

# J. SPENCER FLUHMANN

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## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

*Brigham Young University*

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### EDUCATION

**Ph.D. (2006), History, University of Wisconsin–Madison**

Minor: Religious Studies

Fields: American Religion, U.S. History 1750–1850, Colonial British North America

Committee: Charles L. Cohen (chair), William Cronon, Ronald L. Numbers

**M.A. (2000), History, University of Wisconsin–Madison**

**B.A. (1998), *summa cum laude*, Near Eastern Studies, Brigham Young University**

Minor: History

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2011-present: Assistant Professor, History, Brigham Young University**

HIST 220: U.S. History to 1877

HIST 364: Utah History

HIST 380: U.S. Religious History Since 1860

HIST 394: Scripture: An American History (in development)

**2006-2011: Assistant Professor, Religion, Brigham Young University**

**2009: Visiting Instructor, Religious Studies, Utah Valley University**

RLST 366R: Mormonism in American History and Thought

**2004-2006: Instructor, Religion, Brigham Young University**

**1998, 2000-2004: Part-time Faculty, Religion, Brigham Young University**

**2003: Research Associate, Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History,  
Brigham Young University**

**2001: Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

HIST 102: United States History since the Civil War

**1999-2001: Project Assistant, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, University  
of Wisconsin-Madison**

### PUBLICATIONS

#### ♣ In Progress

*"A Peculiar People": Anti-Mormonism and the Making of Religion in Nineteenth-Century  
America* (University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming 2012)

Guest editor, with Steven Harper and Jed Woodworth, "Mormonism in Cultural Context,"  
special issue of *Journal of Mormon History* (forthcoming, summer 2012)

- “Communitarianism and Consecration,” in Terryl L. Givens and Philip Barlow, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Mormonism* (under contract, Oxford University Press, 2013[?])
- “Building the Kingdom, 1830-1850,” in Brian Q. Cannon, David Lewis, Jeffrey Nichols, and Paul Reeve, eds., [Utah History Textbook] (under contract, Utah State University Press, 2014[?])
- S.v., “Spiritual Environment” and “Early LDS Leaders,” in Donald Cannon, et al, eds., *Atlas of Latter-day Saint History* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 2013[?])
- Review of *The Mormon Menace*, by Patrick Q. Mason, in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (2012)
- Review of *Shakers, Mormons, and Religious Worlds*, by Stephen C. Taysom, in *Journal of Mormon History* (2012)
- Review of *Parley P. Pratt: The Apostle Paul of Mormonism*, by Terryl L. Givens and Matthew J. Grow, in *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (2013)

#### • Edited Book

- The Doctrine & Covenants: Revelations in Context*, contributing editor, with co-editors Andrew H. Hedges and Alonzo L. Gaskill (Provo and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, and Deseret Book Co., 2008)

#### • Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters

- “‘A Subject That Can Bear Investigation’: Anguish, Faith, and Joseph Smith’s Youngest Plural Wife,” *Mormon Historical Studies* 11, no. 1 (Spring, 2010): 41-51.
- “Authority, Power, and the ‘Government of the Church of Christ,’” in Richard N. Holzapfel and Kent P. Jackson, eds., *Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer* (Provo: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2010), 195-231.
- “Fashioning a Newer Mormon History,” *Journal of Mormon History* 35, no. 3 (Summer 2009): 214-18.
- “An ‘American Mahomet’: Joseph Smith, Muhammad, and the Problem of Prophets in Antebellum America,” *Journal of Mormon History* 34, no. 3 (Summer, 2008): 23-45.  
\*Winner, “T. Edgar Lyon Best Article Award,” *Mormon History Association, 2009*
- “The Joseph Smith Revelations and the Crisis of Early American Spirituality,” in Andrew H. Hedges and Alonzo L. Gaskill, eds., J. Spencer Fluhman, contributing ed., *The Doctrine & Covenants: Revelations in Context* (Provo and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, and Deseret Book Co., 2008), 66-89.
- “Anti-Mormonism and the Question of Religious Authenticity in Antebellum America,” *Journal of Religion and Society* 7 (2005): pars. 1–13.
- “Early Mormon and Shaker Visions of Sanctified Community,” *Brigham Young University Studies* 44, no. 1 (2005): 79–110.
- “Brother Joseph and Father Joseph: Mormon and Shaker Visions of Millennial Community,” in *Archive of Restoration Culture: Summer Fellows’ Papers 1997–1999* (Provo: Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History, 2000), 59–71.

#### • Book Reviews

*Mormonism: A Very Short Introduction*, by Richard L. Bushman and *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*, by Jared Farmer, *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* 10, no. 2 (April 2009): 261-63.

*Providence and the Invention of the United States, 1607-1876*, by Nicholas Guyatt, *Journal of Church and State* 50, no. 2 (Spring 2008): 382-83.

*Collected Leonard J. Arrington Mormon History Lectures*, *Mormon Historical Studies* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 161-67.

*Adventures of a Church Historian*, by Leonard J. Arrington, *Nauvoo Journal* 11 (Spring 1999): 162-66.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Professor of the Year Award, American Studies Program, Brigham Young University, 2011

Faculty Research Grant, Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2010-11

T. Edgar Lyon Best Article of the Year Award, Mormon History Association, 2009

Fellow, Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, 2007-09

Research Fellow, Summer Seminar, Neal A. Maxwell Institute, Brigham Young University, 2008

Faculty Research Grant, Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2008

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Region, 2005

Dissertation Research Grant, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004

Vilas Dissertation Research Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004

Verla Anderson Sorenson Research Fellow, Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History, Brigham Young University, 1999

Golden Key National Honor Society, 1998

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, 1998

## PRESENTATIONS

### • Academic Papers, Invited Lectures, and Roundtable Discussions

"Mormonism in the Crucible of American Historical Narrative," Mormon History Association, Calgary, Alberta, June 2012 (accepted)

"Mormonism in America," Chapman University, Orange, California, April 2012

"Religion in the History and Culture of the United States," International Fellows Program, International Student Management Office, National Defense University, Washington, D.C., March 2010, February 2011, March 2012

"Mormonism and American Evangelicalism," Seattle University, Seattle, Washington, February 2012

- “Mormonism and American Evangelicalism,” Denver Seminary, Denver, Colorado, October 2011
- “On Familiarity and Contempt: Mormon/Protestant Relations Past and Present,” “Mormon Engagement with the World Religions: Perspectives and Possibilities with the Abrahamic Traditions” Conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, June 2010
- “What Mormon Studies Can and Must Not Be,” Claremont Mormon Studies Student Association Conference, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, April 2010
- “The Problem of Mormon Whiteness,” American Religious History Working Group, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, February 2010
- “The Joseph Smith Revelations and the Crisis of Early American Spirituality,” 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 2008
- “‘A Subject That Can Bear Investigation’: Anguish, Faith, and Nauvoo Plural Marriage,” “Joseph Smith and His Critics” Symposium, Neal A. Maxwell Institute, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, July 2008
- “Unmasking the ‘American Religion’: Early Anti-Mormonism and the Problem of Pluralism,” “Mormons and American Life” Conference, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 2008
- “The Making of Federal Anti-Mormonism before *Reynolds*,” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2008
- “‘A Perfect Hallucination of Mind’: American Encounters with Early LDS Spirituality,” American Studies Lecture Series, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 2007
- “Countering the Mormon ‘Delusion’: Descriptions of Early Mormon Belief and Practice,” American Society of Church History, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 2007
- “The Prophet Problem: Controversial Visionaries in the Age of Joseph Smith,” Omnibus Seminar Series Lecture, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, November 2005
- “‘Arch Imposters’: Joseph Smith, Muhammad, and the Problem of Prophets in Antebellum America,” Mormon History Association, Killington, Vermont, May 2005
- “‘Imposture’: Anti-Mormonism and the Question of Religious Authenticity in Antebellum America,” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Rocky Mountains–Great Plains Region, Denver, Colorado, April 2005
- “‘Imposture’: Explaining Joseph Smith, 1829-44,” Mormon History Association, Provo, Utah, May 2004
- “Intolerable Prophets: Joseph Smith and Muhammad in Antebellum America,” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Rocky Mountain–Great Plains Region, Provo, Utah, March 2004
- “Explaining (Away) Joseph Smith During His Lifetime,” Religious Education Faculty Forum, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 2003
- “Brother Joseph and Father Joseph: Mormon and Shaker Visions of Millennial Community,” “Joseph Smith and His Times” Symposium, Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 1999

• Panel Chair and/or Responses

Session Organizer and Chair, "Problematizing the History of LDS Identity Construction," American Historical Association & American Society of Church History, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2013 (proposed)

Session Moderator and Respondent, "Joseph Smith: From the Sacred Grove to Carthage Jail," *BYU Studies* Symposium, Provo, Utah, March 2010

Session Respondent, "Ellen G. White: Views From the Outside," Ellen White Project Conference, Portland, Maine, October 2009

Session Chair, "Resisting Others, Resisting Ourselves: Mormon Strategies of Non-Violent Struggle," Mormon History Association, Springfield, Illinois, May 2009

Session Chair and Respondent, "Text, Narrative, and Religion Making: Two Mormon Examples," Mormon History Association, Sacramento, California, May 2008

Session Chair and Respondent, "LDS Memory of a Persecuted Past," Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 2007

Session Chair, "Portrayals of Utah and Mormonism in the Nineteenth Century," Mormon History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, May 2007

Session Chair and Respondent, "Daily Life of Joseph Smith," Mormon History Association, Killington, Vermont, May 2005

Session Chair, "The Changing Nature of Mormon Experiences With the Revelatory Other, 1820-2000," Mormon History Association, Kirtland, Ohio, May 2003

• **Additional Conferences Attended**

"At the Crossroads, Again: Latter-day Saint and Protestant Encounters in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C., February 2012

Annual Conference, American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, California, November 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 2011

Mormonism in Cultural Context(s) Symposium, Springville, Utah, June 2011

46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Mormon History Association, St. George, Utah, May 2011

Annual Conference, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, October/November 2010

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2009

Sacred Space Symposium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 2009

Annual Conference, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 2007

Annual Conference, American Historical Association/American Society of Church History, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 2006

Annual Conference, American Historical Association/American Society of Church History, Seattle, Washington, January 2005

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2012-13: Faculty Internship Advisor, History Department, BYU

2011-12: U.S. Family History Search Committee, History Department, BYU

2011-13: Nominating Committee, Mormon History Association  
 2011-12: Student Awards Committee, History Department, BYU  
 2007-present: American Studies Faculty Advisory Council, BYU  
 2011: Historical Consultant, Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 2010-11: Organizing Committee, Mormonism in Cultural Context(s) Symposium  
 2010-11: Faculty Search Committee, Department of Church History & Doctrine, BYU  
 2008-11: Elected Board Member, Mormon History Association  
 2008-11: Chair, Awards Committee, Mormon History Association  
 2007-11: Chair, Student Awards Subcommittee, Mormon History Association  
 2009: Comprehensive History Committee, Historical Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 2007-10: ORCA Review Committee, Religion, BYU  
 2007-08: Sidney B. Sperry Symposium Committee, Religion, BYU  
 2006-07: Chair, Faculty Forum Committee, Religion, BYU  
 2004-06: Faculty Forum Committee, Religion, BYU  
 Manuscript reviewer for Arthur H. Clark Company (an imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press), *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture, Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*, and *BYU Studies*.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Church History, since 2000  
 American Historical Association, since 2002  
 Mormon History Association, since 2002  
 American Academy of Religion, since 2004  
 Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology (past member)  
 Organization of American Historians (past member)  
 Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (past member)

## REFERENCES

- Charles L. Cohen, Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison; director, Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions; clcohen@wisc.edu
- Richard L. Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History, emeritus, Columbia University; rlb7@columbia.edu
- Amanda Porterfield, Robert A. Spivey Professor of Religion, Florida State University; aporterf@fsu.edu

