

THE
JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS
CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00–8:15 A.M. **WELCOME AND CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION**

♥ CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

David W. Grua, Joseph Smith Papers, Program Committee Co-Chair

8:30–10:00 A.M. **CONCURRENT SESSION ONE**

GENDER IN NAUVOO: LAW AND PRACTICE

♥ CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

John S. Dinger, Independent Scholar

“Brink and Butterfield: Coverture in Nauvoo”

Brooke R. LeFevre, Baylor University

“Saviors of Men: Salvific Authority and Soteriological Relationships in Nauvoo”

Jennifer Reeder, Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“Voice[s] of Innocence: Virtue, Moral Reform, and Plural Marriage in 1844 Nauvoo”

GOD AND WORSHIP IN NAUVOO: THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

♥ MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, CONFERENCE CENTER

Jordan T. Watkins, Brigham Young University

“Joseph Smith and the Historicization of God”

Cody S. Whiting, Southern Virginia University

“A Man like Ourselves: Nauvoo Teachings on Anthropomorphism, Anthropopathism, and the Nature of God”

Jonathan A. Stapley, Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“Latter-day Saint Worship during Joseph Smith’s Lifetime”

10:15–11:30 A.M. **SESSION TWO: KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“HUNTING FOR DOCUMENTS: THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS AND JOSEPH SMITH’S BIOGRAPHY”

♥ CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

John G. Turner, George Mason University

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M. **LUNCH BREAK**

1:15–2:45 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION THREE

**INSIGHTS FROM DOCUMENTS,
VOLUMES 12, 13, AND 14**

♥ CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

Robin Scott Jensen, Joseph Smith Papers

Christian Heimburger, Joseph Smith Papers

Spencer W. McBride, Joseph Smith Papers

**INSIGHTS FROM THE ONLINE LEGAL AND
FINANCIAL SERIES**

♥ MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, CONFERENCE CENTER

Sharalyn D. Howcroft, Joseph Smith Papers

David W. Grua, Joseph Smith Papers

Elizabeth A. Kuehn, Joseph Smith Papers

Jeffrey D. Mahas, Joseph Smith Papers

3:00–4:30 P.M.

CONCURRENT SESSION FOUR

**RACE, THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND SACRED
NARRATIVES: BUILDING BELIEF SYSTEMS**

♥ CONFERENCE CENTER LITTLE THEATER

Joseph R. Stuart, Maxwell Institute, Brigham Young University

“They Have Souls and Are Subjects of Salvation”: Joseph Smith, Sacred Texts, and the Limits of New Paradigms”

Samuel Mitchell, Publishing Services Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“An Entire, Distinct and Separate Government”: The Council of Fifty and Its Intersections with Latter-day Saint Leaders, Institutions, and Practices in Nauvoo”

Stephen C. Taysom, Cleveland State University

“The Creation and Interruption of a Mythological/Ritual System: The Case of Joseph Smith’s Late-Nauvoo-Era Sacred Narratives, Rituals, and Their Untimely Disruption”

**REDRESS PETITIONS, CANNONS, AND RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM: LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICS**

♥ MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, CONFERENCE CENTER

Brad Armstrong, Independent Scholar

“John Frierson, Joseph Haywood, and the Politics of the 1843 Petition for Redress”

Cheryl L. Bruno, Independent Scholar

“Salute by Cannon”

Mitch Nelson, Claremont Graduate University

“This doctrine I do most heartily subscribe to”: The Latter-day Saint Doctrine of Religious Freedom from Liberty to Carthage”

PARTICIPANT BIOS

BRAD ARMSTRONG

“John Frierson, Joseph Haywood, and the Politics of the 1843 Petition for Redress”

Brad Armstrong is an aspiring independent historian. He graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor’s degree in history. He is on the Board of the Friends of the Merrill-Cazier Library at USU and is the president of the Cache Valley Historical Society. He is an avid reader and enjoys coaching youth baseball when the opportunity arises.

CHERYL L. BRUNO

“Salute by Cannon”

Cheryl L. Bruno is an independent researcher on Mormon history and coauthor of *Method Infinite: Freemasonry and the Mormon Restoration* (2022, Kofford Books). Her writings appear in the *Journal of Religion and Society*, the *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal*, and the *Journal of Mormon History*. In addition, she has published personal essays and poetry in several anthologies and has created a deck of Mormon-themed tarot cards. Cheryl is director of resident life at Madonna Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care in Salinas, California.

JOHN S. DINGER

“Brink and Butterfield: Coverture in Nauvoo”

John S. Dinger is a graduate of the S. J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah. In addition to a juris doctorate, he holds degrees in political science and history from the University of Utah. He has published in the *Journal of Mormon History*, *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal*, *Idaho Law Review*, and *Utah Law Review*. He is presently a deputy prosecuting attorney for Ada County in Boise, Idaho.

DAVID W. GRUA

David W. Grua is a historian in the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He holds a PhD in American history from Texas Christian University and BA and MA degrees in history from Brigham Young University. He is the lead historian of the Joseph Smith Papers’ online Legal Records series, and he was a volume editor for volumes 6 and 12 of the Documents series. He is also the author of the award-winning *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory*, published by Oxford University Press, as well as several articles on Native American and Latter-day Saint history.

CHRISTIAN HEIMBURGER

Christian Heimburger is a historian and volume editor with the Joseph Smith Papers. He coedited *Documents, Volume 5* and *Documents, Volume 9* and is lead editor of recently released *Documents, Volume 13*. Christian earned a bachelor’s degree in American studies from Brigham Young University and a PhD in American history from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He specializes in the cultural, ethnic, and religious history of the United States, with a particular focus on the American West, the Pacific, and modern Japan.

SHARALYN D. HOWCROFT

Sharalyn D. Howcroft is project archivist for the Joseph Smith Papers. She received an MA in library and information science with an archival studies concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She

is a digital archives specialist, a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, and part of that organization’s Exam Development Committee (2019–25).

ROBIN SCOTT JENSEN

Robin Scott Jensen is a historian and archivist for the Joseph Smith Papers and coedited the five volumes in the Revelations and Translations series (published 2009, 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2021), as well as volume 12 of the Document series. He specializes in document and transcription analysis and previously served as an associate managing historian for the project. In 2005 he earned an MA degree in American history from Brigham Young University, and in 2009 he earned a second MA in library and information science with an archival concentration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2019 he earned a PhD in history at the University of Utah. He completed training at the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents in 2007. He has published several articles and edited documents and has presented papers at various scholarly conferences.

ELIZABETH A. KUEHN

Elizabeth A. Kuehn is a historian and documentary editor with the Joseph Smith Papers. She has been a volume editor for volumes 5, 6, 10, and 15 of the Documents series. She is the lead editor of the online Financial Records series of the Joseph Smith Papers.

BROOKE R. LEFEVRE

“Saviors of Men?: Salvific Authority and Soteriological Relationships in Nauvoo”

Brooke R. LeFevre is currently a PhD student at Baylor University, where she studies the history of women, religion, and medicine in nineteenth-century United States. She received her MA from Utah State University, where she wrote her thesis on Elizabeth Pickett Tolman, a plural wife who struggled with infertility. She also published “I Would Not Risk My Salvation to Any Man: Eliza R. Snow’s Challenge to Salvific Coverture” in the *Journal of Mormon History*.

JEFFREY MAHAS

Jeffrey Mahas is a historian at the Church History Department with the Joseph Smith Papers Project. He has worked on the Administrative Records series, the Documents series, the Legal Records series, and the Financial Records series of the project. He received his MA in US history from the University of Utah.

SPENCER W. MCBRIDE

Spencer W. McBride, PhD, is the associate managing historian of the Joseph Smith Papers. He is the author of multiple books on the history of religion and American political culture, including *Pulpit and Nation* (University of Virginia Press, 2016), *Contingent Citizens* (Cornell University Press, 2020), *Joseph Smith for President* (Oxford University Press, 2021), and an editor of the forthcoming *New York’s Burned-Over District: A History in Documents* (Cornell University Press, 2023). McBride has also written about the evolving role of religion in American politics in the *Deseret News* and the *Washington Post*.

SAMUEL MITCHELL

“An Entire, Distinct and Separate Government”: The Council of Fifty and Its Intersections with Latter-day Saint Leaders, Institutions, and Practices in Nauvoo”

Samuel Mitchell currently works as a translation supervisor for sacred material in the Publishing Services Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Prior to this, he received a master’s degree in early Christian studies from the University of Notre Dame and a bachelor’s degree in ancient Near Eastern studies (emphasizing the Greek New Testament) from Brigham Young University. He is interested in the production, interpretation, and utilization of texts (especially scripture) by religious communities and in the historical development of Latter-day Saint doctrine and practices. He and his wife, Kathryn, have four children.

MITCH NELSON

“This doctrine I do most heartily subscribe to”: The Latter-day Saint Doctrine of Religious Freedom from Liberty to Carthage”

Mitch Nelson is a graduate student of religion at Claremont Graduate University. He specializes in the history of Christianity and religions of North America. He also has emphases in Mormon studies and museum studies and is interested in the intersections of politics and religion.

JENNIFER REEDER

“Voice[s] of Innocence”: Virtue, Moral Reform, and Plural Marriage in 1844 Nauvoo”

Dr. Jennifer Reeder is the nineteenth-century women’s history specialist in the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She earned her PhD in American history at George Mason University and an MA at New York University. She published *Emma: The Life and Faith of Emma Smith* in 2021 with Deseret Book and is currently collecting the discourses of Eliza R. Snow for web and print publication.

JONATHAN A. STAPLEY

“Latter-day Saint Worship during Joseph Smith’s Lifetime”

Jonathan Stapley is a scientist and historian. He works in the Church History Department at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is the author of the award-winning *The Power of Godliness: Mormon Liturgy and Cosmology*. He has particular interest in liturgy and practice.

JOSEPH R. STUART

“They Have Souls and Are Subjects of Salvation”: Joseph Smith, Sacred Texts, and the Limits of New Paradigms”

Joseph Stuart is a postdoctoral fellow at the Neal A. Maxwell Institute at Brigham Young University. He earned a BA in American studies from Brigham Young University, an MA in religious studies from the University of Virginia, and a PhD in history at the University of Utah. His work examines the relationship of race, masculinity, and religion in the twentieth-century Black freedom movement.

STEPHEN C. TAYSON

“The Creation and Interruption of a Mythological/Ritual System: The Case of Joseph Smith’s Late-Nauvoo-Era Sacred Narratives, Rituals, and Their Untimely Disruption”

Stephen Taysom is a professor in the Department of Philosophy and Comparative Religion at Cleveland State University, where he has taught since 2009. He has published or edited numerous books and journal articles in the fields of Mormon studies, American religious history, and alternative religions. He is the author of the forthcoming biography of Joseph F. Smith published by the University of Utah Press.

JOHN G. TURNER

“Hunting for Documents: The Joseph Smith Papers and Joseph Smith’s Biography”

John G. Turner earned his PhD in history at the University of Notre Dame and is professor of religious studies and history at George Mason University. Turner is the author of *They Knew They Were Pilgrims: Plymouth Colony and the Contest for American Liberty* (Yale University Press, 2020); *The Mormon Jesus: A Biography* (Harvard University Press, 2016); and *Brigham Young: Pioneer Prophet* (Harvard University Press, 2012). He is currently writing a biography of Joseph Smith.

JORDAN T. WATKINS

“Joseph Smith and the Historicization of God”

Jordan T. Watkins is an assistant professor of Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. He received his PhD in American history from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His recent book, *Slavery and Sacred Texts: The Bible, the Constitution, and Historical Consciousness in Antebellum America* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), examines the ways in which antebellum biblical and constitutional debates over slavery awoke Americans to the historical distance separating them from their hallowed biblical and Revolutionary pasts. Before joining the faculty at BYU, he worked as an editor of the Joseph Smith Papers.

CODY S. WHITING

“A Man like Ourselves”: Nauvoo Teachings on Anthropomorphism, Anthropopathism, and the Nature of God”

Cody Whiting currently serves as assistant provost of Southern Virginia University. Previous to his position at SVU, he enjoyed seven years as a religious educator for Seminaries and Institutes of Religion. He has received a master of public administration degree from Southern Utah University and a baccalaureate degree from Utah State University.

2022 Joseph Smith Papers Conference Program Committee

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David W. Grua
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JOSEPH SMITH
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