

# LDS EuroSeminar 2016

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DIRECTORY

8-10 December 2016 Kennedy Web  
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY | LONDON CENTRE

# Participants



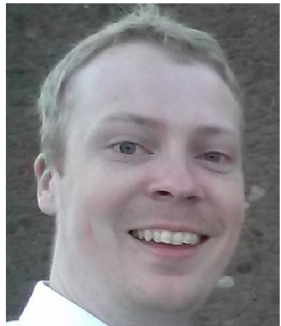
## Sergey Antamanov

Sergey Antamanov has worked as Public Affairs Assistant to the Director in the Europe East Area of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) since March 2014. His past employment positions include Senior Buyer at the LDS Church EEA office, Youth Projects Coordinator under the direction of the Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation, and more. He earned his bachelor's degree in Education in 2008 and a master's degree in Educational Management in 2010 at the Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. He is currently working on his PhD in Sociology at the Academy of Labour and Social Relations in Moscow, Russia. He was born in 1988 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia and has been a member of the LDS Church since 2003. He served as a full-time missionary in the Ukraine Donetsk Mission, 2011-12. He was married in the Kyiv Temple in 2013 and has a little son, Daniel, who was born on the 17th of February 2016.



## Emeric Biver

Emeric Biver is a French scientist. He graduated in micro- and nano-technology engineering, after which he served his mission in the French and English West Indies. He then completed a PhD in Marseille, in southern France, in laser processes, and subsequently worked on the R&D team of a laser company in Oxford, UK. During his years as a physicist, he has developed a deep interest in behavioral sciences, subconscious processes and individuation. He recently decided to make a drastic career change and began training to become a psychotherapist, which better coincides with his life's mission. He enjoys understanding people, communities, the world and the universe, and sharing what he learns to help people live more fulfilled lives.



## William Blacoe

William Blacoe, born and raised in Germany, is a PhD student of computational linguistics at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he has learned theoretical and practical skills for creating and evaluating language-based technology solutions. He specialises in automatically learning the meanings of words and sentences to better identify useful information from unstructured data on the internet. His love for traveling has resulted in his visiting many different countries, be

it for pleasure or to present his published research at academic international scientific conferences. At home or abroad he enjoys knowledge about other cultures, new languages, different mentalities to live life.



## Norma Calabrese

Norma Calabrese was born in southeast Italy, spent part of her childhood in London, England, most of her life traveling or dreaming of travel around the world. She started working as the Assistant Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations in Rome just a couple of months before she graduated *cum laude* in Oriental Studies from Sapienza University of Rome. Diplomacy has always been her thing. In fact, she rejoices in building bridges between people from different cultures. A passionate researcher and a person, she is currently pursuing private studies on the rights of freedom of religion and the sociocultural entanglements of the globalization of religion. She is also a mother of two (lively) girls and in her very little spare time she writes widely and wildly, and cultivates the slow art of writing.



## Carter Charles

A native of Haiti, Carter Charles is a teaching assistant at the University Bordeaux Montaigne, France, where he teaches translation, English as an Applied Foreign Language, and American Studies as well as the role of religion in international affairs. He holds a PhD in American Studies and did his dissertation on the political integration of Mormonism in the United States. He is a founding member and president of the Institute for Research into Mormonism and of "Deux Mains, Haiti," through which he tries to make a difference in the world by helping parents send their children to school and become economically self-reliant.



## Sizhe (Helen) Chen

Sizhe (Helen) Chen was born in Hangzhou, China, moved to England in 2005. Since an early age she has recognized in herself a great passion for philosophy and religion. Having been converted to the LDS Church more than three years ago, Helen is now a dedicated member and very passionate about sharing the gospel. She is currently a PhD candidate in Urban Planning at University College London (UCL). Her research interests are in the planning, appraisal and delivery of mega transport infrastructure projects and their capacities to deliver a more sustainable future in the



Europe and Asia.

## **Nicolaj Harbo Christiansen**

Nicolaj Christiansen is the happy father of three girls and is sealed in the LDS Temple to his wife Birgitte. He currently holds callings as First Counselor in the Elders Quorum and as a teacher in Visitors' Class and Gospel Principles. Academically, he holds a master's degree in Organizational Communication and currently is a partner in a research community at Aalborg University that focuses on an academic approach to faith and the

ability to grasp and "see" the divine. Professionally, he owns a small company where he counsels startups and small businesses in strategic and practical communication. During the past couple of years he has been involved in a project aimed at increasing public and academic interest in the consequences of individual use of pornography. He wishes to share what has been learned thus far on this subject and learn about what other countries are doing to limit the damaging effects of pornography.



## **Mariana Coelho**

Mariana Coelho is currently a 21-year-old Portuguese student in a three-year undergraduate Business Management program at ISCTE Business School in Lisbon and will complete her last semester by January 2017. She has worked in summer camps and, right now, she teaches private mathematics and piano classes. She enjoys playing tennis as a hobby. She took

an 18-month break from her studies to serve an LDS mission in Cape Verde from August 2014 to February 2016. She is proactive, hardworking, and determined, following through on objectives that she has predefined, and she is also a skilled leader by example and in motivating others.



## **Mary E. Cox**

Departmental Lecturer in Economic and Social History at Oxford University, and the William Golding Junior Research Fellow in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Brasenose College, Oxford, Dr. Mary E. Cox also holds an appointment as a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University (2015 - 2017). She was selected as the 2016 Fred and Ellen

Lewis Fellow for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the largest Jewish aid organization in the world. Her research focuses on using anthropometric data to understand the impact that war and relief interventions have on vulnerable populations. She also researches aid institutions from the early 20th century. She teaches courses in applied quantification methods to undergraduate and graduate students at Oxford, as well as an advanced



graduate paper in anthropometric history undergraduate paper on 1919.

## **Felícia Matos Dias**

Felícia Matos Dias finished law school before : an LDS missionary on Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Her mission motivated her to pursue an international career, and after her return she earned an International Relations master's degree where she focused her studies in Humanitarian Cooperation. During her master's study she

an intern at UN Headquarters in Geneva, and this experience became for her thesis on the subject of the effectiveness of Humanitarian Aid : Since then she has lived and worked in Angola, Denmark and Spain recently, before moving back to Denmark in September 2016, she completed a one-year competitive training programme at the Portuguese Embassy in M



## **Oviédo Dongen**

Oviédo Dongen is a 24-year-old medical student in a small city in the northern Netherlands. He likes cheese, following politics and his studies. From 2012 he served an LDS mission to London, where he discovered how much he likes speaking to different kinds of people (which he happily does in the hospital where he works now). In his free time he keeps up a small website on which

he shares photography and things that he builds. He is very excited to discuss perspectives about the LDS Church from his fellow Europeans at the Ser



## **Esther Duffles**

Esther M. Wosnjuk Duffles spent her childhood in Alaska. She served a full-time LDS mission in Salt Lake City, Temple Square from 2007-2010 where she had the opportunity to teach in English, Polish and German (all of which she speaks). Following her mission, she moved to Vienna, Austria in 2009 to pursue her studies, where she is now completing her medical degree at the Medical University of Vienna, with a specialization in Public Health and Orthopedic Surgery

currently serving in the LDS Church as the Institute Director for the Vierthaus ward and as Stake Translator. Her community involvement and hobbies include being active in the Lean-In Organization for women in leadership, travel, and running.





## Timothy Farrant

Tim Farrant is a DPhil Candidate in Theology at the University of Oxford. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through TORCH, Oxford, and co-funded by the university's prestigious Clarendon Fund, Tim is currently conducting research into the history of 'scientific' thought in the High Middle Ages. He is particularly interested in the reception of Augustinian theology in the natural works of twelfth- and

thirteenth-century intellectuals, chiefly in Paris and Oxford. Tim's doctoral research forms a part of a interdisciplinary 'Medieval Science' project, based at Pembroke College where he collaborates with a DPhil Candidate in Engineering. Working under the supervision of noted Oxford academics in divinity, engineering, and history, Tim's research provides theological context to the project's findings, helping to distinguish medieval 'scientia' of the arts and the natural world, from the modern understanding of the scientific discipline. Tim is also an active member of the Ordered Universe Project, an award-winning research project at the University of Durham. As a contributing author to the project's forthcoming volume on the works of Robert Grosseteste, Tim is co-writing in close association with many established academics. Before coming to Oxford, Tim completed his BA in History at the University of Bristol, where he developed a passion for the intellectual culture of the Middle Ages, followed by an MA in Medieval History at the University of York. Tim has taught history and literacy in Alternative Learning Provision at Magnus Church of England Academy, in Newark, Nottinghamshire. In addition to his research commitments, Tim is currently the president of the Latter-day Saint Student Association, a recognised student body at the University of Oxford. He also serves as a counsellor in the Oxford 1st Ward Bishopric, and is devoted to his wonderful wife, Katy, and his two beautiful daughters.



## Ruth Gómez

Ruth Gómez is a bachelor's degree student in Genetics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, currently specializing in bioinformatics, with the goal of entering the world of research and teaching. She's very involved in religion and has served in many callings in the LDS Church, as well as participated in a number of inter-religious programs. As she's in touch every day with both scientists and religious people, she has seen

firsthand the misconception that exists about the relationship between these two groups, and is resolved to clarify it by becoming herself an example of a prominent scientist who believes in God.



## Shara Hofmann

Shara Hofmann was born in Villavicencio, Colombia on October 1987. At age 14 she and her family fled to Ecuador as political refugees. In October 2004 they arrived in Sweden as part of the UNCHR resettlement program and the Swedish government resettled refugees to Sweden. On August 2007 she enrolled in the Social Work program at Gothenburg University and graduated in January 2011. She completed an

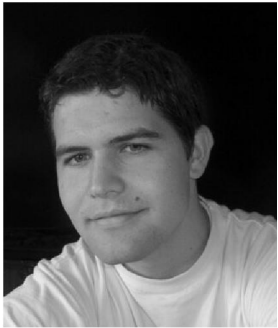
internship in Mumbai, India at NGO Family Service Centre, working with women and children in the slums of South Mumbai. After graduation she completed a course in Development Studies. On April 2011 she served for 18 months as a missionary for the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, including the Humanitarian Center and Welfare Square where Church aid and Humanitarian Relief is managed. On January 2013 she began working as a case officer at the Swedish Migration Board in the Asylum Seekers Reception Unit. On June 2013 she participated as a speaker at the Almedal week, the most important conference in Swedish politics, where she was asked by the Migration Board and the Swedish government to share her personal experience as a refugee in Sweden. During the summer of 2014 she was able to participate at the International Summer School on migration at the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development at Oxford University. After marrying Pascal Hofmann in 2015, they moved to Zurich, Switzerland where she has spent the last year learning the German language. She is currently engaged in getting more involved in the migration field in Switzerland and serving in the Church as Young Women President in the Zurich Stake. Her goal in the near future is to apply for a master's program in Religion, Peace and Conflict at the University of Lund, Sweden.



## Jurgen Hoole

Jurgen Hoole is an entrepreneur and an educator in the greater Amsterdam area. He received his Bachelor's degree from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and his Master's degree in Management at Nyenrode Business University. He completed his thesis project entitled: "Spirituality as a Source of Intrinsic Motivation." Hoole is a senior consultant in the field of Sales and Marketing and has led several innovative projects as head of educational development.

He is currently writing a book about the principles and benefits of spirituality, and owns a consultancy and training firm advocating spirituality as a valuable resource in business. Hoole also serves as a member of the board of education of 20+ public schools in the Lelystad area, Netherlands, comprising elected employees and parents. He and his wife have three children.



### David Isaksen

David Isaksen is from Siljan, Norway and currently works as Assistant Professor of Business Communication at University College of Southeast Norway and as a translator and interpreter for the LDS Church. He is married to Kaja-Lena from Germany and they have four children together. David served in the Germany Munich/Austria Mission (now Alpine Mission) and was a teacher at the England Preston Missionary Training Center. He has a BA in Literature and Languages from Telemark University College, an MA in Interpreting and Translation (German-English) from the University of Central Lancashire, an MA in English from Brigham Young University, and he is currently completing a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition from Texas Christian University. David currently serves as Young Men's President in the Skien ward.



### Vlash Kallanxhi

Vlash Kallanxhi graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Management (Finance emphasis) from Brigham Young University – Idaho in 2009. Currently he is preparing to apply for further higher education. He has worked at various jobs in his field of studies, such as teaching finance courses at Aleksander Moisiu University, as financial manager for a start-up airline company, and an NGO. Currently he is a manager at the Sales Department for Messer Albagaz shpk, an affiliate of Messer Group Gases for Life based in Frankfurt, Germany. He joined the LDS Church in 1995, and served a mission in the Boston Massachusetts Mission in 2002. He has also served in various callings in the Church; currently he is the Young Men's Stake President and also a high priest on the Stake High Council.



### Benjamin Keogh

Benjamin Keogh teaches Religious, Moral, and Philosophical Studies to the young folk at the Paisley Grammar School. He has an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of the West of Scotland, a PGDE in Secondary School Religious Education from Strathclyde University, and he is currently completing a Master's in Education at the same university. He participated in the Summer Seminar on Mormon Culture, directed by Terryl Givens, in the summer of 2015. His paper from that seminar is forthcoming in *Dialogue*. He was born and raised in Scotland, served a mission in London, and is married with two children.



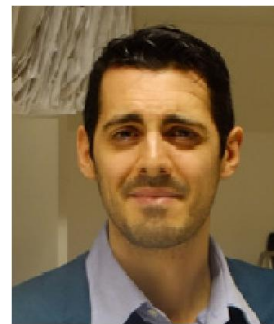
### Henri Kronqvist

Henri Kronqvist holds a bachelor's degree in Administration with minors in Business I Accounting and Finance. He will receive his degree in December 2016. He is working on an academic article about crowdfunding which will be published next year. Henri is currently working for the Finnish Tax Administration with various responsibilities but mainly in designing new services and working with appeals to the board of adjustment. He served a mission for the LDS Church in Russia, St. Petersburg Mission in 2006-2008, and is currently serving as the Elders Quorum president in his ward in Vaasa. He speaks Finnish, English, Swedish and Russian. He is enthusiastic about gospel, LDS Church history, world politics and finance.



### Anne Christina Larsen

Anne Christina Larsen, from Denmark, is a psychologist and works in a private practice. Her professional interests include assisting people in performing at high levels while helping them achieve a good work-life balance. It also includes how to create environments, that make this possible. Anne has a great interest in cultures and languages. She has lived, studied and worked several years in various countries like Guatemala, Austria and the US.



### Davide Lotito

Davide Lotito lives in the Milan area in Italy. He works as a sales director for a company in the food processing sector. He is currently striving to complete his undergraduate degree in foreign languages and international business. He loves studying and researching gospel-related material, especially doctrines and principles that help create bright and happy people.

### Clare Marshall

Clare studied a BA (Hons) in Surface Design at the University of the Arts London before serving in the Germany Frankfurt mission from 2012-2013. Inspired by her experiences she embarked on a Masters in Art Psychotherapy, linking her previous studies and allowing her to explore how the Arts can be used to transcend the initial barrier of language and support vulnerable individuals. Clare's final year placement focused on providing one-to-one support with LGBT





users at a health charity in Edinburgh, Scotland, an area that has since become a topic of passionate interest and invaluable in helping to understand and re-evaluate LGBT concerns within an LDS setting and vice versa. Clare is particularly interested in how religion, culture and social norms impact the formation of identity. In her spare time she enjoys visiting art galleries, crocheting and exploring the beauty of local Scottish countryside.



### **Hannah Munzer**

Hannah Munzer lives and works in York, England. She has been involved in humanitarian aid work since 2006, volunteering with organisations both in the United Kingdom and internationally. She served as a full-time missionary in the Ireland Dublin Mission. After returning to England in 2009 she began an undergraduate degree in Counselling Studies at York St John University. She continued her post graduate study at York St John and

qualified as a Counsellor and Psychotherapist in 2015. During her training she specialised in counselling individuals facing addictions and the trauma of sexual abuse. She now provides therapy through a private practice. She has supported LDS clients in one-to-one therapy and also through facilitating the LDS addiction recovery program. She is continuing her professional development to qualify as a marriage therapist, pursuing further research studying culture in psychotherapy and through attending conferences in the UK and abroad.



### **Rakel Nilsson**

Rakel Nilsson from Sweden received a BA in International Relations from Malmö University and is currently studying in a master's program in Crisis Management and Peace Building at Umeå University. Before her graduate studies Rakel worked as a paralegal at a law firm in Malmö, mostly dealing with immigration law. Her previous experience includes internships at the US Federal Court for the District of Utah, at the EU office for the LDS Church in Brussels,

Belgium, and most recently at the Save the Children Head Office in Stockholm working as a Humanitarian Coordination Assistant. Her main interest lies in the role of civil society in humanitarian interventions and peace-building missions.



### **Benjamin Nuttall**

Benjamin Nuttall is an aspiring scholar completed an MA in English Literature from the University of Nottingham, achieving a Distinction. He completed an undergraduate degree in English Language and Literature at the University of Liverpool. Within the field of literature, his main interest is in Modernism such as DH Lawrence, Joseph Conrad and Virginia Woolf. In particular, he is interested in how narrative and progress are interrogated in these authors' works. He hopes to explore this topic in his PhD thesis. Various topics within the intersection of 'faith and intellect' interest him. Drawing on research from his degree, he is fascinated by how modern secular notions of progress are related to eschatology and the conception of history as a teleological process. He is also interested in how religious views are shaping current world affairs.



### **James Perry**

James is a final year history doctoral candidate and an Associate Lecturer of history at Lancaster University. With a specialism in migration, British Mormonism and digital humanities, James has written and lectured on a range of issues that have direct contemporary relevance. James's thesis examines the process of integration and segregation among foreign born immigrants in England and Wales, in the period 1851 to 1951. He joined the LDS Church in Somerset in 2006 and served as a missionary in the England Manchester Mission, and currently lives in Lancaster, with his wife and young daughter.



### **Melissa Rodriguez**

Melissa is a language teacher who studied and completed a BA in Global Studies at Arizona State University. She has always had a special interest in different cultures and learning about diverse cultures. This is the reason for her interest in majoring in Global Studies, which aims at examining world problems and their consequences in social, cultural, religious and political contexts. She has lived and travelled through various countries for work and study. Some of these countries include France, Spain, Egypt, Turkey and currently Italy. She teaches English and Spanish and resides in Italy with her husband.



### Elvi Rwankuba

Elvi Rwankuba says his greatest joy comes from three things: a) sharing the gospel b) seeking ways to grow, and c) spending quality time with his family. He is enthusiastic and always has a positive view on life. His father comes from Uganda and his mother is Slovenian. LDS missionaries first knocked on his door sometime during his law school days. Fast forwarding a few years, he says he decided to follow the Lord, serving a mission in Ogden, Utah. Upon returning to Slovenia, he worked at a law firm and currently is trying to make the world a

better place at Slovenia's national bank. He has a wonderful wife, and they are still fresh newlyweds of only a few months. His passions also include basketball, quality movies and once upon a time he used to be a pretty great classical guitarist.



fortepianist Patricia Rejas. Samuel has given and performances at the Istituto Superiore Musicale Pietro Mascagni of Livorno, Italy (2012) and the Marija Tereza Concert Hall in Vigo (2014). Samuel has performed extensively as an accompanist, most notably with Canadian soprano Bonnie Cooper, and songwriter Patricia, with whom he was a finalist in the 2014 Song Competition in 2014. He is currently collaborating with the Arume Ensemble as a member of the ensemble with performances of Poulenc's Sextet for violin and piano scheduled for the 2016-2017 concert season. Samuel is also a pedagogue, having finished his master's degree in Music Teaching at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He now works as a piano and music teacher at the Professional Conservatoire of Music Reveriano de Ponteareas. Samuel served as full-time missionary in the California-Los Angeles mission from 2010 to 2012. He currently serves the LDS Church as a mission leader and branch clerk.



### Richard Slegers

Richard Slegers lectures in philosophy, and applied research in the city of Nijmegen, Netherlands. He has completed a Master in Philosophy and in Education, focussing on hermeneutics, epistemology and the philosophy of religion. He eventually landed in the Social Sciences, where he is researching and creating curriculum for 'Bible and Philosophy' to help social workers to be more spiritually and culturally sensitive.



### Luca Sorgiacomo

Husband and father of two, Luca Sorgiacomo works for his employers' companies by launching and developing internal and external business activities (new services, new ICT and internal processes, new partnerships). In his spare time he tries to "build up Zion" as a bishop and also seeks ways to concretely help his family. Currently he is prototyping an application for digital engagement in the discussion of public laws and policies.



### Natalia Santidrian

Natalia Santidrian is an accountant for the LDS Church Offices in Frankfurt, Germany. She was born in Spain and completed her master degree in Labor Relations and Human Resources. Her professional experience includes working in HR in different areas and companies including Manpower, Barclays Bank, La Caixa and Bantierra Bank. Her primary areas are payroll, training and developing skills for employees in the labor environment. She extended her studies in

Education and Music, participating in difference conventions throughout Europe as a percussionist representative.



### Steffi Sassenus

Steffi Sassenus is currently working as a parliamentary assistant for the European Union office of The LDS Church. She received her bachelor's degree in political science with honors at the University of Antwerp in 2012. She specialized further in comparative educational systems and lifelong learning by receiving a master in Educational Science this year. She is interested in foreign affairs, especially in the topic of religious freedom. Her future ambition is to be further involved within this particular topic at the EU level.

### Samuel H. Serrano

Spanish pianist Samuel H. Serrano completed his Piano Performance degree at the Superior Conservatory of Music in Vigo, Spain, under the tutelage of



## Ezra Steinvooorte

Twenty-eight-year-old Dutchman Ezra Steinvooorte's background is in International Affairs: He holds a BA in International Relations & International Organizations, a BA in Modern Greek studies and an MA in International security, with a specialization in the Middle East and Diplomacy. He has lived in The Netherlands, Greece, Cyprus, and France and is currently living in Lebanon where he works in communications at the UNESCO Office in Beirut. He is

also working for the Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project. His previous jobs included work at different embassies and at the EU. He says it "won't come as a surprise" that he likes everything international: politics, culture, travels, languages, and more. He also enjoys working out, watching movies and eating! It bothers him that there always seems to be too little time to do everything he wants. He was excited to participate in the EuroSeminar and learn from instructors and other participants and hopes this will increase his understanding and provide him with more insight about the compatibility of religious convictions and civic life in the contemporary world.



## Jade Thomson

Jade Thomson is from Scotland but has been living in London for almost 5 years. She is the Features Editor/Art Director for a luxury interiors retailer, [LuxDeco.com](http://LuxDeco.com), which she absolutely loves as she has always been interested in interior design. She has also been influenced by art and culture and often finds herself spending hours in museums, art galleries and at cultural sites, poring over interesting artefacts and acclaimed artwork. She loves to travel and explore the world's various cultures. For the most part, she has grown up as a member of the LDS Church and, since neither of her parents were active during her childhood, the gospel was, and still is, a conscious decision for her. She says it is "the most defining part" of her character.



## Michaël Ulrich

Michaël Ulrich is "professeur de classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles" in Mathematics (that is, a mathematics instructor for bachelor-level students) in Strasbourg, France. He also has a position as a researcher in Mathematics at the Université de Franche-Comté (France). He devotes his free time to Mormon Studies and participated in the Mormon Theology

Seminar in 2014 in London and in the Mormon Scholars Foundation Seminar in 2015 in Provo.



## Pierre Vendassi

Pierre Vendassi is a sociologist, a research fellow at the Centre Émile Durkheim (University of France), and the co-founder of the French Institute for Research on Mormonism (IFREM). He collaborates on research projects related to China's Christianity, and the social perception of religion. He recently authored a book: *Chrétiens, Affiliations et conversions au XXIème siècle*,

by the *Presses Universitaires de Rennes* (Christians of China: Affiliations and Conversions in the 21st Century). He also works as an independent consultant and trainer, promoting positive leadership, improving emotional intelligence, and the management of religious practices and identities in work environments. He served in the Geneva Switzerland Mission of the LDS Church from 2004 to 2006. He is married and is the father of two children.



# Presenters, Mentors and Organizers



## Frederick W. Axelgard

Dr Frederick W. Axelgard is a senior fellow in international relations at the Wheatley Institution. Prior to joining Wheatley in 2013, Fred had an extensive career in international affairs, public policy, and international business centered in Washington D.C. He worked for U.S. Senator E. Jake Garn of Utah (1980–81), and at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (1982–89), where he was a senior fellow in Middle East Studies and wrote extensively on Iraqi politics and U.S.–Iraq relations. From 1989–2002, Fred served with the U.S. Department of State in a variety of capacities. He worked for several years on the Arab-Israeli peace process as coordinator of a multilateral working group on arms control and regional security, after which he served as counselor for political-military affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia. Following the terror attacks of September 2001, Fred was seconded to the U.S. Central Command as State Department liaison during Operation Enduring Freedom, for which he received the Department's Superior Merit Award. From 2002–12, he worked for General Dynamics, as director of international business development at corporate headquarters and later vice president of Middle East business development at Axsys Technologies. Fred graduated *summa cum laude* from Brigham Young University (1977) and received an MA in law and diplomacy (1979) and a PhD in international studies (1988) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He and his wife Robyn have five children and thirteen grandchildren.



## Francesco Di Lillo

Francesco Di Lillo assumed responsibility over the newly established European Union Office of the LDS Church in Brussels, Belgium, on September 1, 2013. Prior to this assignment, he worked at the Europe Area office of the LDS Church as Assistant Area Director Of Public Affairs. Francesco has also been President of the Italy Utah Cooperation Center (2011-2015), a nonprofit organization which he co-founded to promote cultural, academic and commercial partnerships between organizations from Italy and from Utah. Before taking up these positions he gained some international experience in public affairs and public information in Cyprus with the Italian Embassy, the United Nations Development Program, and finally with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees witnessing evacuation operations of civilians through the Port of Larnaca, Cyprus, during the Israeli-Lebanese conflict of 2006. Just before taking up his current job, he worked on a project assignment with a

marketing and communications consultancy firm based in Rome organization of conferences and events at the national level. He holds a degree in Theory of Communications from the University Roma Tre, *cum laude* with a dissertation on the proactive use of media as tools for resolution and peacebuilding. He also holds a master's in International and Human Rights Protection from the Societa' Italiana per l'Organizzazione Internazionale. Francesco was born in Rome, Italy. He has been married since 2007 and is the father of four wonderful children.



## Christian Euvrard

Christian Euvrard is regional director for the Southeast Region (seventeen countries from Cyprus, Hungary to Albania, etc.) in the LDS Seminary and Institute Program. Christian is director of the Paris LDS Institute of Religion and served in that capacity for twenty-two years. He received a BA and an MA in philosophy (University of Paris), an MS in theology of religions (Catholic University of Paris), and a PhD in religious studies from the Sorbonne University (Pratique des Hautes Etudes). Currently Christian is involved in postgraduate studies in religions at the Groupe Sociétés, Religions et Laïcités (a research laboratory in the National Center for Scientific Research) in France. His interests are in the history of the LDS Church in Europe, relationships between states and churches, interfaith dialogue, and the minority religions. He is the author of a book on Louis Bertrand, one of the first converts to Mormonism in France in 1850, and has a two-volume book on the history of the LDS Church in France in preparation. Christian has participated in numerous conferences on religion throughout Europe and has organized them himself. He and his wife Marie-Françoise are the parents of two boys.



## James Faulconer

James Faulconer, a professor of philosophy at Young University, teaches courses in the philosophy of religion and contemporary European philosophy. He was the first person in his immediate family to graduate from high school and one of the first in his extended family to graduate from college. He received a BA from Brigham Young University and an MA and a PhD from Pennsylvania State University. He is interested in contemporary European philosophy and gets a thrill out of teaching it to students. In those classes, his specialties—Heidegger and twenty-first-century French thought, especially as the latter concerns religion—come into play. He says those may sound like arcane topics, but he asks for a chance to explain why they can be important to your intellectual life and may help improve your spiritual life. James has held several positions in the university outside

department, including dean of Undergraduate Studies. And for five years he was a Richard L. Evans Professor of Christian Understanding, with the remit to help Latter-day Saints and those of other religions understand one another better. Most recently, he spent two years in London working for BYU as the academic director of the BYU London Centre, where he worked to create cooperative relations with universities in the UK, primarily by sponsoring or cosponsoring academic lectures and workshops. He and his wife Janice Faulconer have twelve grandchildren and four children.



### Teppo Felin

Teppo Felin is a professor of strategy and academic area head at University of Oxford's Saïd Business School. Teppo's research focuses on organization theory, strategy, complex systems, innovation and the origins of heterogeneity. He is also interested in anything interdisciplinary. His research has been published in journals such as *Organization Science*,

*Academy of Management Review*, *Journal of Institutional Economics* and *Research Policy*. He has published interdisciplinary research in *Erkenntnis*, *Arizona State Law Journal*, and *PLOS ONE*. Prior to joining Oxford, Teppo was on the faculty at BYU's Marriott School and Goizueta Business School at Emory University. Before joining academia, he worked in the venture capital industry in Amman, Jordan, and Munich, Germany. Born and raised in Helsinki, Finland, Teppo has four daughters and lives in Summertown, Oxford.



### Fiona Givens

Fiona Givens was born in Nairobi, educated in convent boarding schools, and joined the LDS Church in Frankfurt. She is a retired modern language teacher with a graduate degree in European History. She is now an independent scholar who has published in several journals and reviews in Mormon studies, including *Journal of Mormon History*, *Exponent II*, *LDS Living*, and *Dialogue*. Along with Terryl, she is the

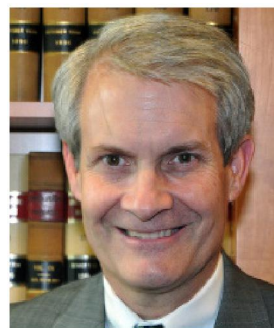
author of *The God Who Weeps: How Mormonism Makes Sense of Life* and *The Crucible of Doubt Reflections on the Quest for Faith*.



### Terryl L. Givens

Terryl L. Givens was born in upstate New York, raised in the American southwest, and did his graduate work in intellectual history (Cornell University) and comparative literature (PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1988), working with Greek, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and English languages and literatures. As Professor of Literature and Religion, and the James A. Bostwick Professor of English at the University of

Richmond, Terry teaches courses in Romanticism, nineteenth century studies, and the Bible and literature. He has published in literary theory and European Romanticism, Mormon studies, and intellectual history. He authored and edited numerous books, including the *Oxford Handbook of Mormonism* (with Phil Barlow); *Wrestling the Angel: The Foundations of Mormon Thought*; the *Columbia Sourcebook of Mormonism in America* (with Neilson); *Parley P. Pratt: The Apostle Paul of Mormonism* (with Matthew J. Brown); and *When Souls had Wings: PreMortal Life in Western Thought*. Current projects include volume two of the *History of Mormon Thought* and a history of the Great Price.



### Thomas B. Griffith

Judge Thomas B. Griffith was appointed to the Court of Appeals in June 2005. Judge Griffith was a lecturer at Stanford Law School and is involved in a number of law projects in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Previously, he was an assistant to the president and general counsel of Brigham Young University under Presidents Gordon B. Hinckley and Samuelson. Most of his professional career

was spent in Washington, D. C., where he was a litigation partner at a law firm. For four years served as Senate legal counsel, the chief legal officer of the Senate. In that capacity, Judge Griffith advised the Senate's leadership committees on a variety of legal matters and participated in the impeachment trial of President Clinton. Before embarking on a legal career, he worked for the LDS Church Educational System as the director of Seminaries and Institutes in the Baltimore, Maryland area. Judge Griffith received a BA from Brigham Young University and a JD from the University of Virginia's School of Law. His wife Susan are the parents of six children and have eight grandchildren.



### Kristian Heal

Kristian Heal is the director of the Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts at Brigham Young University. Kristian's research focuses on pre-Islamic literature of Syriac speaking Christians in the Middle East, including the reception of biblical homiletics, the history of Syriac literature and Antiquity, codicology, and intellectual history. He received a BA in Jewish history and Hebrew from

University College in London, an MS in Syriac studies from the University of Oxford, and a PhD in theology from the University of Birmingham. Kristian joined the staff of the Center in 2000 and became the director in 2004. A native of Suffolk, England, he and his wife Vicki-Bronwen live in Provo with their children.





### Elder Clifford T. Herbertson

Elder Clifford T. Herbertson was named a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2012. Elder Herbertson is a founding partner of venture capital company Paradigm Global Partners LLP, established in 2007. Previously, he was a board director of Exel Plc (2002–07), and a partner for two strategy consulting firms: Monitor Group and Kalchas Group (1989–2002).

His career began while still in school as a research assistant and speech-writer for a member of parliament. In 1988, he received a bachelor's degree in economics with honors from the University College London and a corporate finance diploma from London Business School in 1990. Elder Herbertson has served in numerous Church callings, including a full-time mission in the Georgia Atlanta Mission, stake and ward Young Men president, bishop, stake presidency, and stake president. A native of Glasgow, Scotland, he and his wife Julie Herbertson reside in Wickford, Essex, England and are the parents of three children.



### David Hooson

David Hooson has an MA in music from the University of Oxford and a postgraduate diploma in law from BPP University in London. At Oxford he was a member of Hertford College. He received the highest mark in his year for orchestration (scoring a piece of Arnold Schoenberg piano music for large orchestra), while other areas of focus included the study of aesthetics and musical philosophy, analytical techniques, and the

development of music and other art forms in Paris between 1910 and 1930. During his time at Oxford, David received a scholarship for accomplishments in choral and orchestral conducting and was an active member of the Oxford Union debating society. Since 2008 David has worked at HarrisonParrott, representing some of the world's leading classical musicians. Currently he is Head of Operations in the artist management department, where his responsibilities include overseeing contracts for performances by more than 100 clients globally. Working regularly with contracts from around the world led him to study law: His legal studies included a dissertation comparing the legal systems of the UK and the EU in their approach to intellectual property. He will begin studying for an LLM at BPP in February 2017. David was born and raised in Yorkshire in the north of England. He served in the West Indies Mission, speaking French, and has served as bishop of the Hyde Park 1st ward in London since 2013. He married Gemma Parnell-Smith in 2009 and they are the parents of two young children.



### Elder Paul V. Johnson

Elder Paul Vere Johnson was sustained as Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Latter-day Saints on April 2, 2005. At the time he had been serving as a member of Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah North and Lake City Areas. He has served as commissio LDS Church Educational System, as a mem Chile Area Presidency, and as the admini

religious education and elementary and secondary education. He is serving as a member of the Europe Area Presidency. Elder Johnson received a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in zoology in 1969, a master's degree in counseling and guidance in 1982. He went on to doctorate in instructional technology from Utah State University in 1985. Johnson was born in Gainesville, Florida, on June 24, 1954. He married Washburn in August 1976. They are the parents of nine children.



### David M. Kirkham

David Kirkham is academic director of the Young University London Centre, senior lecturer in comparative law and international policy at School's International Center for Law and Studies, and an associate professor of political science at BYU. Prior to joining BYU, David served as dean and professor of international political science and democratic studies at the George C. Marshall

Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. He served as an associate professor of history, director of international history, and director of international plans and programs at the U.S. Air Force Academy as a U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate in England and Washington, D.C. He has lived sixteen years of his adult life in five European countries (Switzerland, the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium) and officially represents the U.S. and the UN in nearly fifty nations on six continents, including humanitarian affairs officer at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva (with duties primarily in Africa). He received a PhD from Washington University and a JD from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU. He has written and teaching address international human rights (especially the intersection of conscience and religion), global democratization, constitutionalism, international law, diplomacy, and the global challenges posed by ideological extremism. He is the editor of the book *State Responses to Minority Religions* and co-editor of recent books on Islam, law, and politics in Europe. He and his wife Julie are the parents of eight children and the grandparents of ten.





### **Elizabeta Kitanović**

Elizabeta Kitanović is executive secretary for Human Rights of the Conference of European Churches in Brussels and editor of the Human Rights Training Manual for European Churches. In 2009-10, Elizabeta was a member of the advisory panel of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. She completed her studies in theology and post-graduate studies in international affairs at the Political Science Faculty in Belgrade, graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Serbian government, and has completed a PhD.



### **Medlir Mema**

Medlir Mema is a country coordinator for the Seminaries and Institute program covering Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia, and a visiting research fellow at the Institute for European Studies in Brussels, Belgium. Medlir's doctoral dissertation explores the role of civil society in the drafting of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and is currently working on an examination of the role of the

international community in the creation of the Kosovo hybrid court, as well as the political and legal implications of doing so. As a member of a working group on LDS perspectives on war and peace, Medlir applies insights from international relations theory to the Book of Mormon narratives on warfare and conflict. He received a PhD in political science from George Washington University.



### **Hans Noot**

Hans Noot, a member of the LDS Church, owns the consulting firm European Personnel Analysis & Consulting and runs the Gerard Noodt Foundation for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Hans' upbringing and activities have taken him all over the world. His time is spent writing books and articles, teaching religion, advocating for religious freedoms and other human rights, consulting organizations, and supporting his wife

and children and grandchildren. Hans received a BS and an MOB from Brigham Young University and is currently a PhD candidate in organizational anthropology at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.



### **Lola Ogunbote**

Lola Ogunbote was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and London, England. Lola was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2011 and is a non-practising barrister. Her previous experience has involved working in England and Wales under the supervision of Queens Counsel following courts: Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Court of Appeal High Court, Tax Chamber (Upper Tribunal), and the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (Upper Tribunal), County Court.

Lola worked for the Crown Prosecution Service (the main prosecuting authority in England and Wales) and more recently as a financial crime analyst for HSBC. She enjoys playing football (soccer) and is training to become a coach with the Arsenal Football Club. Lola Ogunbote envisions using her experience to teach young women soccer in addition to vital life skills, such as the importance of gaining a formal education, as well as inspiring young women to become agents of change within their own lives and in their communities.



### **Louise Paulsen**

Louise Paulsen is originally from Copenhagen, Denmark, but is currently studying Political Science minors in European Studies and Business Management at Brigham Young University - Provo. Her focus areas are conflict resolution, peacebuilding, international relations, and European nationalism. Louise is a Student Scholar as well as a Research Assistant at the Center for the Study of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is a co-founder of the former president of Sigma Iota Epsilon. In her downtime she enjoys traveling, reading, and connecting with other people.

As one of the organizers of the EuroSeminar, she is ecstatic to help build this new network among her peers in Europe.



### **Ugo Perego**

Ugo Perego is the director of the Rome LDS Institute of Religion and a coordinator for the Seminaries and Institute program in central Italy and Malta. He is a visiting scientist at the Universities of Perugia and Urbino, both in Italy. Ugo has contributed to numerous lectures and publications on DNA and its application in population genetics, genealogy, ancestry, and history, including LDS history. A sample of his academic contributions is available at [www.JosephSmithDNA.com](http://www.JosephSmithDNA.com). He received a BS and an MS in health sciences from Brigham Young University and a PhD in genetics and biomolecular sciences from the University of Pavia in Italy.



## Elder Alan T. Phillips

Elder Alan T. Phillips was named a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 2, 2016. Elder Phillips is responsible for Investor Relations at Valtegra LLP, a private equity fund focused on special situation businesses in Europe. Before joining Valtegra, he founded Bomont Capital, a placement firm raising funds for private equity. Prior to that he served as managing director of a boutique consulting firm operating in Europe, the Americas, Australia and Asia. Elder Phillips has experience leading the acquisition of distressed businesses, managing operational turnaround, disposal of corporate carve-outs, strategy, and raising capital. Elder Phillips received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the London School of Economics. He has served in a number of church callings, including full-time missionary in the England Manchester Mission, elders quorum president, high councillor, counsellor in a bishopric and stake presidency, and stake president. Elder and Sister Lindsey Phillips reside in London, England and are the parents of three children. Lindsey Phillips is the co-founder of [gojanegive.org](http://gojanegive.org), a nonprofit that helps women create fundraisers for global causes, including supporting refugees, girls' education and ending child trafficking.



## James R. Rasband

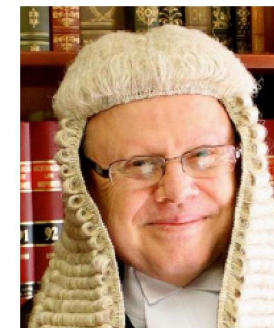
James R. Rasband is Hugh W. Colton Professor of Law at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University. Jim joined the Law School faculty in 1995 and served as dean of the Law School from June 2009 until May 2016. Prior to his time as dean, he served as the associate academic vice president for faculty in the BYU's administration. Before coming to BYU, Jim served as a law clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and practiced law at Perkins Coie in Seattle, Washington, where his practice focused on Indian treaty litigation. His research and teaching has centered on public land and natural resources law and policy, teaching courses in water law, wildlife law, public lands and natural resources law, torts, and international environmental law. He has published many articles and book chapters on these subjects and is coauthor of *Natural Resources Law and Policy*, an important casebook in the field. In addition, he authored "Singular and Plural Address in the Scriptures" (*BYU Studies* 41, 2002) and "Faith to Forgive Grievous Harms: Accepting the Atonement as Restitution" (*BYU Speeches*, 23 October 2012). Jim taught as a visiting professor at Murdoch University School of Law in Perth, Australia, as a visiting fellow in the T.C. Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and has been a frequent speaker at J. Reuben Clark Law Society conferences on legal education, law as a leadership degree, and on the role of religious faith in professional life. He holds a BA from Brigham Young



University and a JD from Harvard Law School.

## Heidi A. Ringheim

Heidi A. Ringheim is a psychosexual couples counselor with specialization in sex/pornography addiction with a private practice in Copenhagen in Denmark. Heidi was co-founder (2000) and since 2008 chairman of Pornography Studies (P&S), a Danish-based organization that addresses pornography in the public square. As leader of the organization, she speaks up officially when needed; she hears what others call for info, advice, and opinions; she aids and educates students as employees and parents in school settings; works with national politicians as well as religious groups and others to initiate awareness and campaigns about the growing impact and consequences of pornography, both nationally and globally in order to influence policy and legislation. Heidi, three colleagues, and a developmental company are in the process of establishing a center based on family- and couple-friendly values with a three-fold mission 1) to increase and support research on the effects of pornography, 2) to broadly educate and train various groups in society about the effects of pornography and how to handle and treat the effects and problems associated with pornography, and 3) to develop and build up an effective healthy treatment program and facility center for sex- and porn-addiction. Heidi and her husband Thomas are the parents of seven sons and two daughters. Many years ago, Heidi served her family as a stay-at-home mom before re-entering herself in the field of sexology and therapy.



## Neville Rochow

Four circumstances have left indelible marks on the psyche of Neville Rochow SC. First has been his knowledge of the living Christ, which led him to join the Church in his late teens. The second was his decision to study and practice law. Third was his experience serving an LDS mission in Germany. The fourth was the one that places all else into perspective, was his wife and best friend Penny soon after she returned from her mission in Italy. The Christian religion is a guide to his worldview and the measure of values that he encounters. He is shot through with all things German and is conscious of a few true Teutonophiles of whom he is aware. Deep reverence for legal and parliamentary institutions, constitutionalism, and the Anglo-Australian law, informs his political philosophy; he loves the thought and writings of Wilberforce, John Adams, Popper, Hayek, Kant, Kirk, Wittgenstein, and others. And with Penny, his life journey has been shared, immeasurably enhanced and mediated through the lens of relationship. Serving with Penny in Belgium, as government relations representatives for the European Union, of the LDS Church has been one of the crowning experiences in

together. They enjoy art, music, theatre, and architecture—and still love to read together. From 1988, his practice as a commercial barrister was wide-ranging and national. He took silk in 2008. Neville received honorary professorships from the University of Notre Dame (Sydney, Australia) and the University of Adelaide (Australia) and is an international fellow of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at the BYU Law School. He graduated with honors in law and received a master's degree in law with a thesis in forensics in constitutional law from Adelaide University, and he received a second master's degree in competition law and policy from Deakin University. Having published widely over many years, his more recent publications include: *Freedom of Religion under Bills of Rights*, a book that he co-edited (with Paul Babie) and wrote in 2012, and *Paying for Human Rights Before the Bill Comes: Towards a More Comprehensive Domestic Implementation of International Human Rights Norms in Australia*. He and Penny are currently working on policy questions relating to the proposed (draft) EU directive on equal treatment and proposed UK legislation on out-of-school of religious bodies and counter-terrorism. They have both served in numerous ward, stake and national leadership positions in the LDS Church. They love being parents and cherish being grandparents.



### **Charlotte Steinfeld**

Charlotte Steinfeld is a barrister with a broad commercial-chancery practice based in Temple, London, and a CEDR (Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution) accredited mediator. Charlotte was called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2004 and has acted in both the High Court and County Court across a range of disputes, including commercial and consumer contracts,

international and domestic sale of goods, insolvency and bankruptcy, mortgages and security, wills and probate, and commercial and residential landlord and tenant. She has also represented various commercial clients in mediation, including in multi-party action. She studied law at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, attaining a distinction for her LLM in international commercial law at the University of Nottingham. Her dissertation on commercial insurance law, "Should the Insurance Law Warranty Survive Reform," was requested by the Law Commission (England and Wales) to be used as part of their ongoing insurance contract law review. Charlotte is the current chair of the United Kingdom and Ireland Chapter of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.