

MORMON  
SOCIAL  
SCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION  
**MSSA**

2018

# MORMON SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

February 21, 2018 | 1:00 PM – 6:45 PM

Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah  
Classroom Building (CB), Room 510

**Students, faculty, and public are invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual one-day conference hosted by the Mormon Social Science Association. This event will bring together a diverse range of participants under the broad rubric of Mormon Studies. The MSSA promotes the interdisciplinary, scholarly study of the social, cultural and religious life of Mormons.**

## PARTICIPANTS

Marie Cornwall | Ryan Cragun | Eric Dahlin  
Bethany Gull | Emily Harris | Kyle Jacobsen  
Michael Nielsen | Mandy Pershing | Rick Philips  
Jana Riess | Nancy Ross | Gary Shepherd

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

### Marie Cornwall

Professor Emerita,  
Brigham Young University

Women, Women,  
Women: Lessons  
Learned from a  
Historical Perspective  
on Women's Lives

### Jana Riess

Senior Columnist,  
Religion New Service

From Institutional to  
Relational Authority:  
Mormon Millennials and  
Generational Change



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February 21, 2018 | 1:00 PM – 6:45 P.M.

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## 1:00 - 2:10 | Uneven Terrain: Gender, Sexuality and the Mormon World View

Convener, Rick Phillips, University of North Florida

### **Mormon Women in STEM: What Are the Limitations?**

Mandy Pershing, Brigham Young University

### **“Coming Out” Narratives: Similarities and Differences in Identity Development Between Disaffiliating Mormon Women and LGB Individuals**

Bethany Gull, University of Utah

### **Anonymous Survey Sheds Light on Mormons' Views of Gay Policy**

Kyle Jacobsen, Utah State University

## **BREAK 2:10 – 2:30**

## 2:30 – 3:40 | New Directions: Women, Priesthood, and a Changing Mormon Homeland

Convener, Gary Shepherd, Professor Emeritus, Oakland University

### **Ordain Women, Mormon Feminists, and the LDS Church: Tracking Tensions over Time**

Nancy Ross, Dixie State University

### **Not Before Jesus Comes: Mormon Attitudes Toward the Ordination of Women**

Ryan Cragun, The University of Tampa

### **LDS Membership and Utah Demographics: A Tale of Two Counties**

Emily Harris, Demographic Analyst at the University of Utah Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

## **BREAK 3:40 – 4:00**

## 4:00 - 5:10 | Featured Speaker

### **From Institutional to Relational Authority: Mormon Millennials and Generational Change**

Jana Riess, Senior Columnist, Religion News Service

**Discussants:** Michael Nielsen, Georgia Southern University, and Gary Shepherd, Oakland University

## **BREAK 5:10 – 5:30**

## 5:30 – 6:15 | Keynote Address

### **Women, Women, Women: Lessons Learned from a Historical Perspective on Women's Lives**

Marie Cornwall, Professor Emerita, Brigham Young University

Introduction by Eric Dahlin, Brigham Young University

## 6:15 – 6:45 | Reception and Social



# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

## MARIE CORNWALL

Marie Cornwall is Professor Emerita, Brigham Young University. She is a sociologist who has studied gender, family, religion, and social change. Her research has included studies of family and religion, changing religious institutions, gender and religiosity, state adoption of woman suffrage, steelworkers and steelworker's families' response to long term unemployment, and reproductive strategies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She was the executive officer of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and later became the editor of the organization's premier journal, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. She has published in a variety of sociological journals and edited *Contemporary Mormonism: Social Science Perspectives*. Most recently, she was the Sociology Program Officer at the National Science Foundation, where she managed the federal funding of sociological research in the United States. Returning to Utah last July, she has resumed her duties on the board of the Aileen H. Clyde 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Legacy Archive at the University of Utah and is President of Resources for the Study of Social Engagement, a small non-profit research organization. She is managing a project aimed at documenting 20<sup>th</sup> century women's lives by conducting and preserving life history accounts of women born before 1950. In addition, she is pursuing work on the Great-Great-Grandmother Project—a study of her nineteenth-century female ancestors and the community of women in which they were embedded—and encouraging other women to do the same.

## RYAN CRAGUN

Ryan Cragun is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Tampa. His research focuses on Mormonism and the nonreligious and has been published in various scholarly journals. He is also the author of several books.

## ERIC DAHLIN

Eric Dahlin is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Brigham Young University, with research interests in the sociology of organizations, innovation, institutional change, and social networks. Among other publications, he is co-author with Brayden King and Marie Cornwall of "Winning Woman Suffrage One Step at a Time: Constitutional Revision and the Logic of the Legislative Process."

## BETHANY GULL

Bethany Gull is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at the University of Utah. Her research interests include religion, gender, and identity development. She brings these interests into the study of a variety of topics, including LGBTQ youth and family well-being. She has been published in *Diversity and Equality in Health and Care*, *Journal of Education and Practice*, and *Public Policy and Administrative Research*.

## EMILY HARRIS

Emily Harris works as a demographic analyst at the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and focuses on population estimates, demographic trend research, data analysis, and population projections to inform policy makers and local stakeholders of the current and future demographic characteristics of Utah's population. She earned her M.S. in Sociology from Purdue University.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (continued)

### KYLE JACOBSEN

Kyle Jacobsen is currently pursuing a degree in Religious Studies at Utah State University.

### MICHAEL NIELSEN

Michael Nielsen is Professor and Chair of Psychology at Georgia Southern University. He has served as President of the Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (Division 36 of the American Psychological Association), and serves on nine editorial and advisory boards for journals in psychology and religion. His most recent honor for his work came from Hitit Universitesi, in Corum, Turkey.

### MANDY PERSHING

Mandy Pershing is pursuing her M.S. in Sociology at Brigham Young University. She attended the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, and in 2013 received a B.A. in Social Science. During that time, she conducted research in China on the experience of minority cultures under communist regime, as well as research in Alaska on the Japanese Americans who were interned from Alaska during WWII. She is interested in human rights, gender and sexuality, and natural resource allocation.

### RICK PHILIPS

Rick Phillips is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of North Florida. He earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University in 2001. His work centers on the construction and maintenance of religious identity.

### JANA RIESS

Jana Riess is the author of the forthcoming book *The Next Mormons: The Rising Generation of Latter-day Saints*, co-editor of *Mormonism and American Politics*, and is the author of a number of other titles. She holds a Ph.D. in American Religious Studies and is a senior columnist for the Religion News Service.

### NANCY ROSS

Nancy Ross is an Assistant Professor of Art History at Dixie State University and holds a Ph.D. in the History of Art from the University of Cambridge. She is a former executive board member of Ordain Women, and has written extensively about women's identities and Mormon feminism in the digital age.

### GARY SHEPHERD

Gary Shepherd is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Oakland University and co-author with Gordon Shepherd of *A Kingdom Transformed: Early Mormonism and the Modern LDS Church*.