



2014 Conference of the Mormon Transhumanist Association

- 9:00 - 9:05 Welcome
- 9:05 - 9:35 **Lincoln Cannon** with **Brent Allsop** and **Karl Hale**, *What is a Mormon Transhumanist?*
- 9:35 - 9:40 *The Spirit of God*
MTA Barbershop Group
- 9:40 - 10:05 **James L. Carroll**, *What is the Pace of Technological Change?*
- 10:05 - 10:25 **A. Joseph West**, *Authentic Mormonism and Motivation to Action*
- 10:25 - 10:45 **Michael LaTorra**, *Where Is Heaven? An Examination of Multiple-World Models of the Cosmos and Beyond*
- 10:45 - 10:55 **Brad Carmack**, *Grounded Giving: Maximizing the ROI of Your Charitable Dollars*
- 10:55 - 11:05 **Donald Bradley, Jr.**, *What Kind of Literature Does a God Read: A Transhumanist Interpretation of Borges*
- 11:05 - 11:25 **Giulio Prisco**, *Religion for the Cosmic Frontier*
- 11:25 - 11:40 *Break*
- 11:40 - 12:00 **Dorothy Deasy**, *The Kingdom of God and the Transhuman Age*
- 12:00 - 12:20 **Micah Redding**, *Analysis, Loss of Meaning, and Religious Transhumanism*
- 12:20 - 1:00 **Adam S. Miller**, Keynote: *Why Suffering is Eternal and the Body Is Forever*
- 1:00 - 2:00 *Lunch*
- 2:00 - 2:20 **Chris Bradford**, *The Viability of Pansychism*
- 2:20 - 2:25 *Pure Imagination*
MTA Barbershop Group
- 2:25 - 2:55 **Don Bradley**, *Mormonism: The Sanctification of Human Progress*
- 2:55 - 3:15 **Pace Ellsworth**, *Partake Freely: Transfigurist Politics and Free Will*
- 3:15 - 3:35 **Chelsea Strayer**, *The Evolutionary Roots of Religious Adaptation*
- 3:35 - 3:55 **Michael Adam Ferguson**, *The Religious Brain Project*
- 3:55 - 4:05 **R. Dennis Hansen**, *What If Joseph Smith Jr. Had Lived Longer?*
- 4:05 - 4:20 *Break*
- 4:20 - 4:45 **Carl Youngblood**, *Religion as Social Technology*
- 4:45 - 5:05 **Allen Hansen**, *Worship Through Corporeality: Mormonism, Hasidism, and Management*
- 5:05 - 5:25 **Randal Koene**, *Supporting the Complex Requirements of a Long-Term Project for Whole Brain Emulation*
- 5:25 - 5:45 **Michaelann Gardner**, *Turning Our Moral Compass: the Environment and Mormonism's Theology of Means*
- 5:45 - 6:25 **Natasha Vita-More**, Keynote
- 6:25 - 6:30 *Our Love Is Here to Stay*
MTA Barbershop Group
- 6:30 Closing
- 7:00 *Dinner*

Keynote Speakers

Adam S. Miller is a professor of philosophy at Collin College in McKinney, Texas. He and his wife, Gwen Miller, have three children.



He received an MA and PhD in philosophy from Villanova University as well as a BA in Comparative Literature from Brigham Young

University. He is the editor of *An Experiment on the Word* (Salt Press, 2011) and the author of *Badiou, Marion, and St Paul: Immanent Grace* (Continuum, 2008), *Rube Goldberg Machines: Essays in Mormon Theology* (Kofford, 2012), *Speculative Grace: Bruno Latour and Object-Oriented Theology* (Fordham University Press, 2013), and *Letters to a Young Mormon* (Maxwell Institute, 2014). He is the co-editor, with Joseph Spencer, of the book series *Groundwork: Studies in Theory and Scripture*, published by the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship and serves as the current director of the Mormon Theology Seminar.

Natasha Vita-More is a designer and theorist. She is a professor at the University of Advancing Technology, Chairman of Humanity+, and a Fellow of the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies. She received her doctorate from the Planetary Collegium, University of Plymouth, where her thesis focuses on human enhancement and radical life extension. She is the designer and author of "Platform Diverse Body, Substrate Autonomous Person." In 2013, she co-edited *The Transhumanist Reader: Classical and Contemporary Essays on the Science, Technology, and Philosophy of the Human Future*. In 1983, Vita-More authored the "Transhuman Manifesto"; and founded Transhumanist Arts and Culture in 1993. She was the Chair of "Vital Progress Summit" 2004, establishing a precedent for discussion of human enhancement; and president of the Extropy Institute 2002-2006. She has exhibited at National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Brooks Memorial Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Women In Video, Telluride Film Festival, U.S. Environmental Film Festival and "Evolution Haute Couture: Art and Science in the Post-Biological Age." She is published in more than two dozen journals and a contributing author to numerous books.



Other Speakers

Lincoln Cannon is a technologist and philosopher. He has over seventeen years of professional experience in information technology, including leadership roles in software engineering and marketing technology. Lincoln is a leading advocate of technological evolution and postsecular religion, and holds degrees in business administration and philosophy.

James L. Carroll has a PhD in computer science, and a minor in Ancient Near Eastern history. As a graduate student he taught Pearl of Great Price, Isaiah, and the Book of Mormon in the BYU Ancient Scripture department. He is currently working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, doing ensemble machine learning research and computer assisted radiographic analysis for nuclear stockpile stewardship.

A. Joseph West resides in Tucson, Arizona, where he is doing graduate work in sociology. His research focus is culturally motivated social movement mobilization. He also has research interests in social network analysis and the sociology of science.

Michael LaTorra is an Assistant Professor of English at New Mexico State University. He has served on the boards of Humanity+ (WTA) and the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies. Among his publications are the paper "Trans-Spirit: Religion, Spirituality and Transhumanism," *Journal of Evolution and Technology*, 14(2), and the book *A Warrior Blends with Life: A Modern Tao*. Prof. LaTorra is an ordained Zen priest, abbot of the Zen Center of Las Cruces, and a formal devotee of Avatar Adi Da Samraj.

Brad Carmack graduated from the JD/MPA program at Brigham Young University in April 2011, and became a licensed California attorney that same year. Currently he works for Yahoo. A religious activist and member of the LDS Church, Brad loves to write about transhumanism, bioethics, and religion.

Donald Bradley, Jr. is 84 years old but you may not be able to tell due to advanced life extension technology. (Okay, in all truth he may be somewhere closer to 18.) Outside of transhumanism some of his interests include theoretical computer science, cybernetics, foundations of mathematics, algorithmic information theory, psychology of creativity, literary studies and especially cognitive poetics.

Giulio Prisco is a writer, technology expert, futurist and transhumanist. A former manager in European science and technology centers, he writes and speaks on a wide range of topics, including sci-

ence, information technology, emerging technologies, virtual worlds, space exploration and future studies. He is especially interested in the convergence of science, technology and spirituality.

Dorothy Deasy is a design researcher with experience in both qualitative and quantitative research methods. She excels on strategic qualitative projects which allow her to explore the intersections of meaning, culture and technology. She holds a BS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Loyola University in Chicago, IL and a Masters of Applied Theology from Marylhurst University in Portland, OR. The emphasis of her theological focus is on spirituality and transhumanism.

Micah Redding grew up as a preacher's kid, spent eight years as a rock musician, and was once involved in the high-speed pursuit of a spy plane. Now he develops software, and writes about the intersection of human values and technology.

Christopher Bradford has lived in Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Pakistan and Italy, where he served an LDS mission. A self-taught programmer, he manages social & mobile development at Ancestry.com. He has a degree from Brigham Young University in linguistics. Chris is passionate about science, technology, religion, philosophy, and the performing arts.

Don Bradley is a historian specializing in Joseph Smith and Mormon scripture. Don holds a B.A. in History from Brigham Young University, is finalizing his M.A. in History at Utah State University, and will pursue a doctorate in Religious Studies. His writings include "The Grand Fundamental Principles of Mormonism": Joseph Smith's Unfinished Reformation" and *The Lost 116 Pages: Rediscovering the Book of Lehi* (forthcoming).

Pace Ellsworth was born in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the son of diplomat and linguist Matt Allen Ellsworth. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's in Linguistics and minors in Spanish and Linguistic Computing. His main interests are classical liberalism and futurism, happy to be called an anarcho-transfigurist. He works as a marketing consultant for small businesses in the technology and finance sectors.

Chelsea Strayer is a PhD candidate at Boston University in biological and cultural anthropology, studying the evolution and elicitation of placebo and nocebo effects in indigenous ritual healing ceremonies. She particularly focuses on the healing rituals of the Asante in Central Ghana whom she has conducted research with for over a 12 years. Chelsea

is also a well known religious gender equality activist in the Mormon community, President of Mormons for ERA, co-founder of LDS WAVE, and active participant in many LDS magazines, blogs, podcasts and conferences. She is a TED Fellow and has presented her research at two TED events.

Michael Adam Ferguson is a PhD candidate at the University of Utah, specializing in functional imaging of the brain. He has authored and co-authored papers on stability of large-scale brain networks, attention, and neural plasticity, in journals including *NeuroImage*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He and his husband, J Seth Anderson, identify as Queer Mormons, and feel a sense of calling to help reveal Mormonism to itself. He blogs at queermormons.org on the topics of neuroscience, religion, and queer theory.

Roger D. Hansen is currently the Planning Group Chief at the Provo Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation where he has worked as a civil engineer and planner for over 30 years. His principal professional interest is the application of real-time monitoring and control technologies to water districts and canal companies in the inter-mountain West. Additionally, his colleagues and he are working to bring water and power to Navajos living in very remote locations.

Carl Youngblood has been an avid technology enthusiast since early childhood, and has been earning a living as a software engineer since 1997. Carl's struggle to apply his faith meaningfully in today's rapidly-changing world led him to co-found The Mormon Transhumanist Association in 2006. Carl is passionate about science, technology, religion, philosophy and the performing arts.

Allen Hansen was born and raised LDS in Northern Israel, where he spent much of his life. Alongside a love for literature, especially British, Russian, and Israeli, his research interests include Mormonism, Judaism, biblical studies, Late Antiquity, journalism, Eastern European, and Middle-Eastern history.

Randal A. Koene introduced the multi-disciplinary field of whole brain emulation and is the lead curator of its scientific roadmap. He is Founder of the foundation Carboncopies.org and has directed research in neural engineering.

Michaelann Gardner believes in building Zion through any means you can. This includes her professional work as a marketer and fundraiser for the non-profit sector. It also includes her favorite hobby of learning about and implementing environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices. She serves as treasurer on the board of LDS Earth Stewardship.