

HISTORIAN OF RELIGION

Ph.D., History of  
Christianity

# David Golding

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I specialize in transdisciplinary projects, drawing from religious studies and history to understand interreligious exchanges and globalization.

## **EDUCATION**

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**2016** **PH.D., RELIGION**  
**CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY**

**MAJOR FIELD** History of Christianity and Religions in North America

**SECONDARY FIELDS** European reformations; expansion of Christianity

**DISSERTATION** *Superstitions of the Heathen: Foreign Missions and the Fashioning of American Exceptionalism, 1800–1861*

**COMMITTEE**

Patrick Q. Mason, chair  
Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies  
Claremont Graduate University

Karen Jo Torjesen  
Margo L. Goldsmith Professor of Women's Studies  
Claremont Graduate University

Esther Chung-Kim  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Claremont McKenna College

Ian Tyrrell  
Scientia Professor of History Emeritus  
University of New South Wales

**2010** **M.A., RELIGION**  
**CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY**

**MAJOR FIELD** History of Christianity and Religions in North America

**THESIS** *The Foundations and Early Development of Mormon Mission Theory*

**COMMITTEE** Richard Lyman Bushman, chair  
Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies  
Claremont Graduate University  
Armand L. Mauss  
Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies Emeritus  
Washington State University

**2008 B.A., EUROPEAN STUDIES  
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY**

**MINOR** Business Management

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

**2016–** **Historian, Church History Department**  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Project lead: Church History Topics; Mission History

**2011–2023** **Adjunct Professor, Department of Church History and Doctrine**  
Brigham Young University  
Classes taught: World Religions; Doctrine and Covenants; Missionary Preparation

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### **PUBLICATIONS**

**2017–** **Church History Topics**  
Author and Editor; Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Principal author:

- Angel Moroni
- Antipolygamy Legislation  
(with Brooke LeFevre)
- Awakenings and Revivals
- Book of Commandments
- Book of Mormon Translation
- Brigham Young
- Broadcast Media
- California Gold Rush
- Church Academies
- Church Finances
- Christian Churches in Joseph Smith's Day
- Colombian Exposition of 1893
- Colonies in Mexico
- Common Consent
- Cooperative Movement
- Correlation
- Council of Fifty
- Crickets and Seagulls
- Critics of the Book of Mormon
- Daily Life of First-Generation Latter-day Saints
- David O. McKay

- Dedication of the Holy Land
- Departure from Nauvoo
- Doctrine and Covenants
- Early Missionaries
- Emigration
- Endowment of Power
- Family Home Evening (*with Jessica Nelson*)
- Fanny Alger
- Fasting
- Founding Meeting of the Church of Christ
- George Albert Smith
- George Q. Cannon
- Gift of Tongues
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Godbeites
- Gold Plates
- Great Depression
- Growth of Missionary Work
- Handcart Companies
- Heber J. Grant (*with James Goldberg*)
- High Council
- Hyrum Smith
- Indian Slavery and Indentured Servitude
- Influenza Pandemic of 1918
- Jackson County Violence
- Joseph and Emma Hale Smith Family (*with Elizabeth Mott*)
- Joseph Smith Sr.
- Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible
- Joseph Smith's 1826 Trial
- Joseph Smith's First Vision Accounts
- Joseph Smith's Leg Surgery
- Joseph Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith Family
- Kirtland Temple
- Lost Manuscript of the Book of Mormon
- Manifesto
- Matthias F. Cowley
- Mexican-American War
- Missouri Extradition Attempts
- Mormon Battalion
- Name of the Church (*with Jed Woodworth*)
- Oliver Cowdery
- Opposition to the Early Church
- Organic Evolution
- Other Latter Day Saint Movements
- Outmigration
- Palmyra and Manchester
- Patriarchal Blessings
- Pioneer Settlements
- Pioneer Trek
- Plural Marriage after the Manifesto
- Political Neutrality
- Printing and Publishing the Book of Mormon
- Prohibition
- Public Relations
- Railroad
- Reed Smoot Hearings
- Reformation of 1856–57 (*with Elizabeth Mott*)
- Relief Society (*with Elizabeth Mott*)
- Religious Beliefs in Joseph Smith's Day
- Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood
- Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood
- Revelations of Joseph Smith
- Sacred Grove and Smith Family Farm
- Sagwitch
- Salt Lake Temple
- Salt Lake Valley
- Samuel Brannan
- Sealing
- Seminaries and Institutes

- Settlement of Joseph Smith's Estate
- Spanish-American War
- Succession of Church Leadership
- Sunday School
- Tabernacle Choir
- Temple Building
- Third Convention
- Turkish Mission (*with Elizabeth Mott*)
- United Firm ("United Order")
- United Orders
- Utah
- Utah War
- Vigilantism
- Vision of the Redemption of the Dead
- Washing of Feet
- Welfare Programs
- Witnesses of the Book of Mormon
- World War I
- World War II (*with James Perry*)
- Young Men Organizations
- Zion/New Jerusalem

- 2024 ***Missionary Interests: Protestant and Mormon Missions in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries***  
Editor with Christopher Cannon Jones; Ithaca: Cornell University Press
- 2024 **"Missing Missiology: Latter-day Saint Missionary Pragmatism and the Search for Scholarship"**  
In *Missionary Interests: Protestant and Mormon Missions in the 19th and 20th Centuries*. Edited by David Golding and Christopher Cannon Jones. Ithaca: Cornell University Press
- 2023 ***Synopsis of the Four Gospels: King James Readers' Edition***  
Self-published
- 2022 **"Mormon Mission in Concept and Practice: From Apocalyptic Gathering to Teaching Salvation"**  
In *World Religions and Their Missions*. 2nd ed. Edited by Aaron J. Ghiloni. New York: Peter Lang
- 2020 **"Gender and Missionary Work"**  
In *Routledge Handbook on Mormonism and Gender*. Edited by Taylor Petrey and Amy Hoyt. London: Routledge
- 2020 **"Eternal Wisdom Engraven upon the Heavens': Joseph Smith's Pure Language Project"**  
In *Producing Ancient Scripture: Joseph Smith's Translation Projects in the Development of Mormon Christianity*. Edited by Michael Hubbard MacKay, Mark Ashurst-McGee, and Brian M. Hauglid. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press
- 2015 **"Mormonism"**  
In *World Religions and Their Missions*. Edited by Aaron J. Ghiloni. New York: Peter Lang

- 2013      **“Heavenly Mother: Patterns of Goddess Belief among Mormon Women”**  
In *Mormon Women Have Their Say: Essays from the Claremont Oral History Collection*. Edited by Claudia Lauper Bushman and Caroline Kline. Salt Lake City: Greg Kofford Books
- 2008      ***Beginning CakePHP: From Novice to Professional***  
New York: Apress

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## **REVIEWS**

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- 2021      ***The Lost 116 Pages: Reconstructing the Book of Mormon’s Missing Stories***  
By Don Bradley. In *Journal of Mormon History* 47, no. 4 (October 2021): 151–153
- 2018      ***The Council of Fifty: What the Records Reveal about Mormon History***  
Edited by Matthew J. Grow and R. Eric Smith. In *Journal of Mormon History* 44, no. 3 (July 2018): 150–152
- 2017      ***The First Fifty Years of Relief Society: Key Documents in Latter-day Saint History***  
Edited by Jill Mulvay Derr, Carol Cornwall Madsen, Kate Holbrook, and Matthew J. Grow. In *Journal of American History* 104, no. 1 (June 2017): 188–189
- 2015      ***Histories of American Christianity: An Introduction***  
By Christopher H. Evans. In *Anglican and Episcopal History* 84, no. 4 (December 2015): 476–478
- 2012      ***Missionaries, Indigenous Peoples, and Cultural Exchange***  
Edited by Patricia Grimshaw and Andrew F. May. In *Anglican and Episcopal History* 81, no. 4 (December 2012): 459–460

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## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2022      **“A Critical Edition of the Doctrine and Covenants: Problems and Solutions”**  
Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Logan, Utah
- 2021      **“Tools for Tough Questions: Answers from the Church History Topics Project”**  
Lecture series, Campus Education Week, Brigham Young University
- 2021      **“Joseph Smith’s Translation Projects”**  
Panelist; Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Park City, Utah

- 2019 **“Missing Missiology: Latter-day Saint Missionary Pragmatism and the Search for Scholarship”**  
Symposium, *Missionary Interests: Protestant and Latter-day Saint Missions in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, Church History Department and Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2019 **“Alien Engravings: The Search for Gold Plates and Hungarian Atlantis in the Ecuadorian Jungle”**  
Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2016 **“From Dusting Feet to Saving Souls: Mormon Missions in Thought and Practice”**  
Quadrennial meeting, International Association for Mission Studies, Presbyterian University, Seoul, Korea
- 2015 **“Vision Literature in the Doctrine and Covenants and the Canonization of Priesthood Authority”**  
Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Provo, Utah
- 2014 **“From Dusting Feet to Saving Souls: Mormon Missions in Thought and Practice”**  
Annual meeting, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California
- 2014 **“Mormon Missions in the Context of Christian World Mission”**  
Invited presenter; Symposium on Comparative Missiology, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
- 2013 **“Superstitions of the Heathen: The Antebellum American Missionary Press”**  
Symposium on Missions, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2013 **“The Amherst Conference Missions: A New System”**  
Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Layton, Utah
- 2010 **“Joseph Smith’s Mission Theory and the Modern Missionary Movement”**  
Annual meeting, Mormon History Association, Independence, Missouri

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## **PUBLIC HISTORY**

- 2019 **“Missionary Periodicals of the Antebellum United States”**  
Digital repository and database
- 2018 **“Rediscovering Fanny Alger Custer”**  
Blog article, *Juvenile Instructor*, juvenileinstructor.org
- 2018 **“The Time Neil Armstrong Searched for Gold Plates”**  
Blog article, *Juvenile Instructor*, juvenileinstructor.org

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

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- 2021–        **General Editor, *Doctrine and Covenants Critical Edition***  
Restoration Scripture Critical Editions Project
- 2017–2022   **Associate Review Editor, *Journal of Mormon History***  
Mormon History Association
- 2018–2019   **Conference Organizer, *Missionary Interests: Protestant and Latter-day Saint  
Missions in the 19th and 20th Centuries***  
Church History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah