



Photo by Janet M. Kincaid

**THE SALT LAKE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM** is an annual gathering of Latter-day Saints, scholars, and others interested in the diversity and richness of Mormon thought and experience and who enjoy pondering the past, present, and future of Mormon Studies.

The Sunstone Symposium is based upon the principles of an open forum and the trust that the cause of truth and the community of Saints are best served by free and frank exploration and discussion. Sunstone welcomes proposals for this year's event, expecting that all participants will approach every issue, no matter how difficult, with intelligence and good will.

**FORMATS:** Sessions may be scholarly papers, panel discussions, interviews, personal essays, sermons, dramatic performances, literary readings, debates, comedy routines, short films, art displays, films, or musical presentations.

**TOPICS.** We encourage proposals that focus on this year's theme, **Bridges and Byways: Traversing the Mormon Landscape**.

## 2014 Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium

**Proposal Deadline: 14 April 2014**  
for first-round consideration

Bridges span barriers and allow us to move between physical locations. Byways are secondary roads—the scenic routes that emphasize exploration and the journey. How can thinking about bridges and byways help us understand Mormon history, theology, and culture?

Metaphorically speaking, we can construct bridges of understanding that connect people and ideas. Where does it make sense to build new bridges? How much of our resources should we use to maintain aging bridges? When do we need to demolish outdated bridges? When do we reinforce or rebuild bridges that have become unsound? Is our intent to build permanent, lasting structures—or quick, temporary crossings?

Metaphorical byways suggest the pursuit of knowledge off the beaten (or correlated) path—the fascinating historical tidbits and obscure figures that enrich our understanding. Byways can help us find new and divergent ways to create an interconnected system.

As the LDS Church evolved, which of its bridges and byways became mainstream thoroughfares? Which bridges deteriorated or fell into disuse? What new bridges and byways are being built as the LDS Church expands globally? What has changed about our thoroughfares since the early days of the Church?

## 30 JULY–2 August 2014

University of Utah Olpin Student Union  
200 S Central Campus Drive, SLC 84112

## This year's theme: Bridges and Byways: Traversing the Mormon Landscape

Early Saints watched bridges being burned behind them as they were driven from settlements in the Midwest. What effect did this have on Mormons' willingness to build bridges with the outside world later? How has modern Mormonism bridged the divide between itself and other New Religious movements; between the larger religious landscape in the US and the rest of the globe? Where has two-way traffic flowed smoothly on Mormonism's bridges to the outside world and where have there been bottlenecks and collisions? When has tension arisen between those Saints who prefer well-traveled bridges and those who prefer the byways?

Finally, how has the information superhighway rerouted traffic? Mormons are more connected than ever before; what are the benefits to these additional means of connectivity? And what costs are being exacted? Along our byways, where are the rest stops, the historical markers, the toll booths, the road closures, and the perpetual construction zones?

We also welcome reflections on other topics and their intersection with Mormonism, as well as studies of historical and contemporary events and figures, news in the Mormon world, online communities, theological explorations, and Mormon cultural studies.

**SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:** To receive first-round consideration, proposals should be received by **14 APRIL 2014**. Incomplete or late proposals will be considered on a time or space-available basis. Sessions will be accepted according to standards of excellence in scholarship, thought, and expression.

### ALL PROPOSALS MUST INCLUDE:

- A session title
- One-hundred word abstract
- Names, brief bios or vitas, and contact information for all proposed presenters
- A list of any audio/visual equipment needs (or specify none)
- A brief summary of the topic's relevance and importance to Mormon studies
- If possible, please include a topic outline or preliminary draft

EMAIL PROPOSALS TO Symposium Director  
Mary Ellen Robertson  
SUNSTONEME@GMAIL.COM

To submit proposals by mail, please send to: SUNSTONE  
343 North Third West Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
Contact the Sunstone office with questions: (801) 355-5926.