

# CHRISTOPHER CANNON JONES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-**      **Assistant Professor**  
Department of History, Brigham Young University  
Affiliate Faculty, Africana Studies  
Affiliate Faculty, American Studies
- 2017-19**    **Visiting Assistant Professor**  
Department of History, Brigham Young University
- 2016-17**    **Adjunct Instructor**  
Department of History, Brigham Young University  
Department of Church History, Brigham Young University

## EDUCATION

- 2016**      **Ph.D.**  
History, College of William & Mary
- 2009**      **M.A.**  
History, Brigham Young University
- 2007**      **B.A.**  
History, Brigham Young University

## CURRENT RESEARCH

*Connexions: Methodism, Slavery, and Freedom in the Revolutionary Atlantic World* (in preparation to submit to an academic press)

*Missionary Interests: Protestant and Mormon Missions in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (co-edited collection of scholarly essays currently under review)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles

- 2021      “‘A verry poor place for our doctrine’: Religion and Race in the 1853 Mormon Mission to Jamaica,” *Religion & American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 31:2 (Summer 2021): 262-95.
- 2019      “The religion is assailed by most in the Country’: A Letter from the First Mormon Converts in Jamaica, 1854,” *Mormon Historical Studies* 20:1 (Spring 2019): 111-27. Co-authored with Rachel Felt.
- 2016      “Evangelical Religion in the Revolutionary South: An Atlantic Perspective,” *Journal of Southern Religion* 18 (2016): [jsreligion.org/vol18/jones](https://jsreligion.org/vol18/jones).
- 2012      “Mormonism in the Methodist Marketplace: James Covel and the Historical

Background of Doctrine and Covenants 39-40," *BYU Studies Quarterly* 51:1 (2012): 67-98.

- Best Article Award, Mormon History Association, 2013

2011 "The Power and Form of Godliness: Methodist Conversion Narratives and Joseph Smith's First Vision," *Journal of Mormon History* 37:2 (Spring 2011): 88-114.

2009 "The Holdings of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute," *Mormon Historical Studies* 10:1 (Spring 2009): 153-176.

## Book Chapters

2022 "'A necessary book for dark-skinned people': Nineteenth-Century Missions, Race, and Scripture," in Samah Choudhury and Prea Persaud, eds., *American Examples*, Volume 2 (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, forthcoming).

2021 "Freeborn Garrettson's Revolution: Religion and the American War for Independence," in Benjamin E. Park, ed., *A Companion to American Religious History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021): 71-86.

2015 "'An Encroachment on our religious rights': Methodist Missions, Slavery, and Religious Toleration in the British Atlantic World," in Chris Beneke and Christopher S. Grenda, eds., *The Lively Experiment: Religious Toleration in America from Roger Williams to the Present* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015): 101-116.

2014 "Except among that Portion of Mankind": Early Mormon Conceptions of the Apostasy," in Miranda Wilcox and John Young, eds., *Standing Apart: Mormon Historical Consciousness and the Concept of Apostasy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014): 55-76. Co-authored with Stephen J. Fleming.

## Book Reviews

2021 *To Bring the Good News to All Nations: Evangelical Influence on Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Relations*, by Lauren F. Turek, in *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review* 51:3 (January 2021): 26-28.

2020 *Praying with One Eye Open: Mormons and Murder in Nineteenth-Century Appalachian Georgia*, by Mary Ella Engel, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88:3 (September 2020): 875-78.

2019 *New Directions in the Study of African American Recolonization*, edited by Beverly C. Tomek and Matthew J. Hetrick, in *Journal of the Early Republic* 39:4 (Winter 2019): 797-99.

2018 *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*, by Katharine Gerbner, in *Black Perspectives* (November 20, 2018): <https://www.aaihs.org/from-protestant-supremacy-to-christian-slavery/>

2018 *The Spirit of Early Evangelicalism: True Religion in a Modern World*, by D. Bruce Hindmarsh, in *Journal of British Studies* 58:4 (October 2018): 857-58.

2018 *Directions for Mormon Studies in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. by Patrick Q. Mason, in *Mormon Historical Studies* 19:1 (Spring 2018): 143-45.

2018 *Leonard Arrington and the Writing of Mormon History*, by Gregory A. Prince, in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 21:4 (May 2018): 139-41.

2017 *Jacob Green's Revolution: Radical Religion and Reform in a Revolutionary Age*, by R. Scott Rohrer, in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 141:1 (January 2017): 93-95.

2016 *Embracing Protestantism: Black Identities in the Atlantic World*, by John W. Catron, in *William and Mary Quarterly* 73:4 (October 2016), 741-44.

2014 *The Letters of Dr. Thomas Coke*, edited by John A. Vickers, in *Methodist History* 52:3 (April 2014): 187-88.

2012 *God's Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil*

- 2011 *War*, by George C. Rable, in *Methodist History* 50:2 (January 2012): 119-20.  
 2011 *Sacred Borders: Continuing Revelation and Canonical Restraint in Early America*, by David F. Holland, in *Mormon Historical Studies* 12:1 (Spring 2011): 195-98.  
 2011 *Joseph Noble Bates: Polygamy and the Temple Lot Case*, by David L. Clark, in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 15:1 (August 2011): 99-100.

### Other Publications

- 2016 “Rise of African-American Churches (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries)” and  
 “Dedication of the first Mormon Temple in Kirtland, Ohio (1836),” in *Great Events in Religion: An Encyclopedia of Pivotal Events in Religious History*, eds. Florin Curta and Andrew Holt (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2016), 824-826; 841-843.  
 2010 “The Meanings of Mormon Devotion: Robert Orsi and the Possibilities of Studying Mormon Lived Religion,” *Mormon Review* 2:2 (September 2010): 1-4.  
 2010 “Ungathered” and “Smith, Joseph F.” in *Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia*, eds. W. Paul Reeve and Ardis E. Parshall (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2010), 117-119; 184-187.

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2019-20 Fellow, American Examples Workshop, Department of Religious Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
 2019 Jesse Lee Prize, General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church (awarded quadrennially to the best book manuscript on American Methodist history)  
 2015-16 E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Fellowship in Early American Religious Studies and Friends of the MCEAS Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania  
 2015 Religious Education Dissertation Grant, Brigham Young University  
 2014-15 Bicknell Scholarship, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims  
 2014-15 Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate Studies and Research, Arts & Sciences, College of William and Mary  
 2014 Conference Travel Grant, Arts & Sciences OGSR/Graduate Student Association, College of William and Mary  
 2014 Excellence in Scholarship Award, Graduate Research Symposium, College of William and Mary  
 2013 George Washington Fellowship, General Society of Colonial Wars  
 2013 Best Article Award, Mormon History Association, for “Mormonism in the Methodist Marketplace: James Covell and the Historical Background of Doctrine and Covenants 39-40,” *BYU Studies Quarterly* 51:1 (2012): 67-98.  
 2013 Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society  
 2013 The World is My Parish United Methodist History Grant, General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church  
 2013 Provost’s Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary  
 2013 Bridwell Library Fellowship, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University  
 2012 Kenneth Callaway King, Jr. Memorial Fellowship, Order of First Families of Virginia  
 2012 Religious Education Dissertation Grant, Brigham Young University  
 2012 John E. Selby Graduate Teaching Award, Department of History, College of William and Mary  
 2012 Virginia Crouch Memorial Summer Research Grant, Roy R. Charles Center, College of William and Mary  
 2012 Provost’s Summer Research Grant for Graduate Research, College of William and Mary  
 2009 William J. Snow Award – Best Graduate Paper in Western or Mormon

- 2008 History, Brigham Young University History Department  
Mark Earl Brotherson Memorial Scholarship, Brigham Young University  
History Department
- 2008 William J. Snow Award – Best Graduate Paper in Western or Mormon  
History, Brigham Young University History Department

## PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2021 “‘A very uncommon train of providences’: Methodist Expansion and Division in the Revolutionary Atlantic World,” Religion and the American Revolution Conference, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution, Rhode Island, June 2021. *Invited lecture*
- 2021 “Of Personal Experiences and Professional Interests: History, Family History, and Racism,” BYU Law School Forum, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, January 2021. *Invited lecture*
- 2020 “Family + Freedom Emancipation and African American Conceptions of Liberty,” Guest Lecture, Intro to Africana Studies, Brigham Young University, October 2020.
- 2020 “‘A necessary book for dark-skinned people’: Reading the Book of Mormon with the First Missionaries to the Pacific,” Book of Mormon Studies Association (virtual conference), October 2020.
- 2020 Commenter, “Violence and Rhetorics of Morality in Latter-day Saint Practice,” and “The Movement of Mormon Missions and Missionaries Across Time and Place,” Mormon History Association, Rochester, New York, June 2020 – *cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic*.
- 2020 “Phanaticks and Poligamists’: Plural Marriage, Race, and Religion in the First Mormon Mission to Jamaica,” American Society of Church History, New York, New York, January 2020.
- 2019 “‘A Terrible Reality’: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Its Legacies Today,” BYU Honors Program Chocolate Chat, Provo, Utah, December 2019. *Invited lecture*
- 2019 “‘A verry Poor Place for our doctrine’: The 1853 Jamaica Mission and the Early Scope of Mormonism’s Racial Restriction,” Mormon History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2019.
- 2019 “‘The different Frutes of the Country’: Ecological Imperialism and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mormon Gathering,” Mormon Scholars in the Humanities, Cedar City, Utah, May 2019.
- 2019 “Lands of Liberty: Methodist Migrations and the Politics of Slavery, Church, and State,” American Society of Church History, Chicago, Illinois, January 2019.
- 2018 “‘A very poor place for our doctrine’: Polygamy, Race, and Empire in the 1853 Mormon Mission to Jamaica,” Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship Brown Bag Series, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 2018.
- 2018 “Methodist Missions and Divisions in Britain’s Maritime and Canadian Colonies, 1785-1815,” Religion and Politics in Early America Conference, John C. Danforth Center, Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, Missouri, March 2018.
- 2017 “From Philadelphia to Freetown: The Beginnings of Independent Black Methodism in Transatlantic Perspective,” Friday Seminar, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 2017.
- 2017 “In Search of the Land of Liberty: Southern Methodism, Migration, and the Politics of Slavery” Southern Historical Association, Dallas, Texas, November 2017.
- 2016 Panelist, Roundtable: “The Revolution Will Be Blogged: Founding Digital Worlds of Intellectual History,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History, Palo Alto, California, October 2016.
- 2016 Response, Undergraduate Research Workshop and Symposium, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2016.

- 2016 "The Atlantic World is my Parish: Early American Methodism in Transatlantic Perspective," Organization of American Historians, Providence, Rhode Island, April 2016.
- 2016 "Ecclesiastical Borderlands in the Revolutionary Atlantic World," Constitutional Thought and History Seminar, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, Oxford, UK, February 2016.
- 2015 "Religion and Revolution in the Atlantic World: Methodism in North America and the Caribbean," Alt-Wednesday, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, October 2015.
- 2015 "Edward Dromgoole and the Shifting Spectrum of Evangelical Attitudes Toward Slavery in Virginia, 1780-1815," Graduate Research Symposium, College of William and Mary, March 2015.
- 2014 "Finding and Using U.S. Church Records," Family History Center Brown Bag Lunch Series, Williamsburg, Virginia, September 2014.
- 2014 "Itinerant Preachers and Ecclesiastical Borderlands: Methodist Missionaries in British North America and the Caribbean, 1784-1815," Ecclesiastical History Society/American Society of Church History, Oxford, UK, April 2014.
- 2014 "In Search of the Land of Liberty: Methodist Migrations and Antislavery in Virginia, 1780-1810," Graduate Research Symposium, College of William and Mary, March 2014.
- 2014 "Evangelical Religion and Revolution in the Atlantic World: The Methodist Experience in Canada and the Caribbean," American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2014.
- 2013 "Imperial Spaces and Ecclesiastical Borderlands: Methodism in British North America, 1776-1815," North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, Oregon, November 2013.
- 2013 "An Encroachment on our religious rights': Race and Religious Toleration in the Methodist Atlantic World," No Person Shall Bee Any Wise Molested: Religious Freedom, Cultural Conflict, and the Moral Role of the State, Newport, Rhode Island, October 2013.
- 2013 Panel organizer and chair, "Racializing Religion: Mormons and Race in America, 1830-2012," Mormon History Association, Layton, Utah, June 2013.
- 2013 "In Search of the Land of Liberty: Methodist Migration and the Politics of Slavery, 1780-1805," Religion on the Move: Movement, Migration, Missions and New Media across Religious Traditions, Columbia University, New York, April 2013.
- 2012 "Mormonism in the Methodist Marketplace: A Comparative Study of Three Early Mormon Converts," Mormon History Association, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, June 2012.
- 2012 "'A prodigy with many hundred heads': Early Latter-day Saint Conceptions of the Great Apostasy," with Stephen J. Fleming, Exploring Mormon Conceptions of Apostasy Conference, Provo, Utah, March 2012.
- 2012 Panelist, "The Worst Fights are Behind Relatives: Mormons and Methodists in the Nineteenth Century," At the Crossroads, Again: Mormon and Methodist Encounters in the Nineteenth and Twenty-First Centuries, Washington, D.C., February 2012.
- 2011 Panel Organizer and Commenter, "Living Mormonism: Lived Religion in Latter-day Saint History," Mormon History Association, St. George, Utah, May 2011.
- 2010 Chair and Panel Discussant, "New Ways In: Writing Interdisciplinary Mormon History," Mormon History Association, Independence, Missouri, May 2010.
- 2010 "Lorenzo Dow and the Boundaries of Denominational Space in Early American Methodism," Chesapeake American Studies Association, Washington, D.C., March 2010.
- 2009 "The Un-gathered: The Religious Lives of Mormons in the American South, 1875-1910," Mormon History Association, Springfield, Illinois, May 2009.
- 2009 "Conferences, Camp Meetings, and Charismatic Religion: Methodist Converts to Mormonism and the Transmission of Sacred Space," American

- 2008 Society of Church History, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, April 2009.  
 “‘We Latter-day Saints are Methodists’: The Influence of Methodism on Early Mormon Religious Experience and Discourse,” Mormon History Association, Sacramento, CA, May 2008.

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- 2021 [The Priesthood Restored: A Joseph Smith Papers Podcast](#) (episodes 1 and 4), January 2021.  
 2020 [Dialogue Book Report #2](#). February 2020.  
 2020 [“Alice Louise Reynolds and the History of Harold B. Lee Library.”](#) Hey Harold Podcast, January 2020.  
 2020 [The First Vision: A Joseph Smith Papers Podcast](#) (episodes, 1, 2, and 5), 5 January 2020.  
 2019 [“Why the History of Colonialism and Slavery in the Bahamas Matters to Hurricane Recovery,”](#) Top of Mind with Julie Rose, BYURadio, 12 September 2019.

## **DIGITAL PROJECTS AND ONLINE WRITING**

- 2016-17 Research Assistant and Producer, Ben Franklin’s World podcast  
[\(http://www.benfranklinworld.com/\)](http://www.benfranklinworld.com/)  
 2016 Research Assistant, The Pox Hunter  
<http://loki.stockton.edu/~games/PoxHunter.html>  
 2015 Contributor, The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American Textbook  
<http://www.americanyawp.com>  
 2014-17 Contributor, The American Converts Database  
<http://americanconverts.org>  
 2014-15 Founding Editor, Transcribing Early American Manuscript Sermons Project  
<http://earlyamericansermons.org>  
 2012- Contributor, The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History  
<http://earlyamericanists.com>  
 2010-2015 Contributor, Religion in American History blog  
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com>  
 2007- Founding Editor, The Juvenile Instructor: A Mormon History Blog  
<http://juvenileinstructor.org>

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE AT BYU**

- 2021- Internship Coordinator, Family History Program  
 2020-21 Honors Thesis Faculty Advisor, Grace Soelberg, “Peculiar Students of a Peculiar Institution: A Historical Analysis of Racial Minority Students and Race Relations at Brigham Young University as Presented in the Banyan from 1911-1985.”  
 2020- Organizer and Steering Committee Member, [BYU Slavery Project](#)  
 2020 Search Committee, History Department Secretary  
 2019- Faculty Advisor, Mission Inclusivity Club  
 2019-21 Collegiality Coordinator, Department of History

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2021- Co-director (with Eric Herschtal, University of Utah), Rocky Mountain Seminar in Early American History

- 2020- Advisory Board, [Pandemic Religion: A Digital Archive](#), a project of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, in partnership with the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at IUPUI
- 2019 Co-organizer (with David Golding), *Missionary Interests: Protestant and Mormon Missions in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2019
- 2017 Program Committee, Mormon History Association, St. Louis, Missouri, June 2017
- 2016-17 Organizing Committee, Sixth Biennial Faith and Knowledge Conference, Cambridge, Massachusetts, February 2017
- 2014-15 Organizing Committee, Fifth Biennial Faith and Knowledge Conference, Charlottesville, Virginia, February 2015
- 2011-13 Board, Mormon History Association
- 2009 Graduate Student Assistant, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 2009

Manuscript Referee: Johns Hopkins University Press, George Mason University Press, University of Utah Press, Brigham Young University Press, Brigham Young University Religious Studies Center.

Journal Referee: *History: The Journal of the Historical Association*, *Journal of Mormon History*, *Journal of Social History*, *BYU Studies Quarterly*, *Nova Religio*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Theological Librarianship*.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

- 2019- National Genealogical Society
- 2019- New England Historic Genealogical Society
- 2016- Society for U.S. Intellectual History
- 2014- Organization of American Historians
- 2012- Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
- 2011- American Historical Association
- 2009- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
- 2008- American Society of Church History
- 2007- Mormon History Association