**MAX PERRY MUELLER**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Department of Classics and Religious Studies

337-254-7552 • max.mueller@unl.edu

# EDUCATION

 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

# Ph.D., 2015, The Committee on the Study of Religion (American religious history).

# *Dissertation*: “Black, White, and Red: Race and the Making of the Mormon People, 1830-1880.”

# *Committee*: David Hempton (co-chair), Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (co-chair), Marla Frederick, David Holland.

# Secondary Doctoral Field, 2013, African and African American Studies.

# Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

M.T.S., 2008, Harvard Divinity School.

**Carleton College**, Northfield, MN

B.A., 2003, magna cum laude. Double major in Religion (Distinction in major) and French (Distinction in major).

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2016-Present The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Classics and Religious Studies, Assistant Professor.

2015-2016 Amherst College, Religion Department, Visiting Assistant Professor.

2014-2015 Mount Holyoke College, Religion Department, Visiting Lecturer.

Fall 2013 Carleton College, Religion Department, Visiting Lecturer.

2010-2013 Harvard University, Teaching Fellow and Tutor.

2003-2006 Episcopal School of Acadiana (Lafayette, LA), Upper School French Teacher and Head Cross-Country and Track Coach (boys and girls).

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book Projects**

(Under Contract *Race and the Making of the Mormon People, 1830-1908.* The University of North Carolina Press.

(In Progress) *Wakara’s World: A Cultural Biography of the Famed Ute Warrior Chief, Slaver, Horse Thief, and Would-be Mormon*.

(In Progress) *To Abolish Race: American Utopianism and the Pitfalls of Post-Racial Ideology, 1817-1859.*

**Editor of Peer-Reviewed Journal**

(2015) Guest co-editor with Gina Colvin. “Mormonism and Race: Beyond the Priesthood Ban,” special issue of *Journal of Mormon History* (July 2015).

**Peer-Reviewed Essays**

(Under Review) “‘A Colored Brother’ and ‘A Progressive People’: Booker T. Washington, the Mormons, and the Limits to Racial and Religious Reconciliation in the Turn-of-the-Century U.S.,” *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation.*

(Under Review) “One in Faith, One in Color, One in Language”: The Deseret Alphabet as Orthographic Supersessionism and Racial Restorationism in Nineteenth-century Mormonism, *Journal of American Academy of Religion*.

(2015) “History Lessons: Race and the LDS Church.” *Journal of Mormon History* (special edition for 50th anniversary of the Mormon History Association) (January 2015): 239-255.

(2013) “Playing Jane: Re-presenting Black Mormon Memory through Reenacting the Black Mormon Past.” *Journal of Africana Religions* (October 2013): 513-561.

 \* Won Award for Excellence (2014), Mormon History Association

(2011) “Changing Portraits of *Elect Lady*: Emma Smith in the ‘Secular,’ RLDS and LDS Historiography, 1933-2005.” *Journal of Mormon History* (Spring 2011): 183-214.

**Chapters in Edited Volumes**

(2016) “The Pageantry of Protest in Temple Square.” In ed. Patrick Mason and John Turner, *Out of Obscurity: Mormonism After 1945*, Oxford University Press.

(2015) “Twice-told Tale: Telling Two Histories of Mormon-Black Relations during the 2012 Presidential Election.” In ed. Randall Balmer and Jana Reiss, *Mormonism and American Politics*, Columbia University Press.

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS (selected)**

2015-2017 Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow, Amherst College

2015 Mormon History Association, Best Dissertation

2014 Mormon History Association, Award for Excellence, Journal Article, “Playing Jane: Re-presenting Black Mormon Memory through Reenacting the Black Mormon Past.” *Journal of Africana Religions* (October 2013): 513-561.

2014 Charles Warren Center Term-Time Fellowship Grant, Harvard University

2008-2014 Graduate School of Arts And Science Fellowship, Harvard University

2011-2012 Mormon Studies Fellowship, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah

2012 Mormon Historical Association Juanita Brooks Award (best graduate paper)

2011 Charles Warren Center Summer Dissertation Research Grant, Harvard University

2011 Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University

2011 Distinction in Doctoral Examinations, Harvard University

2010 John L. Loeb Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School

2010 Graduate Society Summer Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard University

2003 Fulbright Fellowship, teaching and study in France (declined to teach in Louisiana)

2003 Distinction on Religion Senior Thesis, Carleton College

2003 Distinction on French Senior Thesis, Carleton College

2002 Class of 1963 Fellowship for summer study abroad in France

1999 William Carleton Scholar (top 10 percent of entering class)

**INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS (selected)**

2016 “A Singular, Communal Voice: Sojourner Truth in the Northampton “Community, 1843-1846,” Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, May 4.

2014 “Joseph F. Smith’s Republican Vision: Centralized Government, Centralized Church,” Beyond the Culture Wars, John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics, Washington Univeristy in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO March 27-29.

2013 “Contracting Covenants: Changes to Mormon Universality, 1830-1844,” Beyond the Mormon Moment: Directions for Mormon Studies in The New Century,” Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA, March 15-16.

2012 “Liberal Mormonism and the 2012 Election,” Religion and the Election, Does it Matter?, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, October 10.

2012 “The Book of Mormon, ‘Samuel the Lamanite,’ Jane Manning James and the ‘White Universal,’” Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, March 26.

2012 “Jane’s Faith,” Men and Women of Faith Lecture Series, Church History Library, Salt Lake City, UT, March 8.

2012 “‘Twice-told Tale: Telling Two Histories of Mormon-Black Relations during the 2012 Presidential Election,” Mormonism and American Politics Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, February 3-4.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)**

**Panels Organized**

2016 “Religion, Postcolonial Pedagogies and #BlackLivesMatter on Campus,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, TX, 19-22.

2014 “Religious Communitarianism, Utopianism, and the ‘Race Problem’ in Nineteenth-century North America,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, CA, November 22-25.

2012 “In the Aftermath of Contact with ‘Others’: The Reformulation of Religious and Racial Identity in the American West,” Organization of American Historians Conference, Milwaukee, WI, April 21.

2011 “**Out of Place: African American Religious Lives in Catholic, Mormon, and Orthodox Spaces,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 19-21.**

**Papers Presented (selected)**

2016 “Debating Indian Partition while Amherst Rises Up against Lord Jeffs,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, TX, 19-22.

2014 “Can a Mormon Have Tattoos? ‘I’m a Mormon Campaign’ & the Politics of Online Identity,” American Historical Association, Washington, January 2-5.

2013 “Contested Freedoms, Contested Identities: Temple Square during the Civil Rights Era,” Mormon History Association Conference, Layton, UT, June 6-9.

2012 “Joseph F. Smith’s Republican Vision: Centralized Government, Centralized Church,” Conference on Faith and History, Gordon College, Wenham, MA, October 4-6.

2012 “The Other Mormon Presidential Candidate: Yeah Samaké and 21st Century Mormonism,” American Academy of Religion Conference, Chicago, IL, November 17-20.

2012 “William McCary’s Racial Ventriloquism during the Mormon Exodus,” Organization of American Historians Conference, Milwaukee, WI, April 19-21.

**2011 “Reenacting and Reclaiming the Black *and* Mormon Past,” American Academy of Religion Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 19-21.**

2011 “Joseph F. Smith and ‘Black Jane’: Challenges to the Formalization of Mormon Racial Identity,” American Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 20-22.

2011 “Schools for the Saints: Utah Civil Religion in Public Education in a Framework of ‘Expanding Borders of Sacred Communities,’” Ethics, Religion and Civil Discourse Conference, Fresno State University, Fresno, CA, October 13-14.

2010 “Changing Portraits of *Elect Lady*: Emma Smith in the ‘Secular,’ RLDS and LDS Historiography,” Mormon History Association Conference, Independence, MO, May 24-26.

# TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**The University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Assistant Professor

“Religious Diversity of the United States,” (Fall 2016)

**Amherst College**

Visiting Assistant Professor

 “Getting Religion: Religion, Media and Culture” (Spring 2016)

 “To be Religious *and* Modern: Religion and Modernity in the U.S., France, and India”

 (Fall 2015)

**Mount Holyoke College**

Visiting Lecturer

 “‘Written by Herself’: African-American Religious Autobiographies” (Spring 2015)

 “Getting Religion: Religion, Media and Culture” (Spring 2015)

 “Religion and Politics in the United States” (Spring 2015)

 “Religious Movements in America” (Fall 2014)

 “African-American Religious Experience” (Fall 2014)

**Carleton College**

Visiting Lecturer

 “Religion in American Culture” (Fall 2013)

 “American Holy Lands” (Fall 2013)

**Harvard University**

Tutor (Instructor of record)

“Religions under the Big Sky: The Religious History of the American West” (Fall 2011)

Teaching Fellow

 “Ethics, Race and Punishment” (Spring 2013)

 “Religion, Law and American Politics” (Fall 2012)

 “The World’s Religions in Multicultural America: Case Studies in Religious Pluralism” (Spring 2011)

“Race, Gender, Class and Ethnicity in the Early Films of Spike Lee” (Fall 2011)

 “Religion and American Society: Global Traditions in a Changing Culture” (Spring 2010)

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

2011-Present Co-Founder,Contributing Editor (formerly Associate Editor), *Religion & Politics*, the online journal of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics, Washington University in St. Louis

2011-Present Editorial Board Member, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

**PUBLIC HISTORY & JOURNALISM (selected)**

2016 “Why Mormons Don’t Like Trump,” *Slate*, August 4, 2016.

2016 “Why Global Churches Struggles Over LGBT Rights,”*Religion & Politics,* February 23.

2015 “Mormonism and the Problem of Jon Krakauer,” *Religion & Politics*, July 14.

2013 “Speaking Truth to Power in Love: An Interview with Jonathan Walton,” *Religion & Politics*, April 4.

2013 “2012: The Mormon Moment of Diversity,” *Religion & Politics*, January 9.

2012 “What Can Jeremiah Wright and Joseph Smith Teach Us about the American Presidency?,” *Religion & Politics*, October 29.

2012 “Mia Love: The Most Interesting Mormon Speaking at the RNC,” *Religion & Politics*, August 28.

2012 “A Cringe-Worthy Depiction of Africa,” *Harvard Divinity School Bulletin*, Summer/Autumn.

2012 “Mormonism’s Occasionally Unrequited Love for Israel,” *The New Republic*, July 30.

2012 “A Spirit of Persecution: What the Hill Cumorah Page tells us about Mormonism’s past—and its present,” *Slate*, July 19.

2012 “Romney among the Evangelicals,” *The Atlantic*, May 11.

2012 “Hemings and Jefferson Together Forever?: Troubling Cases of Mormon ‘Proxy Sealing,’” *Slate*, March 29.

**AREAS PREPARED TO TEACH**

American Religious History

African American Religious History

Race and Ethnicity in America

Religion and Politics

Religion and the Media

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

 American Historical Association

 Mormon History Association

**REFERENCES**

David Hempton, Ph.D.

Dean

Harvard Divinity School

dhempton@hds.harvard.edu

(617) 495-4513

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Ph.D.

300th Anniversary University Professor

Harvard University

ulrich@fas.harvard.edu

(617) 496-9548

R. Marie Griffith, Ph.D.

Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics

Washington University in St. Louis

mgriffith@wustl.edu

(314) 935-9345

Marla Frederick, Ph.D.

Professor of the Study of Religion/African and African American Studies

Harvard University

frederic@fas.harvard.edu

(617) 496-8551

David F. Holland, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

 Harvard Divinity School

 dholland@hds.harvard.edu

 (617) 496-2327

**Teaching Reference**

Michael Penn, Ph.D.

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Religion

Mount Holyoke College

mpenn@mtholyoke.edu

(413) 535-2876