**JACOB A. RENNAKER**

**jacob.rennaker@widtsoefoundation.org**

**(909) 265-4325**

**www.jacobrennaker.com**

**­­­­­­­­­­­­**

**EDUCATION**

* Claremont Graduate University: Ph.D., Religious Studies (2014)
* University of Washington: MA, Comparative Religion (2009)
* Brigham Young University: BA, Ancient Near Eastern Studies (2007)

**DISSERTATION**

* “‘No Voice Exempt’: A Comparative Approach to Temple Imagery in Genesis 1-3, the *Enūma Eliš*, and *Paradise Lost*”

**AREAS OF SPECIALTY**

* Sacred Space in Religious Texts**,** Cosmology and Creation Accounts**,** Comparative Religion, Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Religions

**AREAS OF COMPETENCY**

* Western Religions, Popular Culture and Religion, New Testament and Early Christianity, Theology in Fiction, Interfaith Dialogue

**PUBLICATIONS**

* “Approaching Holiness: Sacred Space in Ezekiel,” in *Approaching Holiness: Exploring the History and Teachings of the Old Testament* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, 2021), pp. 315-331.
* “Dressed to Impress: Adam as a Priestly Figure in Eden,” in *Sacred Space, Sacred Thread: Perspectives Across Time and Traditions* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2019).
* “Divine Dream Time: The Hope and Hazard of Revelation,” in *Christ and Antichrist: Reading Jacob 7* (Salt Lake City, UT: Neal A Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2018).
* “Paul and Covenant” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), co-authored with John W. Welch.
* “‘Mutant Hellspawn’ or ‘More Human than You?’: The X-Men Respond to Televangelism” in *The Ages of the X-Men: Essays on the Children of the Atom in Changing Times* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Books, 2014), pp. 77-90.
* “Revisiting the Forgotten Voices of Weeping in Moses 7: A Comparison with Ancient Texts,” *Interpreter: A Journal of Mormon Scripture*, Vol. 2 (2012), pp. 41-71.
* “*Out of the Whirlwind: Creation Theology in the Book of Job* (Review),” *Religious Studies Review* 36:2 (2010), p. 144.
* “Inhabiting Eternity: Finding the Tabernacle and Temple in Isaiah 57:15” *Studia Antiqua* 5:1 (2007), pp. 115-121.

**SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS**

* “Enchanting the Vineyard: A Tolkienian Reading of Jacob 5” at the Mormon Scholars in the Humanities Annual Conference, 2019
* “The Garden, the Globe, and the Glory of God: Finding the Temple in Genesis 2-3” at Brigham Young University’s Creation Theology, Temple, and the Environment Symposium, 2018
* “Latter-day Saint and Jewish Interfaith Relations” at the Seminario Sudamaricano in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2018
* “The Wisdom of Weeping Gods in Middle Earth and Moses 7” at the Mormon Scholars in the Humanities Annual Conference, 2017
* “All in the [Heavenly] Family: A Mormon Covenantal Theology” at the Jewish – Latter-day Saint Academic Dialogue Project, 2016
* “Created in the Image of a Creator: Toward a Mormon Theology of World-Making” at the Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology Annual Conference, 2016
* “Building Eve: Temple-Oriented Jewish and Christian Interpretations of the First Woman” at the Society for Biblical Literature’s National Conference, 2014
* “A Community of ‘Adams’ returning to Eden: The Puzzling Final Song of Sabbath Sacrifice” at the Society for Biblical Literature’s National Conference, 2013
* “Pedagogical Pop Culture: Using Comic Books to Teach Religion” at the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference, 2012

**COURSES TAUGHT**

* Interfaith Understanding, Engagement, and Leadership (Chapman University, 2019 - 2021)
* New Testament: Acts – Revelation (BYU, 2015)
* New Testament: The Gospels (BYU, 2014 - 2015)
* Religion in a World Setting: Christianity and Mormonism in Great Britain, (BYU London Centre, 2013)
* The Book of Mormon (BYU, 2012 - 2013)

**GUEST LECTURES**

* Alcohol and Drugs in World Religions (USC, 2019 - 2021)
* Western Humanities (BYU, 2015)

**ACADEMIC DIALOGUES**

* Organizer, Catholic – Latter-day Saint Dialogue Project, 2022
* Organizer, Christian Dialogue at the Museum of the Bible, 2022
* Organizer, New Testament Christian Dialogue Project, 2019 - present
* Member, Latter-day Saint-Jewish Academic Dialogue Project, 2016 - present

**LANGUAGES**

* Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Ugaritic, Akkadian, Classical Greek, Coptic, German, French

**HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS**

* John A. Widtsoe Fellow (Chapman University), 2018 - present
* BYU Studies Editorial Fellow (BYU), 2013 - 2018
* Religious Education Dissertation Grant (BYU), 2012, 2013
* Hugh W. Nibley Fellowship (Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship), 2007 - 2012
* Howard W. Hunter Fellowship (CGU), 2010-2011
* Platt Fellowship for Archaeological Excavation (ASOR), 2010
* Maurice and Lois Schwartz Fellowship for International Study (UW), 2008
* Valedictorian, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies (BYU), 2007
* Graduated Magna cum Laude (BYU), 2007

**ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION**

* Chief Editor, “Understanding Our Neighbors” Interfaith Book Series, 2018 - present
* Director, John A. Widtsoe Foundation, 2017 - present
* Editorial Board, *Journal for Book of Mormon Studies* (University of Indiana and Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship), 2017 - 2020
* Scholar in Residence, John A. Widtsoe Foundation, 2016 - present
* Organizer, “Sacred Space, Sacred Thread: Conversations Across Time and Traditions” (USC), 2016; Editor of the conference proceedings in *Sacred Space, Sacred Thread: Perspectives Across Time and Traditions* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2019)
* Co-Curator, “Manifold Greatness: The King James Bible According to Claremont,” Honnold / Mudd Library, the Claremont College Consortium, 2011 - 2012
* Society of Biblical Literature On-Campus Student Representative (CGU) 2010 - 2011
* Student Director, Comparative Religion Colloquium (UW) 2008 - 2009

**REFERENCES**

* Richard Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor Emeritus of History, Columbia University (rlb7@columbia.edu)
* Tammi Schneider, Danforth Professor of Religion, CGU (tammi.schneider@cgu.edu)
* Camille Fronk Olson, Professor Emeritus of Religious Education, BYU (camille.fronkolson@gmail.com)
* Gail Stearns, Dean of the Fish Interfaith Center, Chapman University (stearns@chapman.edu)
* Carleen Mandolfo, Chair of Religious Studies at Colby College (mandolfo@colby.edu)
* Lori Anne Ferrell, Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities, CGU (lori.ferrell@cgu.edu)
* Marvin Sweeney, Professor of Hebrew Bible, Claremont School of Theology (msweeney@cst.edu )
* Scott Noegel, Director of Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East Program, UW (snoegel@uw.edu)
* Michael Williams, Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Early Christianity, UW (maw@u.washington.edu)
* Jim Wellman, Chair of Comparative Religion, UW (jwellman@u.washington.edu)