

# MORMON SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Michael E. Nielsen, Editor

## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message.....	1
Montreal Program.....	1
Announcements.....	2
Bibliography Update.....	2

### President's Message

One of the things I particularly enjoyed about my sabbatical leave in Salt Lake City this past winter was having closer, direct contacts with various folks who are involved with MSSA. It certainly made me feel much more connected with the Mormon research community and better able to carry out my tasks as MSSA president. Now that I am once again 2,000 miles removed from "Zion," I am re-experiencing that old, familiar sense of being out of touch (if not "out of it" altogether). I am especially looking forward to the upcoming November SSSR meetings as a partial antidote to this "out of it" feeling. If you share a similar syndrome, I hope you plan on joining us in Montreal for temporary relief of symptoms. Beyond the re-securement of valued relationships among colleagues, all of our sponsored sessions (not to mention the larger SSSR agenda) sound intriguing enough to provide their own sufficient reasons for attendance. As just one, personal example of both attractions, I am excited that Warner Woodworth--versatile social psychologist, sociologist, and organizational specialist at BYU--has agreed to give the Glen M. Vernon Lecture. Warner has always had a great many insightful things to say and suggest about the application of Mormon ideals to improving people's lot in life. He will be worth hearing. And, in addition, the personal bonus for me is that Warner--as an old childhood neighbor, friend, and schoolmate--is one of those re-secured connections that provide additional incentive for my own

participation in MSSA.

Just one last thought: We will be generating nominations for future MSSA Officers and Board of Directors at this year's MSSA Business meeting. Please give some thought to potential candidates you might suggest. If you are unable to the meeting, names can be submitted to me (shepherd@oakland.edu) or to Lynne Payne (PayneLR@ldschurch.org).

### Montreal MSSA Program

Beautiful Montreal is the location of this year's MSSA conference, held in conjunction with the SSSR and RRA meetings. Montreal's old world charm provides a lovely backdrop for a conference that features even more diversity than usual. The complete SSSR - RRA program provides all of the session details and registration information; you can obtain one from Lynn Payne (801/240-3990) or by email at <paynelr@chq.byu.edu> or from the SSSR office (Sociology Department, Purdue Univ., 1365 Stone Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1365).

In addition to the annual breakfast/business session, there are three paper sessions and the Glenn M. Vernon Memorial Lecture. Most of the MSSA-related sessions occur on Saturday, Nov. 7. For your convenience, they are listed here:

#### MSSA cosponsored sessions

*MSSA Breakfast*, Saturday, Nov. 7, 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:00 a.m.

*Perspectives on Mormonism* (Grant Underwood, Organizer)

Trends in American Religion, with Special Reference to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Saints, James T. Duke  
Light-Mindedness Verses Lightheartedness:  
Conflicting Conceptions of Laughter Among  
Latter-day Saints, Diana Mahony  
The Presence and Value of Religious Icons Among  
Catholic, Latter-day Saint, and Pentecostal  
University Students: A Descriptive Study, Ronald  
Jackson,  
Mormon Church Influences in Taiwan, Richard B.  
Stamps

Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:45 a.m.  
*Mormonism and the Canadian Experience* (Merlin  
Brinkerhoff, Organizer)  
Mormonism in Quebec: A North American  
Challenge, Dean Lauder  
The Impact of Communal Property Act on the  
Hutterite colonies of Alberta, Max Stanton  
Mormonism in Canada: A Conflict of Interest? Clyde  
Forsberg

Saturday, Nov 7, 3:00 p.m.  
*The Glen M. Vernon Lecture* (Gary Shepherd,  
Organizer)  
Working Toward Zion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Warner  
Woodworth,

Sunday, Nov. 8, 8:00 a.m.  
*Constructing Mormonism on the Margins* (David  
Knowlton, Organizer)  
Mormon Intellectuals: Living on the Boundary, O.  
Kendal White & Daryl White  
Ministering Angels and Eunuchs for Christ: Being  
Mormon in the Sexual Margins, Richley Crapo  
The Hyphenated Identities of Gay Mormons, Bob  
Christensen  
Mormonism and the New Age: Constructing Religion  
from Below, David Knowlton

*Other Mormon-related papers throughout the  
conference:*  
Mormonism, Pluralism and the Transformation of  
Religious Devotion among Latter-day Saints,  
Rick Phillips  
Combining Sainthood and Sisterhood: Family,  
Friends and Faith Amongst Mormon Women,  
Lori Beaman  
Voice from the Dust: A Literary Analysis of the  
Book of Mormon, Walter Krajewski

*Other work at the conference by MSSA members:*  
Marie Cornwall is convener and discussant of a  
session on The Interpretation and Transmission of  
Religious Symbols

David Knowlton is organizing a session on Religious  
Processes in Contemporary Mexico  
Establishing Interdisciplinary Religious Dialogue  
between Statesboro (USA) and Sevastopol  
(Ukraine), Michael Nielsen, Anatoly Glushak &  
Yuri Skomorowski  
Are Ideological Differences Between Families of  
Religious Denominations Increasing? An  
Assessment of the Roof-McKinney Hypothesis,  
Lawrence Young & Sara Jo Brown

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Monograph Series

Remember that a new LDS monograph series  
has been announced. The South Florida-Rochester-  
St. Louis Studies in Religion and the Social Order  
(Scholars Press) announces a new subseries: Studies  
of Latter-day Saint Religion. Up to three monograph  
titles a year focusing on any aspect of Latter-day  
Saint religion but particularly how and why it is  
significant for culture, society, and the scholarly  
studies of religion generally will be published in this  
series. Inquiries or manuscript submissions should be  
addressed to: Danny L. Jorgensen, Editor, Studies of  
Latter-day Saint Religion, Department of Religious  
Studies, University of South Florida, 4202 East  
Fowler Avenue, CRP 107, Tampa, FL 33620.

### Dues

MSSA dues are now payable. Please send a  
check to MSSA, in care of Lynn Payne (Research  
Information Division, 18th Floor, 50 E. North  
Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150) to keep your  
membership current. Details are provided on the  
reminder slip included with this newsletter.

### Newsletter Help

Nominations are now being accepted for the  
position of MSSA newsletter editor. Duties include  
preparing the basic copy and coordinating duties with  
the MSSA president and treasurer. It typically  
requires 6 - 8 hours twice per year. Contact one of  
the following people to submit your nomination:  
Gary Shepherd 248/370-2427  
<shepherd@oakland.edu>; Mike Nielsen 912/681-  
5344 <mnielsen@gasou.edu>; Lynn Payne 801/240-  
3990 <paynelr@chq.byu.edu>; Daryl White

404/223-7573 <dwhite@spelman.edu>; Jesse Embry  
801/378-4048 <JLE3@email.byu.edu>; or Grant  
Underwood 808/293-3646 <underwog@byuh.edu>.  
Remember to nominate someone before they  
nominate you!

## 1997 - 1998 BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE

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