEMINIST MORMON HOUSEWIVES* podcast featuring the acclaimed *YEAR OF POLYGAMY* series. Her work has appeared in the *NEW YORK TIMES*, the *WASHINGTON POST*, *NPR*, the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, and many Utah publications.

**JANA RIESS** has a Ph.D. in American religious history from Columbia University. She is the author, co-author, or editor of many books, including *FLUNKING SAINTHOOD: A YEAR OF BREAKING THE SABBATH, FORGETTING TO PRAY, AND STILL LOVING MY NEIGHBOR; WHAT WOULD BUFFY DO? THE VAMPIRE SLAYER AS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE; and MORMONISM FOR DUMMIES.*

**CHRISTOPHER SMITH** is a PhD candidate in religions in North America at Claremont Graduate University. He's currently living and working in Sacramento, California while he writes his dissertation. Several of his articles on the Joseph Smith papyri and Egyptian papers have been published in Mormon history journals.

**CAMILLA SMITH** is the editor of *BANCROFTIANA*, UC Berkeley's special collections library's newsletter. She is a trustee of Teachers College at Columbia University, *NPR*, *KQED*, *Science Friday*, and the *San Francisco Conservatory of Music*. She also serves on the foundation board at *SF State University*.

**GEORGE D. SMITH** is a graduate of Stanford University and New York University. He is the editor of *AN INTIMATE CHRONICLE: THE JOURNALS OF WILLIAM CLAYTON*, and author of *NAUVOO POLYGAMY: "... BUT WE CALLED IT CELESTIAL MARRIAGE,"* which received the best book of 2008 award from the John Whitmer Historical Association.

**SUSAN STAKER** is the co-author with Carol Cornwall Madsen of *SISTERS AND LITTLE SAINTS*, a history of the founding of the Primary; co-editor with John Sililo of *MORMON MAVERICKS*; and editor of *WAITING FOR WORLD'S END*, an abridged version of Wilford Woodruff's journals. She was an editor at Signature Books and a managing editor at *SUNSTONE*.

**RUSSELL STEVENSON** is the author of two books (*FOR THE CAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF BLACKS AND MORMONISM* and *BLACK MORMON: THE STORY OF ELIJAH ABLES*) and several articles published in *DIALOGUE* and the *JOURNAL OF MORMON HISTORY*.

**LORIE WINDER STROMBERG** was the managing editor of the *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*, editor of the *MORMON WOMEN'S FORUM QUARTERLY*, associate editor of *SUNSTONE*, and co-founder and chair of the *Sunstone West Symposium*. She served on the board of *EXPONENT II* and presently serves on the executive board of *ORDAIN WOMEN.ORG*.

**MORRIS THURSTON** is a graduate of Harvard Law School, a retired partner of the global law firm Latham & Watkins, a former consultant to the Joseph Smith Papers (Legal Series), and a board member of the Dialogue Foundation. His paper "The Boggs Shooting and Attempted Extradition: Joseph Smith's Most Famous Case" received an award of merit from the Mormon History Association.

**KAIMI WENGER** is assistant professor of law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California. He received a J.D. from Columbia Law School. His articles have been published in the *WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW*, *AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW*, *UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO LAW REVIEW*, *CONTEMPLATIONS*, and *THOMAS JEFFERSON LAW REVIEW*.

**DAN WOTHERSPOON** is a freelance writer and editor, and host of the *MORMON MATTERS* podcast. He led *SUNSTONE* from 2001 to 2008. He has a masters and doctorate in religion, with an undergraduate major in philosophy.

# Sunstone

Founded in 1974

*The mission of The Sunstone Education Foundation is to sponsor open forums of Mormon thought and experience. Under the motto, "Faith Seeking Understanding," we examine and express the rich spiritual, intellectual, social, and artistic qualities of Mormon history and contemporary life. We encourage humanitarian service, honest inquiry, and responsible interchange of ideas that is respectful of all people and what they hold sacred.*

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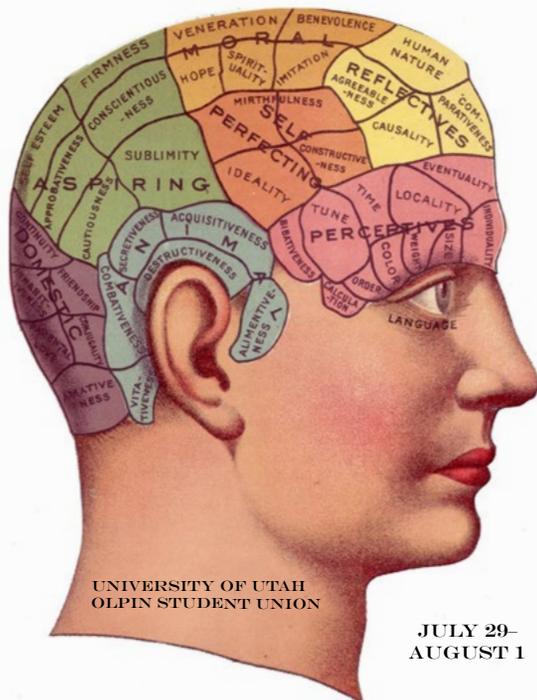
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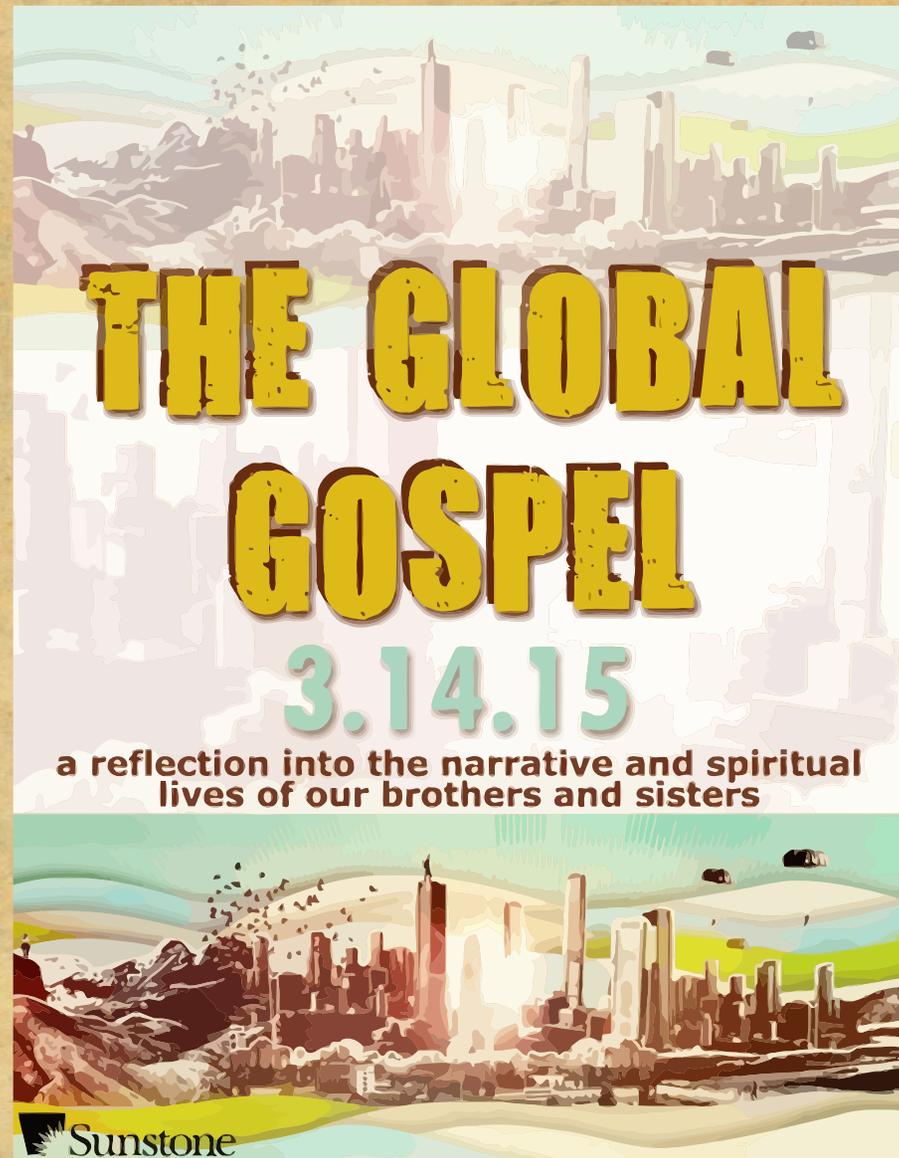
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a reflection into the narrative and spiritual  
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