New Perspectives on Joseph Smith and Translation

10/05/2017

A CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE JOSEPH SMITH’S TRANSLATION PROCESS

One key to understanding Mormonism’s prophetic founder, Joseph Smith, is to grapple with his sharply distinctive practice of “translation.” Come take advantage of a unique, day-long conversation by some of Mormon Studies' leading minds on this challenging issue.

Richard Bushman

Richard Bushman is professor of history emeritus at Columbia University and currently holds the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University. His acclaimed biography, Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling (Knopf) earned many awards, including the Best Biography Award from the Association of Mormon Letters.

Terryl Givens

Terryl Givens is a professor of English literature and religion at the University of Richmond, where he holds the James A. Bostwick Chair in English. He has written multiple books exploring LDS thought, including The God Who Weeps: How Mormonism Makes Sense of Life (Ensign Peak, with Fiona Givens) and the forthcoming Wrestling the Angel: The Foundations of Mormon Thought (Oxford).

Jared Hickman

Jared Hickman is assistant professor of English as Johns Hopkins University. He researches the historical intersections of literature, religion and race in the U.S. His most recent book is Black Prometheus: Race and Radicalism in the Age of Atlantic Slavery (Oxford). Also forthcoming from Oxford is Americanist Approaches to the Book of Mormon.

Jana Riess

Jana Riess is a senior columnist for Religion News Service. She is the author of The Twible: All the Chapters
Samual Brown

Samuel Brown is the author of *In Heaven as It Is on Earth: Joseph Smith and the Early Mormon Conquest of Death* (Oxford). In his day job, he's an assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Utah Intermountain Medical Center. He earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and seeks to understand how believers have employed religious concepts regarding death and sickness.

Rosalynde Welch

Rosalynde Welch writes on interreligious issues for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and blogs at Times and Seasons. She's received degrees from Brigham Young University and her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. She lives in St. Louis, Mo.

LOGAN LUNCH IDEAS

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For more information: philip.barlow@usu.edu

Day-long conference was held March 16, 2017, Utah State University Perry Pavilion Hall (4th floor), Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

4/11/17 NOTE: VIDEOS OF THE SESSIONS WILL BE RELEASED SOON. WE'LL POST THEM HERE, SO CHECK BACK.

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**AGENDA**

**Morning Session: 9 a.m. –1 p.m.**

Each panel participant will offer a summary of a longer paper that other participants have read in advance.

9 a.m. Welcome remarks by Philip Barlow

9:15 a.m. Presentation by Richard Bushman, followed by questions and discussion led by Jana Riess

10 a.m. Presentation by Sam Brown, followed by questions and discussion led by Rosalynde Welch

10:45 a.m. 15-minute break

11 a.m. Presentation by Jared Hickman, followed by questions and discussion led by Rosalynde Welch

11:45 a.m. Presentation by Terryl Givens, followed by questions and discussion led by Jana Riess

12:30 p.m. Wrap-up of morning session, Philip Barlow

**Lunch: 1 p.m.-2 p.m.**

**Afternoon session: 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m.**

Afternoon sessions are round-table discussions among Richard Bushman, Terryl Givens, Jana Riess, Samual Brown, Rosalynde Welch, Jared Hickman and Philip Barlow. Topics of discussion listed below by hour.

2 p.m. Strengths and weaknesses of traditional linguistic translation approaches.

2:50 p.m. 10-minute break

3 p.m. Is an emerging, coherent translation paradigm reflected in these papers and the morning’s deliberations?
If so, can this paradigm and the more conventional paradigm co-exist? To what extent can Joseph Smith be said to have practiced a single mode of translation?

3:50 p.m. 10-minute break

4 p.m. Is there some broad sense in which “translation” applies to the foundations and practices of Mormonism? Is there a sense in which Joseph Smith’s idea of translation is alive (standing as a model and an invitation to greater spiritual and moral imagination) in today’s Mormonism?

What practical consequences are there to our day’s work?

4:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Final remarks by Philip Barlow

Philip Barlow

Philip Barlow is a professor of religious studies at Utah State University where he holds the Leonard J. Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, he is currently working with historian Jan Shipps on Mormonism, to be published as part of Columbia University's Contemporary American Religions Series. He is two months into a year-long fellowship at the BYU-based Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship.

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