



Fall 2009

Volume 30, Issue 2

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## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

This is my farewell message as president of the MSSA. At our October meeting in Denver the torch was passed to our capable colleague Ryan Cragun. Since I assumed the post of MSSA president, a number of changes have taken place, both within our little organization and within the sociological study of Mormonism.

With respect to the MSSA, our central challenge remains recruiting new members that are not only interested in joining the organization, but also volunteering and contributing their time to help run it. The economic recession hasn't helped matters, as travel money is low hanging fruit for budget cuts, and graduate students—our principal source of new members—are loathe to spend what little funds they have on attending a small conference like SSSR. We know that cuts to travel funds have thinned our ranks at the annual meeting for three years running. Nevertheless, this year in Denver we saw some new faces, and we hope these budding scholars will join our ranks and help us advance the social scientific study of Mormonism.

With respect to the state of the social scientific study of Mormonism, the past few years have seen the MSSA take a prominent role in advancing the profile of the field. The most significant contribution during my tenure as MSSA president was the publication of the edited volume assessing the Thomas F. O'Dea's *The Mormons*. This book is both edited by, and contains several essays by, MSSA members. The book has been a great boon for our organization both in raising our profile, and in providing revenues that we can use for future activities. The editors, BYU professors Cardell Jacobson, John Hoffman, and Tim Heaton graciously agreed to donate all proceeds from the book to the MSSA. (For those who have not had a chance to purchase this book, it is entitled *Revisiting Thomas F. O'Dea's The Mormons*, published by University of Utah Press.)

At the meeting in Denver we discussed how we could use money from the O'Dea book to invite a high profile speaker for the biennial Vernon Lecture, which will be presented at next year's meeting in Baltimore. Soon you will receive a call for nominations for a speaker,

**Future SSSR Meetings:**

**2010: October 29-31  
Baltimore, Maryland**

**Future MHA Meetings:**

**2010: May 27-30,  
Independence, MO**

**2011: May, St. George, UT**

Please send your dues for 2009 to Michael McBride, 7 Frost Street; Irvine, CA 92617. Dues are \$10.00 annually. Checks should be made payable to "Mormon Social Science Association" or "MSSA."

Dues are also payable on the MSSA website via Paypal (which accepts credit cards).

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, and don't already, save the MSSA some money by sending your email address to: [mcbride@uci.edu](mailto:mcbride@uci.edu)

and we urge you to make a nomination, and to think outside the box when considering who we might invite.

Aside from the O'Dea book, members of the MSSA continue to be interviewed by journalists, and we have been regularly misquoted in some of the nation's leading newspapers. The MSSA web site continues to be an important point of articulation between the organization and the public. The site is maintained by Ryan Cragun, and it continues to receive substantial traffic. Topics and documents on the site routinely garner on the order of 400 or 500 readers, and thus we can be confident that scholars and journalists (as well as interested googlers) are visiting the site. Finally, this past summer Mike McBride (MSSA treasurer)

## Elections

The membership of the MSSA chose new leadership this Spring. Our new president-elect is Henri Gooren, assistant professor of anthropology at Oakland University. Mike McBride (Department of Economics, University of California, Irvine) will remain on as treasurer. The new MSSA board will consist of Melvyn Hammarberg, Associate professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Matt Bahr, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Gonzaga. Ryan Cragun will begin serving as MSSA president at our annual

hosted a guest blog forum at "By Common Consent," the largest of the Mormon blogs. The forum included questions posed to MSSA members on the subject of the social scientific study of Mormonism.

In short, we have remained active, and our organization is in good health, but unnecessarily small. We hope you will introduce your colleagues and students to the MSSA, and I hope to meet those of you I don't yet know at next year's meeting in Baltimore.

Rick Phillips  
Associate Professor of  
Sociology  
University of North Florida

meeting in Denver. Rick Phillips will remain a member of the MSSA board as immediate past president.

Additionally, Rene Romig, a recent graduate of Rice University, and Bosco Bae, an anthropology student at the University of Utah will be teaming up to edit the newsletter.

**MSSA  
Leadership**

**President:**  
**Ryan T. Cragun**  
**(2009-2011)**

**President-  
Elect:**  
**Henri Gooren**  
**(2011-2013)**

**Board  
Members:**  
**Melvyn  
Hammarberg**  
**Matt Bahr**  
**Rick Phillips**  
**(2009-2011)**

**Treasurer/  
Secretary:**  
**Michael  
McBride (2007-  
present)**

**Newsletter  
Editor:**  
**Bosco Bae &  
Rene Romig**  
**(2003-present)**

**MSSA @ SSSR**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Period 1:

**Theorizing the Growth of  
Mormons, Adventists, and  
Witnesses**

Mormons in the ARIS: What  
Can State Level Data Tell Us  
about Mormons?

Ryan T. Cragun, Rick Phillips

Comparing Mormons and  
Adventists in Latin America  
Henri Gooren

"Supply vs. Demand" or  
Sociology?: Why Context  
Matters

Ronald L. Lawson, Rick  
Phillips, Ryan T. Cragun

Making the Convert:  
Conversions in the LDS  
Community Today  
Sophie-Hélène Trigeaud

Period 2:

Where Have All the Young  
People Gone? An Insiders  
View on LDS Conversion  
Careers in Michigan  
Richard Stamps

Period 3:

Religious culture and wealth:  
The case of the Latter-day  
Saints  
Andrew Miles, Lisa Keister

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Period 5:

Between Observer and  
Participant: Fieldwork among  
Pentecostals, Catholics, and  
Mormons in Central America  
Henri Gooren

Period 6:

The Role of Relationships in  
the Conversion Process; An  
LDS Sample  
James Phillips, Kristin Hansen

**MSSA BUSINESS MEETING**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Period 9:

Discovering a Discipline:  
Mormon Media Studies  
(Foundational Bibliography;  
Frameworks for Analysis;  
Research Agenda )  
Sherry Baker

Period 10:

Youth Apart? An Hypothesis  
About Mormon Peculiarity  
Sophie-Hélène Trigeaud

The Shift from Tongues to  
Dreams: A Study of  
Charismatic Gifts in a  
Nineteenth Century Mormon  
Sect  
Christopher Blythe

**Sunstone - Summer 2009 - by Rene Romig**

Apart from the usual summer  
hot weather and perhaps a  
little free time, this August  
brought with it the unique  
experience of attending the  
Sunstone Symposium.

I arrived at the conference as  
a curious first-timer, ready to  
take a short break from pure  
Mormon history (for the past  
few months, I had been busily  
giving tours of Joseph and

## Sunstone - Summer 2009 - by Rene Romig

Emma Smith's homes at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois) and delve into another facet of Mormon studies, one that might better satisfy my appetite for the sociology of religion.

It soon became clear to me that the Sunstone Symposium could very well merit a sociological study in and of itself! Intriguing people, intense camaraderie, refreshingly honest stories, and unique ideas abounded. Star scholars such as D. Michael Quinn, David Knowlton, Linda Newell, and many others freely presented their research and ideas. And for the sociologically minded like our MSSA membership, there was no lack of thought-provoking material and detailed scholarship.

Although the overall theme of the symposium was Celebrating Mormon Women's Contributions to Church and Culture, sessions and panels ranged in focus from theology to commentary on current events. Sociologist Tania Lyon toyed with the notion of applying the Toyota business model to the LDS church, identifying corporate practices that could aid in church growth and organization. Other scholars examined the role of the priesthood in various restoration traditions such as the LDS church and the Community of Christ, which extends priesthood to

women. Still others discussed the topic of polygamy through examinations of the recent FLDS raids and panels on ways to provide social services to the current polygamist community. Issues connected to homosexuality, perspectives on church history, and more, were explored through poems, essays, articles, and films.

One session was particularly memorable. During a plenary session entitled "The Dynamics of Power and Authority in the LDS Church," five individuals—a homosexual man, an LDS woman, a long-time LDS member who is African American, a Community of Christ apostle, and an organizational psychologist—offered their perspectives on the theme. Some of the stories were touchingly personal. All provoked more questions on inclusion, exclusion, social structure, race, religion, and the like.

I came away from the symposium feeling refreshed and reflective. For anyone curious about social issues and Mormonism, Sunstone stands as an invaluable source of discussion, creative energy, and scholarship.

Rene Romig, new co-editor,  
MSSA newsletter

## New and Recent Publications

- Brown, Samuel. 2009. "Joseph (Smith) in Egypt: Babel, Hieroglyphs, and the Pure Language of Eden.." Church History 78:26-65.
- Diez de Velasco, Francisco. 2009. "Multi-religiosity in the Canary Islands: Analysing processes of religious change between continents.." Religion 39:147-153.
- Starrs, Paul F. 2009. "Meetinghouses in the Mormon Mind: Ideology, Architecture, and Turbulent Streamlets of an Expanding Church." Geographical Review 99:323-355.

## News

### **Douglas Davies to Become President of BASR**

Douglas Davies will become the President of the British Association for the Study of Religions for the period 2009-2012. In connection with his new position, Dr. Davies hopes to host BASR annual conference in Durham in September 2011 and have the European Mormon Studies Association join the conference as a panel within the event. If any members of the MSSA are in Europe at the time, Dr. Davies welcomes your participation. The exact dates are not known, yet, but will probably be the first three days in the first full week of September.

### **Cardell Jacobson Editing New Volume on Polygamy**

Modern Polygamy in the United States: Historical, Cultural, and Legal Issues

Edited by Cardell K. Jacobson, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University with Lara Burton, Brigham Young University

### **Table of Contents**

#### **Prologue and Introduction:**

The Incident At Eldorado, Texas, Cardell K. Jacobson and Lara Burton

### **Section 1: Historical and Cultural Patterns of Polygamy in the United States: Estranged Groups**

1. A Repeat of History: A Comparison of the Short Creek and El Dorado Raids on the FLDS, Martha Sonntag Bradley
2. One Vision: The Making, Unmaking, and Remaking of a Fundamentalist Polygamous Community, Heber B. Hammon and William Jankowiak
3. Life Among the FLDS: Not Perfect, But Not Deluded and Not Monsters, Ken Driggs
4. History, Culture, and Variability of Mormon Schismatic Groups, Janet Bennion
5. Differing Polygamous Patterns: Nineteenth Century LDS and Twenty-First Century FLDS Marriage Systems, Kathryn Daynes

### **Section 2: Social Scientists Examine Polygamy and the Seizure of the FLDS Children**



## News

6. Demographic, Social and Economic Characteristics of a Polygamist Community, Tim B. Heaton and Cardell K. Jacobson

7. The Many Faces of Polygamy: An Analysis of the Variability in Modern Mormon Fundamentalism in the Intermountain West, Janet Bennion

8. "What's Love Got to Do with It?": Earthly Experience of Celestial Marriage, Past and Present, Carrie A. Miles

9. Social Scientific Perspectives on the FLDS Raid and the Corresponding Media Coverage, Ryan T. Cragun and Michael Nielsen

10. Learning the Wrong Lessons: A Comparison of FLDS, Family International, and Branch Davidian Child-Protection Interventions, Gary Shepherd and Gordon Shepherd

11. The International Fight Against Barbarism: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Marriage Timing, Consent, and Polygamy, Arland Thornton

### **Section 3: Legal and Ethical Issues Surrounding the Seizure of the FLDS Children**

12. The Intricacies and Ethics of Parental Genetic Testing, Deborah L. Cragun and Ryan T. Cragun

13. Child Protection Law and the FLDS Raid in Texas, Linda F. Smith

### **The Mormon Review Now Live**

The Mormon Review is a

quarterly electronic journal which publishes short articles and reviews analyzing (typically non-Mormon) books, essays, exhibitions, movies, plays, and the like, from a Mormon perspective. Our intent is not to criticize Mormonism, but to use our Mormonism to elucidate and critique the larger culture, and to better understand the world. The Mormon Review is online at:

<http://timesandseasons.org/mormonreview/wordpress/>

### **Mormon Studies at Claremont**

Richard Bushman has held the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies for more than a year now. The Mormon Studies program has officially launched. However, he will only remain in that position throughout this academic year and the next. He and his wife will retire in Fall 2011.

Fall/Spring 2009-2010  
Courses in the Mormon Studies program at Claremont:

- Joseph Smith, by Richard L. Bushman
- Mormon Scriptures, Richard L. Bushman
- Mormon Women in the 20th Century, by Claudia Bushman

2009-2010 Speakers:

October 22: Father Alexei Smith and Robert L. Millet, Catholic-Dialogue on Priesthood and Sacraments  
November 12: Harry S. Stout, Joseph Smith and Jonathan

For additional information,  
contact:  
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Irvine, CA 92617  
Email: [mcbride@uci.edu](mailto:mcbride@uci.edu)



The Mormon Social Science Association (MSSA) exists for the purpose of promoting and sharing the scholarly study of Mormon life. Any person with an interest in the study of the social, cultural, or religious life of Mormons is eligible to join. MSSA provides contact and association among researchers and educators working in both academic and applied settings. It is interdisciplinary and international in scope and purpose. The association participates in the annual joint meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) and the Religious Research Association (RRA). MSSA also publishes and distributes a semi-annual newsletter to its members.

Visit us online at:  
[www.mormonsocialscience.org](http://www.mormonsocialscience.org)

## News (continued)

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Edwards

February 18: Grant Hardy, Reading the Book of Mormon

March 18: Daniel C. Peterson, The State of the Debate over the Book of Mormon

April 15: Martha Bradley Evans, The Fundamentalists Today

May 21-22: Association of Mormon Scholars in the Humanities, The Family and Human Relationships in History, Literature, Art, and Philosophy Conference

Conference at Claremont May 2010, CMSSA, The New Mormon Academy: What Is Mormon Studies?

## EMSA Bibliography Online

<http://www.euromormonstudies.com/bibliography/>