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**Neal A. Maxwell Senior Research Fellow, Brigham Young University**  
**Professor of Literature and Religion Emeritus, University of Richmond**  
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<b>EDUCATION:</b>	1988	Ph.D. Comparative Literature, UNC Chapel Hill
	1986	M.A. Comparative Literature, UNC Chapel Hill
	1982-3	Graduate Study as Sage Fellow, Intellectual History, Cornell
	1981	B.A. Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University
<b>CONSULTING, FOUNDATIONS, AND EDITORIAL BOARDS</b>	2021-	Director, LDS Summer Seminar on Christian History
	2019-	National Endowment for the Arts Council (pending White House approval)
	2016-	Chair, Mormon Scholars Foundation
	2013-	Advisory Board, Mormon Society for Philosophy and Theology
	2013-	Advisory Board, Farleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, Mormon Studies Series
	2011-	Fellow, Wheatley Institute, Brigham Young University
	2011-	Editorial Board, <i>Religion and American Culture</i>
	2010-2017	Editorial Board, <i>First Things</i>
	2006-	National Advisory Board, Joseph Smith Papers Project
	2006-	Editorial Board, <i>Postscripts: Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds</i>
	2003-06	Consultant and principal interviewee, PBS Frontline/American Experience documentary, "The Mormons"
<b>PROFESSIONAL AWARDS</b>	2022	Evans Biography Award for <i>Stretching the Heavens</i>
	2016	Visiting Fellowship, Harris Manchester College, Oxford
	2016	<i>Oxford HB to Mormonism</i> , "Best Anthology Award," John Whitmer Historical Association
	2012	<i>Parley P. Pratt</i> , "Best Book Award," Mormon History Association
	2012	<i>PPP</i> , "Best Biography Award," Association of Mormon Letters
	2012	<i>PPP</i> , "Best Biography Award," John Whitmer Historical Assoc.
	2009	"Lifetime membership award, Association of Mormon Letters
	2008	<i>People of Paradox</i> "Best Book Award," Mormon History Assoc.
	2008	<i>PofP</i> , "Best Book in Criticism," Association of Mormon Letters
	2003	Outstanding Faculty Award Top 20 Finalist, Virginia State Council of Higher Education
	2002	Brigham Young University College of Humanities Alumnus of the Year
	1998	<i>Viper on the Hearth</i> , Chipman Award for Best First Book
	1997	University of Richmond "Distinguished Educator" Award

**PUBLICATIONS:**  
**Books**

*The Love of God: A New History of Christianity* (Under review at Oxford University Press).

*Agency: A Brief Theological Introduction to the Doctrine and Covenants Series* (In process for Maxwell Institute).

*Into the Headwinds: Why Faith Has Always Been Hard*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2022.

*Faith and Intellect*. Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2022.

*Yet to Be Revealed: Open Questions in Latter-day Saint Theology*, ed. with Eric Eliason. Provo: BYU Studies, 2021.

*The Doors of Faith*. Provo and Salt Lake City: Maxwell Institute and Deseret Book, 2021.

*The Life of Eugene England and the Crisis of Modern Mormonism*. Chapel Hill: UNC University Press, 2021. (Winner of Evans Biography Award; Finalist, AML Non-Fiction Award).

*"All Things New": Rethinking Sin, Salvation, and Everything in Between*. With Fiona Givens. Provo, UT: Faith Matters, 2020.

*Mormonism: What Everyone Needs to Know* (WENtK Series) New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

*2 Nephi: A Brief Theological Introduction*. Provo: Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2020.

*The Pearl of Greatest Price: Mormonism's Most Controversial Scripture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

*Feeding the Flock: The Foundations of Mormon Thought volume 2: Church and Praxis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

*The Christ Who Heals: How God Restored the Truth that Saves Us* (with Fiona Givens). Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2017.

*Oxford Handbook to Mormonism*. Co-edited with Philip Barlow. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

*Wrestling the Angel: The Foundations of Mormon Thought volume 1. The Cosmos, the Human, the Divine*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

*The Crucible of Doubt: Reflections on the Quest for Faith* (with Fiona Givens). Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2014.

*A Sourcebook of Mormons in America*. Co-edited with Reid Neilson. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

*The God Who Weeps: How Mormonism Makes Sense of Life* (with Fiona Givens). Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2012.

Parley P. Pratt: *The Apostle Paul of Mormonism*. With Matthew Grow. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. (Winner of MHA Best Book Award; AML Best Biography Award, John Whitmer Best Biography Award)

*When Souls Had Wings: Pre-Mortal Life in Western Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

*The Book of Mormon: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

*Joseph Smith: Reappraisals After Two Centuries*. Co-edited with Reid Neilson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

*People of Paradox: A History of Mormon Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. (Winner of MHA Best Book Award; AML Best Book in Criticism)

*The Latter-day Saint Experience in America*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2004.

*By the Hand of Mormon: The American Scripture that Launched a New World Religion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

*The Viper on the Hearth: Mormons, Myths, and the Construction of Heresy*. Religion in America Series. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. Second, revised edition published 2012. (Winner of MHA Chipman First Book Award)

### Select Articles and Chapters

"A Latter-day Saint Theology of Art," in Amanda Beardsley and Mason Allred, ed. *Mormon Art: A Critical Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

"The Tree of Life: Cacophony, Risk, Discernment," in Ben Keough and Joseph Spencer, ed., *Approaching the Tree: Interpreting 1 Nephi 8*. Provo: Maxwell Institute, forthcoming.

"The Book of Mormon: The Next Fifty Years," *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*,.

"Secularism as Scapegoat," *Deseret Magazine* (excerpted from *Into the Headwinds*), October 2022.

"Understandings of the Relationships Between Grace and Works," in Eric Eliason and Terryl Givens, ed., *Yet to Be Revealed: Open Questions in Latter-day Saint Theology*, ed. with Eric Eliason. Provo: BYU Studies, 2021.

"How Limited is Postmortal Progression," in Eliason and Givens, *Yet to Be Revealed*.

"The Book of Mormon and Covenant Theology," in *Americanist Approaches to the Book of Mormon*, ed. Elizabeth Fenton and Jared Hickman. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2019.

"Mormons at the Forefront," *First Things*, June 2016.

"The Global Church," in *The World-Wide Church: Mormonism as a Global Religion*. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 2015.

"Epilogue," *Standing Apart: Mormon Historical Consciousness and the Concept of Apostasy*, eds. Miranda Wilcox and John D. Young. New York: Oxford, 2014.

"Foreword," John Sorenson, *Mormon's Codex*. Salt Lake City: Deseret, 2013.

"Foreword," Boyd Peterson, *Dead Wood and Rushing Water*. (Salt Lake City: Kofford Books, 2013).

"Mormonism and the Family," *Journal of Religion and American Culture*, 23.1 (Winter 2013).

"No Small and Cramped Eternities," introduction to A. Scott Howe and Richard L. Bushman, eds., *Parallels and Convergences: Mormon Thought and Engineering Vision*. Salt Lake City: Kofford Books, 2012.

"Joseph Smith," *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History*, ed. Lynn Dumenil. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012

"How Mormons Became American," *Religion and Politics*, 14 November 2012, <http://religionandpolitics.org/2012/11/14/how-mormons-became-american/>

"Response to Panel of Reviewers, *When Souls had Wings*," *BYU Studies* 50.4 (summer 2012): 136-165.

"The Heavenly Logic of Proxy Baptism," *First Things*, on-line edition, 8 March 2012.

"Romney, Mormonism, and the American Compromise," *Sightings*, University of Chicago Divinity School on-line journal, 16 February 2012.

Joseph Smith, Romanticism, and Tragic Creation, *Journal of Mormon History* 38.3 (summer 2012): 148-162.

"Preface" to *Mormons and Monsters*, eds. William Morris and Theric Jepson. Mediaworx, 2011.

"Latter-day Saints, Church of Jesus Christ of, and its Theology," "Mormon, Book of," "Mormon Worship," "Joseph Smith," "Brigham Young." In Daniel M. Patte, ed., *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

"The Book of Mormon," in *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010.

"The Book of Mormon," in *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.

"'Common-Sense' Meets the Book of Mormon: Source, Substance, and Prophetic Disruption," in *Revisiting The Mormons: Persistent Themes, and Contemporary Perspectives*. Eds. Cardell K. Jacobson, John P. Hoffmann, and Tim B. Heaton. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2008

"Mormons." In *American History through Literature, 1820-1870*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert Sattelmeyer. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006), 759-761.

"Joseph Smith: Prophecy, Process, and Plenitude," *BYU Studies* 44.4 (2005): 55-68. Republished in *The Worlds of Joseph Smith: A Bicentennial Conference at the Library of Congress*, ed. John Welch. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Press, 2006.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," in Eugene V. Gallagher and William M. Ashcraft, eds. *Introduction to New and Alternative Religions in America*, vol. 2, 34-51. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2006 "Mormons." In *Christianity: A Complete Guide*. London: Continuum, 2005.

"'Adjectives of Mystery and Splendor': Byron and Romantic Religiosity." In *Recent Perspectives on European Romanticism*, ed. Larry Peer, Lewiston, NY: Mellon Press, 2002; Originally published in *Prisms: A Journal of Studies in Romanticism*. (Winter 2000): 29-47.

"'This Great Modern Abomination': Orthodoxy and Heresy in American Religion." In *Mormons and Mormonism: A Reader*. Eric Eliason, ed. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001.

"Human Suffering and the Ethical Sublime." (with Anthony Russell) In *Romanticism Across the Disciplines*, ed. Larry Peer. New York: Univ. Press of America, 1998.

"Murder and Mystery 'Mormon Style': Violence as Mediation in American Popular Culture." In *Violence and Mediation in Contemporary Culture*. Ed. Marcel Cornis-Pope and Ronald Bogue. Albany, New York: SUNY Press, 1996.

"Caricature as Containment: Orientalism, Bondage, and the Construction of Mormon Ethnicity in Nineteenth Century American Popular Fiction." *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 18.4 (Winter 1995): 385-403.

"Blind Men and Hieroglyphs: The Collapse of Mimesis." *European Romantic Review* 2:1 (Summer 1991): 61-80.

"The Aristotelian Critique of Mimesis: The Romantic Prelude." *Comparative Literature Studies* 28:2 (1991): 121-136.

## Reviews

Review of *The Book of Mormon: A Biography* (Princeton 2013); *Church History* 82.3 (September 2013): 748-52.

Review of *A Brief History of the Soul* (Blackwell 2011); *Church History* 81.3 (Fall 2012):656-58.

Review of *The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti Mormonism in the Postbellum South* (Oxford 2012); *Church History* 80.4 (December 2011):954-56.

Review of *Understanding the Book of Mormon* (Oxford 2010) *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 62 (July 2011): 640.

Review of Jon Krakauer, *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* (Anchor 2004) and Dorothy Allred Solomon, *Predators, Prey, and Other Kinfolk: Growing Up in Polygamy* (Norton 2003); *Boston Globe* 16 August 2003.

Review of Sarah Barringer Gordon, *The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America* (UNC 2001); *BYU Studies* 41:3 (2002):81-84.

"Protocols of the (Other) Elders of Zion:" Review of *The History of the Saints* (Illinois 2000); *Dialogue* 33.4 (winter 2000):170-72.

### **Select Invited Presentations (last 8 years only)**

"Renewing our Religious Language," Restore Conference, Oct. 7, 2022, Salt Palace, Salt Lake City.

"Eugene England for Our Time," Evans Award Panel Discussion, Logan Utah, Oct. 14, 2022.

"The Tree of Life: Cacophony, Risk, and Discernment," Oct. 9, 2021, Keynote, Book of Mormon Studies Association, Utah State University.

"Vocabulary, Narrative, and Identity," Keynote, Assoc. of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists, Oct. 1, 2021, Joseph Smith Memorial Building, SLC.

"Apologetics and Disciples of the Second Sort," Neal A. Maxwell Annual Lecture, Brigham Young University, November 16, 2019.

"The Doors of Faith," Campus Lecture Series of four talks, Brigham Young University, Fall 2019.

"Finding Meaning in the Collapse of Transcendence: The Romantic Poets," Books and Bridges Public Lecture, Sam Weller Books, Salt Lake City. July 17, 2018.

"Why Religion Matters," Religious Freedom Conference, Brigham Young University, June 13, 2018.

"Theology, Community, Destiny," Reason for the Hope Conference, Brigham Young University, April 1, 2018.

"The Forging of Mormon Identity," Keynote for Mormon Arts Center Festival, Riverside Church, New York City, June 29, 2017.

"A Poetics of Wisdom," Keynote for Mormon Scholars in the Humanities Annual Conference, Boston University, 26 May 26, 2017.

"Martyrs and Villains in the Great American Saga," University Address, University of Kentucky, April 11, 2017.

"Mormonism: The Christian Road Not Taken," University Address, Centre College, KY, April 10, 2017.

"Joseph Smith and Translation: Notes toward a Framework," Conference on Translation, Utah State University, Logan UT, March 16, 2017.

"The Poetics of Prejudice," Faith and Scholarship Conference, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 17, 2016.

"The Book of Mormon as Covenant Theology," Mormon History Association, Snowbird, Utah, June 11, 2016.

"Heroes and Villains in the American Religious Saga," Blake Annual Public Lecture in Christian History, Virginia Commonwealth University, April 6, 2016.

"Response to Panel on "Terry Givens and Mormon Theology," American Academy of Religion Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, November 20, 2015.

"Reconceptualizing Religion: Mormonism, Secularism, and Collapse of Sacred Distance," Wadham College, Oxford University, 6 May 2015

"The Book of Mormon: Its Cultural and Religious Reception," Public Lecture, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 10 April 2015.

"An American Journey Across the Landscape of Mormon Theology," Corning Museum, Corning, New York, March 7, 2015.

"The Book of Mormon and the Reshaping of Covenant," Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, Chapel Hill NC, 14 March 2014.

"The Global Church," Keynote for the Global Church Conference, BYU Religious Studies Center/LDS Historical Department, 6 March 2014.

"The Woman in the Wilderness: Mormonism, Catholicism, and Inspired Syncretism," Keynote at the Catholicism and Mormonism Conference, Notre Dame, 5 December 2013.

"Constructing Mormonism: Villains and Heroes in the American Saga," UNC Chapel Hill, Public Lecture, 24 March 2013

"Constructing Mormonism: Villains and Heroes in the American Saga," George Mason University, Public Lecture, 4 March 2013.

"Mormonism and the Collapse of Sacred Distance," Symposium on Religion and Non Religion, London School of Economics, 26 January 2013.

Déjà vu: The Mormon Image in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Politics," Harvard Faculty Seminar, 5 November 2012.

"By Study and by Faith," LDS Stanford Convocation," Stanford, CA, 16 October 2012.

"The Idea of Premortal Life in Western Thought," Public lecture, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley CA, 15 October 2012.

"The Prophecy of Enoch as Restoration Blueprint," The Leonard J. Arrington Annual Lecture, Utah State University, 20 September 2012.

"Mormonism and Other Faiths," Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, Baltimore, MD, 14 June 2012.

"'We Have Only the Old Thing': Rethinking Mormon Restoration," Apostasy and Restoration Conference, Brigham Young University, 3 Feb. 2012.

"Heaven, Hell, and How We Get There," Methodists and Mormons at the Crossroads Conference, Wesley Theological Seminary, 25 Jan. 2012.

## FIRESIDES ANDS PODCASTS

2023

"Faith During Challenges," Panel Discussion, *Daily Universe*, 15 February 2023.

Discussing *Gilead*, Good Faith Book Club, BYU Radio, 12 February 2023.

"Restoration of All Things," All-In LDS Living Podcast, January 2023.

"When Faith is Hard," Faith Matters Podcast, 29 January 2023.

"Finding Faith in Trying Times," Henderson Nevada tri-stake and 1 YSA firesides, 21-22 January 2023.

"Matthew 4 and Luke 4-5," Come Follow Up, BYU TV, 7 January 2023

2022

"Into the Headwinds," CWIC Podcast, 8 December 2022

"The Crucible of Doubt," Come Back Podcast, 13 November 2022.

"All Things New," Colorado Littleton stake fireside, 13 November 2022.

"The Book of Mormon: Source of Faith," Tri Stake Finding Faith Devotional, Highland UT. 9 October 2022.

"Stretching the Heavens," Talk About Mormonism podcast, September 2022.

"History and Faith," Faith Matters podcast with David Holland, 18 September 2022.

"Hard Questions & the Quest for Faith," YSA 14th Provo Stake fireside, 18 Sept. 2022.

"Rethinking Sin and Salvation," Meridian East Stake, ID fireside, 11 September 2022.

"Rethinking Sin," Enduring Connection YSA Conference," Meridian ID, 10 September 2022.

"Early Christian World" Faith Matters podcast with Laura Nasrallah, 27 August 2022.

"Mind, Matter, Spirit," Faith Matters podcast with Michael Ferguson, 13 August 2022.

"Turning Down, Accepting Gene England," Gospel Tangents Podcast, 11 July 2022.

"Is God Alive in Cambridge," Faith Matters podcast with Noah Feldman, 18 June 2022.

"Healing Truths of the Restoration," Poway Stake, San Diego, 15 May 2022.

"Finding Faith in Times of Doubt," So. California Regional YSA Conference, 14 May 2022.



"The Healing Gospel," Cedar City Young Marrieds Stake, 26 March 2022.

"Healing Truths," Big Cottonwood Stake fireside, 20 March 2022.

"Traditions of the Fathers," Mt. Timpanogos Stake singles fireside, 10 March 2022.

"The Many Doors of Faith," Faith Matters podcast, 26 February 2022.

"Doors of Faith," YSA and Swedish Mission Zoom fireside, 6 February 2022.

## 2021

"All Things New," Willow Creek UT Stake fireside, 2 December 2021.

"Finding Faith," Millcreek, SLC multi stake YSA, 24 October 2021.

"Stretching the Heavens," Bay Area Firesides, 22-23 October 2021.

"Dealing with Faith Challenges," Portland Oregon Stakes," 16-17 October 2021.

"The God of the Restoration," Hillside SLC YAs, 29 August 2021.

"Learning from Doubt," North America West Single Adult Conference, 6 August 2021.

"Distinct Doctrines of the Restoration," Laguna Stake fireside, 18 July 2021.

"The Christ Who Heals," Laguna Southern California YA Fireside, 17 July 2021.

"Are Latter-day Saints Christian," Scotland zoom fireside, 20 June 2021

"Stretching the Heavens," Utah Sons of Pioneers zoom fireside, 9 June 2021.

And many others going back to 2012