

JORDAN T. WATKINS

Assistant Professor of Church History and Doctrine

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2014

Dissertation: “Slavery, Sacred Texts, and the Antebellum Confrontation with History”

M.A., History, Claremont Graduate University, 2009

Thesis: “American Wests: Three Nineteenth-Century Travel Writers and the Adaptation of a Region”

B.A., History, Brigham Young University, 2006

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2018–present Assistant Professor of Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University

2016–2018 Historian/Editor, Joseph Smith Papers

2014–2016 Adjunct Faculty, History and Political Science Department, Utah Valley University

2013–2014 Part-Time Faculty, Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Watkins, Jordan T. *Slavery and Sacred Texts: The Bible, the Constitution, and Historical Consciousness in Antebellum America*. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Cope, Rachel, Carter Charles, and **Jordan T. Watkins**, eds. *How and What You Worship: Christology and Praxis in the Revelations of Joseph Smith*. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2020.

Kuehn, Elizabeth A., **Jordan T. Watkins**, Matthew C. Godfrey, and Mason K. Allred, eds. *Documents, Volume 10: May–August 1842*. Vol. 10 of the Documents series of *The Joseph Smith Papers*, edited by Matthew C. Godfrey, R. Eric Smith, Matthew J. Grow, and Ronald K. Esplin. Salt Lake City: Church Historian’s Press, 2020.

Articles and Essays

Watkins, Jordan T. “The Revelatory Sources of Early Latter-day Saint Petitioning.” In *Regional Studies in Latter-day Saint Church History: Washington, DC and Philadelphia*, edited by Kenneth L. Alford, Lloyd D. Newell, and Alexander L. Baugh. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2021.

Cope, Rachel, Carter Charles, and **Jordan T. Watkins**. “Introduction.” In *How and What You Worship: Christology and Praxis in the Revelations of Joseph Smith*, edited by Rachel Cope, Carter Charles, and Jordan T. Watkins, v–xi. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2020.

Watkins, Jordan T., and Christopher James Blythe. “Christology and Theosis in the Revelations and Teachings of Joseph Smith.” In *How and What You Worship: Christology and Praxis in the Revelations of Joseph Smith*, edited by Rachel Cope, Carter Charles, and Jordan T. Watkins, 123–56. Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2020.

Watkins, Jordan T. “Early Mormonism and the Re-Enchantment of Antebellum Historical Thought.” *Journal of Mormon History* 38, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 187–209. Special issue, in honor of Richard Lyman Bushman, edited by J. Spencer Fluhman, Steven C. Harper, and Jed Woodworth.

Watkins, Jordan T. “‘All of One Species’: Parley P. Pratt and the Dialectical Development of Early Mormon Conceptions of Theosis.” In *Parley P. Pratt and the Making of Mormonism*, edited by Gregory K. Armstrong, Matthew J. Grow, and Dennis J. Siler, 201–18. Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2011.

Watkins, Jordan T. “The Great God, the Divine Mind, and the Ideal Absolute: Orson Pratt’s Intelligent-Matter Theory and the Gods of Emerson and James.” *The Claremont Journal of Mormon Studies* 1, no. 1 (April 2011): 33–51.

Edited Documents

Park, Benjamin E., and **Jordan T. Watkins**, eds. “The Riches of Mormon Materialism: Parley Pratt’s ‘Materiality’ and Early Mormon Theology.” *Mormon Historical Studies* 11, no. 2 (Fall 2010): 159–72.

Watkins, Jordan T., and Steven Harper, eds. “‘It Seems That All Nature Mourns’: Sally Randall’s Response to the Murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.” *BYU Studies* 46, no. 1 (2007): 95–100.

Encyclopedia Entries

Watkins, Jordan T. “Miracles, Transcendentalism and.” In *Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places and Supernatural Events from Antiquity to the Present*, edited by Patrick J. Hayes. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2016.

Magazine Articles

Watkins, Jordan T. “Micah Shea, Joseph Smith, and (Social) Distance.” *BYU Religious Education Review* (Fall 2020): 6–9.

Watkins, Jordan T. “A Tale of Two Kings: How 2 Men with the Same Name Played Opposite Roles in Joseph Smith’s August 1842 Arrest.” *LDS Living*, May 14, 2020.

Reviews

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *The Antebellum Origins of the Modern Constitution: Slavery and the Spirit of the American Founding*, by Simon J. Gilhooley. *Journal of American History*, forthcoming.

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *Brigham Young and the Expansion of the Mormon Faith*, by Thomas G. Alexander. *Journal of American History* 107, no. 4 (March 2021): 1000-1001.

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *Wendell Phillips: Social Justice and the Power of the Past*, edited by A. J. Aiséirithe and Donald Yacovone. *Civil War History* 64, no. 2 (June 2018): 216–18.

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *Literary Cultures of the Civil War*, edited by Timothy Sweet. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 121, no. 1 (2017): 103–4.

Watkins, Jordan T. “The Old Testament and a New Republic.” Review of *American Zion: The Old Testament as a Political Text from the Revolution to the Civil War*, by Eran Shalev. *Society for U.S. Intellectual History*, June 7, 2015.

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *Hearken, O Ye People: The Historical Setting of Joseph Smith’s Ohio Revelations*, by Mark Lyman Staker. *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 18, no. 2 (November 2014): 122–26.

Watkins, Jordan. Review of *Joseph Smith, Jesus, and Satanic Opposition: Atonement, Evil and the Mormon Vision*, by Douglas J. Davies. *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 17, no. 3 (2014): 131–34.

Watkins, Jordan T. Review of *The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South*, by Patrick O. Mason. *International Journal of Mormon Studies* 8 (2012): 193–97.

Watkins, Jordan. Review of *Joseph Smith, Jr. Reappraisals after Two Centuries*, edited by Reid L. Neilson and Terryl L. Givens. *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 15, no. 4 (2012): 113–17.

Watkins, Jordan. *Liberty to the Downtrodden: Thomas L. Kane, Romantic Reformer*, by Matthew J. Grow. *International Journal of Mormon Studies* 2 (Spring 2009): 224–27.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INSTITUTES

2019	Mormon Studies Publication Workshop
2018	NEH Summer Institute on Slavery and the Constitution
2015–2016	Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society
2015	International Osnabrück Summer Institute on the Cultural Study of Law
2014–2015	New England Regional Fellowship
2013–2014	Nibley Fellowship, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship
2013	Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society
2012–2014	Foundation Board of Trustees Fellowship, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Inaugural Recipient)
2012–2013	Dissertation Grant, Brigham Young University
2011–2014	UNLV Access Grants, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2011–2012	Suzanne and Caleb Loring Fellowship on the Civil War, Its Origins, and Consequences, the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Boston Athenaeum

- 2010–2014 Travel Grants, Graduate and Professional Student Association, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2009–2013 Graduate Assistantships, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2009 Summer Fellow, Summer Seminar on Joseph Smith, “Parley and Orson Pratt and Nineteenth-Century Mormon Thought,” Brigham Young University

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2015 Nominee, Allan Nevins Prize, Society of American Historians
- 2014–2015 University Outstanding Dissertation Award, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2014 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Dissertation Award, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2014 Best Doctoral Dissertation, History Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2012 Comprehensive Examinations Completed with Honors, History Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2011 Best Doctoral Student, History Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2010–2011 Dr. Hal K. Rothman Doctoral History Graduate Student Award, History Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Latter-day Saints and Constitutional Creation on the Margins.” Presented via blog post at the USIH Blog in conjunction with the Society of US Intellectual History.
- 2020 “Christology and Theosis in the Revelations and Teachings of Joseph Smith.” Presented at the Sidney B. Sperry Symposium, Provo, UT.
- 2020 “Temporal Contexts and Eternal Connections in Joseph Smith’s Nauvoo Teachings.” Presented at the Joseph Smith Papers Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2020 “Latter-day Saint Constitutionalism, Slavery, and the Right to Petition in Antebellum America.” Accepted for Presentation at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Portland, OR (conference canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 “Suffering and Salvation: The Temporal Contexts of Joseph Smith’s Nauvoo Teachings.” Presented at the Joseph Smith Papers Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2019 “‘Preserve This Note as a Sort of Madison Paper’: Slavery and the Historical Turn in Antebellum Constitutional Interpretation.” Presented at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2019 “The Revelatory Sources of Early Latter-day Saint Petitioning.” Presented at the BYU

Church History Symposium, Washington, DC.

- 2019 “Early Latter-day Saint Petitioning and Constitutionalism in Antebellum America.” Presented at the Mormon Studies Publication Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 “‘The Constitution, The Bible, and God’: *Dred Scott* and Historical Readings of Sacred Texts.” Presented at an NEH Summer Institute on Slavery and the Constitution, Washington, DC.
- 2018 “‘The Question of the Day’: Abolitionism in the Era of Slavery’s Constitutionalization.” Presented at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Cleveland, OH.
- 2017 “The Constitution in Crisis: Antislavery and Mormon Appeals, Critiques, and Creations.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- 2016 “‘Each Name and Every Past Has Its Use’: Historical Argument and Appeal in William C. Nell’s Struggle for ‘A Second Revolution.’” Presented at the African American Intellectual History Society Conference, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2015 “‘Another Attucks’: The African-American Response to *Dred Scott* as a Historical Critique.” Presented at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA.
- 2015 “‘Progress Is Never in a Straight Line’: American Slavery and Historical Contingency.” Presented at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference, Raleigh, NC.
- 2014 “‘If a Form of Religion Rest on Written Documents’: Theodore Parker’s Transcendental Approach to America’s Sacred Religious and Legal Texts.” Presented at the Society of US Intellectual History Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 “Slavery, Sacred Texts and the Antebellum Confrontation with History.” Presented at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA.
- 2014 “‘These Pages Prove the Melancholy Fact’: Madison’s Papers and the Use of Historical Evidence in Antislavery Readings of the Constitution.” Presented at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Houston, TX.
- 2013 “The Apostle Paul, the American Founders, and the Fugitive Slave Law.” Presented at the Society of US Intellectual History Conference, Irvine, CA.
- 2013 “Mormon Polygamy and the Past: The Unsettled Historical Grounds of Nineteenth-Century American Social Reform.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, Layton, UT.
- 2013 “‘The Historic Strife?’: Massachusetts and the Civil War’s Shifting Temporalities.” Presented at Massachusetts and the Civil War: The Commonwealth and National Disunion, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA.
- 2013 “‘God and the Genius of the Age’: The Historic Civil War, the Promised Emancipation Proclamation, and a Clouded Providential Lens.” Presented at the UNLV GPSA Research Forum, Las Vegas, NV.

- 2012 “Joseph S. Buckminster and the Pastness of the Biblical Past in the New Republic.” Presented at the Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA.
- 2012 “Clio and America’s Civil War.” Presented at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA.
- 2011 “Early Mormonism and the Re-Enchantment of Antebellum Historical Thought.” Presented at Mormonism in Cultural Context: A Symposium in Honor of Richard Lyman Bushman on the Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday, Springville, UT.
- 2011 “‘Look Well to the West!’ Constructing the Mormon Other in a Catholic Image.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, St. George, UT.
- 2011 “‘The Central Figure of the Visible Sphere’: The Invisible Spirit and the Godlike Individual in Emerson’s Nature.” Presented at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Claremont, CA.
- 2011 “The Death and Birth of History: The French Revolution and the Development of Historical Thought.” Presented at the Southwestern Historical Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 “American Wests: Three Nineteenth-Century Travel Writers and the Adaptation of a People.” Presented at the Western History Association Conference, Incline Village, NV.
- 2010 “‘Virtue Fled into the Wilderness’: Parley P. Pratt’s Mormon Vision of the American Frontier.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, Independence, MO.
- 2010 “‘Philosophy Is the Only True Historian’: Emerson’s Philosophy of History.” Presented at the Southwest Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2009 “‘All of One Species’: Parley P. Pratt and the Dialectical Development of Early Mormon Conceptions of Theosis.” Presented at a public symposium on Parley and Orson Pratt and Nineteenth-Century Mormon Thought, Provo, UT.
- 2009 “The Great God and the Divine Mind: Orson Pratt’s Intelligent-Matter Theory and the God of Emerson.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, Springfield, IL.
- 2008 “Transmutational Theology: An Unofficial Authoritative View, Latter-day Saint Responses to Darwin, 1859–1933.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, Sacramento, CA.
- 2007 “Judge C. C. Goodwin and The Mormon Situation: Depicting a Tyrannical Despot.” Presented at the Mormon History Association Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2006 “Comparative Perspectives on Joseph Smith.” Presented at a Joseph Smith Seminar hosted by the History Department at Brigham Young University in connection with the bicentennial of Joseph Smith’s birth, Provo, UT.

2005 “The Council of Fifty and ‘The Kingdom of God’ in Mormon Thought.” Presented at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Organization of American Historians
American Historical Association
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
Society for US Intellectual History
African American Intellectual History Society
American Society for Legal History
American Society for Church History
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
Mormon History Association