

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

The Department of Religious Studies

YOU ARE INVITED TO A JOINT PRESENTATION

The 'Mormon Moment' and the LDS Church's Problematic Racial Past: Two Perspectives

Mormonism, the Media, and the Randy Bott Imbroglio

Speaker

Matt Harris, PhD

Associate Professor of History
Colorado State University-Pueblo

Mormonism's Problematic Racial Past as an Issue in the 2012 Election

Speaker

Newell G. Bringhurst, PhD

Emeritus Professor of History & Political Science
College of the Sequoias

Location

University of Colorado Boulder
Eaton Humanities 250

**Date
Time**

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
6:00 PM

Refreshments will be served

This joint presentation consists of two parts discussing the Mormonism Problematic Racial Heritage within the context of the so-called present 'Mormon Moment.'

"Mormonism, the Media, and the Randy Bott Imbroglio" By Matt Harris, PhD

Professor Harris (mattharris@colostate-pueblo.edu) will examine the recent controversy sparked by Brigham Young University Religion Professor Randy Bott's interview with the Washington Post. Consideration will be given to the LDS Church's response, the unresolved questions and issues surrounding LDS racial teachings, and the ways in which Mormon leaders declare doctrine in the Church. Emphasis will be placed on deconstructing Bott's controversial statements with the purpose of juxtaposing them to statements LDS leaders have made in order to justify and/or rationalize the now-defunct practice of Black exclusion from the LDS Priesthood.

"Mormonism's Problematic Racial Past as an Issue in the 2012 Election" by By Newell G. Bringhurst, PhD

Professor Bringhurst (newellgb@hotmail.com) will explore Mormonism's problematic racial past as an issue during the course of the 2012 campaign season, commencing with the contest for the Republican nomination and continuing into the fall general election campaign. Among the questions to be considered are the ramifications of this issue given the fact that Mitt Romney, as the first Mormon to receive a major party nomination is running against Barack Obama, America's first black president. Also considered is the handling of this issue both in the media and by spokespersons for the LDS Church.



University of Colorado **Boulder**

