

Interpretation

Latter-day Saint Perspectives

A Conference Sponsored by
Mormon Scholars in the Humanities
and the Mormon Scholars Foundation

Southern Virginia University

May 16–17, 2008

Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m., Informal Gathering in the Main Hall Ballroom

9:30 a.m., Welcome by Rodney K. Smith, President of Southern Virginia University, and George Handley, President of Mormon Scholars in the Humanities

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

SESSION A, BALLROOM

Chair: Rodney K. Smith, Southern Virginia University

Nathan Oman, College of William and Mary, “The Living Oracles’: Legal Interpretation and Mormon Thought”

Jeremiah John, Southern Virginia University, “Interpretation and Political Theology: A Mormon Reading of John Paul II’s *Evangelium Vitae* and *Laborem Exercens*”

James Holt, Parris Wood High School & University of Chester, “Fostering or Failing Faith? Interpreting Latter-day Saint Theology in the Context of Christian Theology”

12:00 p.m., Lunch

1:30–3:30 p.m.

SESSION B, HILLTOP

Chair: Terryl Givens, University of Richmond

Chad McLane, Brigham Young University—Idaho, “Emerson in Gilgal Garden: An LDS Appropriation of ‘The Sphinx’”

Rosalynde Welch, Independent Scholar, “Attend the Tale: Toward an Art-Centered Aesthetics”

Candice Wendt, Brigham Young University, “Reading ‘The Book of Nature’: An LDS, Ecocritical Perspective of Marriage, Nature, and Interpretation in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*”

SESSION C, STONEMETZ

Chair: James Faulconer, Brigham Young University

Joseph Spencer, San Jose State University, “Thinking the Mormon Hermeneutical Situation: Four Mormon Discourses and the Place of a Uniquely Mormon Hermeneutics”

Justin White, Brigham Young University, “Caressing the Text: Towards a Levinasian Hermeneutics”

Alan Goff, DeVry University, “A Mormon Hermeneutic of Proximity and of Narrative”

4:00–6:00 p.m.

SESSION D, HILLTOP

Chair: Jennifer Connerley, James Madison University

Ann Marie McDonald, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, “Giggles in Sacrament Meeting: Laughter and Reformatory Satire in Mormon Culture”

Melanie Steimle, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, “Dinner on the Median: The Historical Location of Creative Dating in Mormon Folk Tradition”

Richard Oman, Museum of Church History and Art, “Mormon Pioneer Furniture: An Example of Using Context and Content, Rather Than Style, in Defining Mormon Art”

SESSION E, STONEMETZ

Chair: Randall Cluff, Southern Virginia University

Neal Kramer, Brigham Young University, “Orson F. Whitney’s Musings on a Mormon Theory of Literary Interpretation”

Genevieve Oliver, Indiana University, “The Religious Reader in the Secular World: Mormon Interpretation and the Literary Significance of Faith”

Shawn Bennion, Purdue University, “The Mormon Renaissance”

6:30 p.m., Dinner (Ballroom)

7:30 p.m., Plenary Panel: "Belief and Interpretation"

Saturday, May 17

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

SESSION F, BALLROOM

- Chair: Paul Edwards, Southern Virginia University
- George Handley, Brigham Young University, "Interpretation as Continuing Revelation in *The Book of Mormon*"
- Benjamin Spackman, University of Chicago, "The Contributions of the Book of Mormon to an LDS Hermeneutic of the Old Testament"
- Stanley Thayne, Brigham Young University, "The Sacred Literature Conundrum: Situating the Book of Mormon in the Academy"

SESSION G, STONEMETZ

- Chair: Kary Smout, Washington and Lee University
- Ronald Bartholomew, Brigham Young University, "Babylon and Zion: Buckinghamshire and the Mormons in the Nineteenth Century"
- Zachary Hutchins, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, "The Mote and the Beam: Applying Christ's Parable to Critical Paradigms and Poe's Stories"
- David Paxman, Brigham Young University, "The Family in the 18th Century British Novel: An LDS Interpretation, or a Rhetoric Thereof"

12:00 p.m., Lunch

1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

SESSION H, BALLROOM

- Chair: Scott Dransfield, Southern Virginia University
- Bruce Jorgensen, Brigham Young University, "Could We Have a Mormon Hermeneutics, and Would It Be a Good Thing If We Did?"
- Samuel Brown, University of Utah, "Interpretation and the Truth in Brackets"
- Benjamin Park, Brigham Young University, "Losing a Generation: LDS Interpretations of Lost Generation Literature"
- Jonathon Penny, United Arab Emirates University, "Mis(sed) readings? Critical Mormonism as Aperture and Aporia"

SESSION I, STONEMETZ

- Chair: T.R. Porter, Southern Virginia University
- Jan-Erik Jones, Southern Virginia University, "LDS Interpretation of Omnipotence and Omniscience"
- Mark Olsen, Central Connecticut State University, "Interpreting the Implications of Mormon Materialism for the Soul"
- Blake Ostler, Independent Scholar, "Interpretive Tradition Rather than Doctrine in the Mormon Tradition"

4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

SESSION J, BALLROOM

- Chair: Melissa Proctor, Harvard University
- Sheila Taylor, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, "How Might a Mormon Read Julian of Norwich? LDS Interpretation of Non-LDS Religious Texts"
- Jenny Rebecca Rytting, Northwest Missouri State University, "Visionary Writing in an Age of Apostasy"
- Daniel Muhlestein, Brigham Young University, "*The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* and the Limits of Mormon Literature"

SESSION K, STONEMETZ

- Chair: Francis MacDonnell, Southern Virginia University
- John Armstrong, Southern Virginia University, "Happiness as the End of Our Existence"
- Benjamin Huff, Randolph-Macon College, "Interpreting the Veil: Two Models of Mortality"
- Adam Miller, Collin College, "A Hermeneutics of Weakness"

6:30 p.m., Dinner on your own in Buena Vista or Lexington

Conference Registration

Contact Prof. John Armstrong at john.armstrong@svu.edu to register. There is no registration fee. The catered dinner on Friday evening is free to those on the program, \$15 for others. Campus housing is available for \$25 per night to those requesting it by April 15.