

# BRIDGES

ISSUE  
**2021**

ALUMNI  
MAGAZINE



## UNCERTAINTY

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### Going Abroad Without Travel

What do we really know about how to navigate uncertainty, or situations in which nothing seems sure? I assumed my new role as director this past August 2021 during a period of immense change, complexity, and challenges. The ongoing pandemic had forced us to shutter BYU study abroad programs, while on campus most of our classes were being taught in a hybrid format with Zoom lectures as the norm. As you will see, these challenges did not force the cancellation of our storied lecture series (see Lectures, p. 40)—with high numbers of students attending each week, albeit online. But as we moved forward each week, we were never certain what new challenges we would confront while learning from Provo.

Uncertainty may induce anxiety, fear, and reflexive action. Albert Camus observed that a plague may erase “the uniqueness of each man’s life” by heightening our awareness of our vulnerability and of our powerlessness in the face of natural disasters, which makes us unable to plan for the future.<sup>1</sup> As a scholar of comparative literature, I have become interested in the rise of philosophical skepticism in Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This skepticism came as a response to the tremendous changes happening at the time, many of them the result of the uncertainty ushered in by the Reformation. And yet uncertainty may also drive exploration, creativity, and growth. Montaigne and Shakespeare created transcendent works of literature in response to the uncertainties of their times. In the face of extreme challenges, Joseph Smith cried out, “O God, where art thou?” (Doctrine and Covenants 121:1). And the Lord responded with assurance through one of the most profound revelations of the Restoration.

This new issue of *Bridges* magazine focuses on uncertainty—in study abroad, in the situations and reflections of alumni and friends, in natural biodiversity, and even in the profession of one alumna who works in corporate risk. We hope it helps you stay connected with us as we seek to learn from the very strange, global, collective experiences that we have all shared—as well as the individual ones that are uniquely ours.

We’re leaning into uncertainty here, cautiously and safely, with the hope that each semester will be better than the last. We have been excited to see a few students return to learning abroad, and we plan to send many more during the coming months and years. Academic studies continue as students master their courses and progress toward graduation. We are continuously asked what’s been going on in the Kennedy Center during this difficult time. As you can see, quite a lot.

Stan Benfell, Director  
David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies

### Note

1. *Albert Camus, The Plague (New York: Vintage, 1991), 183.*

## ISSUE 2021

### BRIDGES ALUMNI MAGAZINE

ISSUE 2021

*Global insights, ideas, and experiences across  
disciplines and borders*

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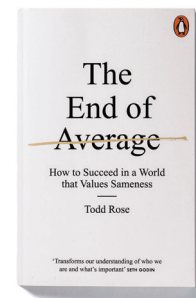
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### ABOUT THE COVER

*In Coming Together on Shaky Ground*  
(9x12 inches, mixed media), Erin Ebert  
(@eede.artstudio) observes that during the  
pandemic, “we have seen our former lives  
fall out from under us” while we gather on  
the solid ground of testimonies, love, tal-  
ents, sunshine, hope, and service.



# Into Slovenia

*By Sarah Robinson*

I VISITED SLOVENIA IN THE SUMMER OF 2019 for the sole purpose of documenting my family, but I was met with a cold shoulder. I was expecting family members to welcome me with open arms and to allow me to photograph them, but they had a deep-rooted distrust of Americans. Throughout the month I was there, I was taken to sites of World War II that my family had interacted with in the past and was told the stories of resilience that had been passed down. All of these sites had my family's fingerprints on them; they had known the World War II camps, prisons, and hospitals in their prime, while I was just a bystander visiting them. I had not been impacted by World War II like they had. My town had not been bombed. My brother wasn't put in a Gestapo prison or treated in an elusive military hospital. At the same time, I was learning about my family and my history, so in a way I felt an estranged connection to these stories and sites.

My project addresses my connections to the sites and my distant family, including those members who have gone before me. In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, there is an emphasis on the family and the family's history, but there is little talk of what to do if either of those things don't exist or if they are complex. These images are of the sites and objects that my family has ties to from World War II. My family that I do know in Slovenia has a different view of history than I do and a different idea of what family means and how they act; both are because of the experiences they have had. I hope to invoke empathy for family members who are different from us and bring awareness to the pride we all carry in thinking we know what way of life is best.

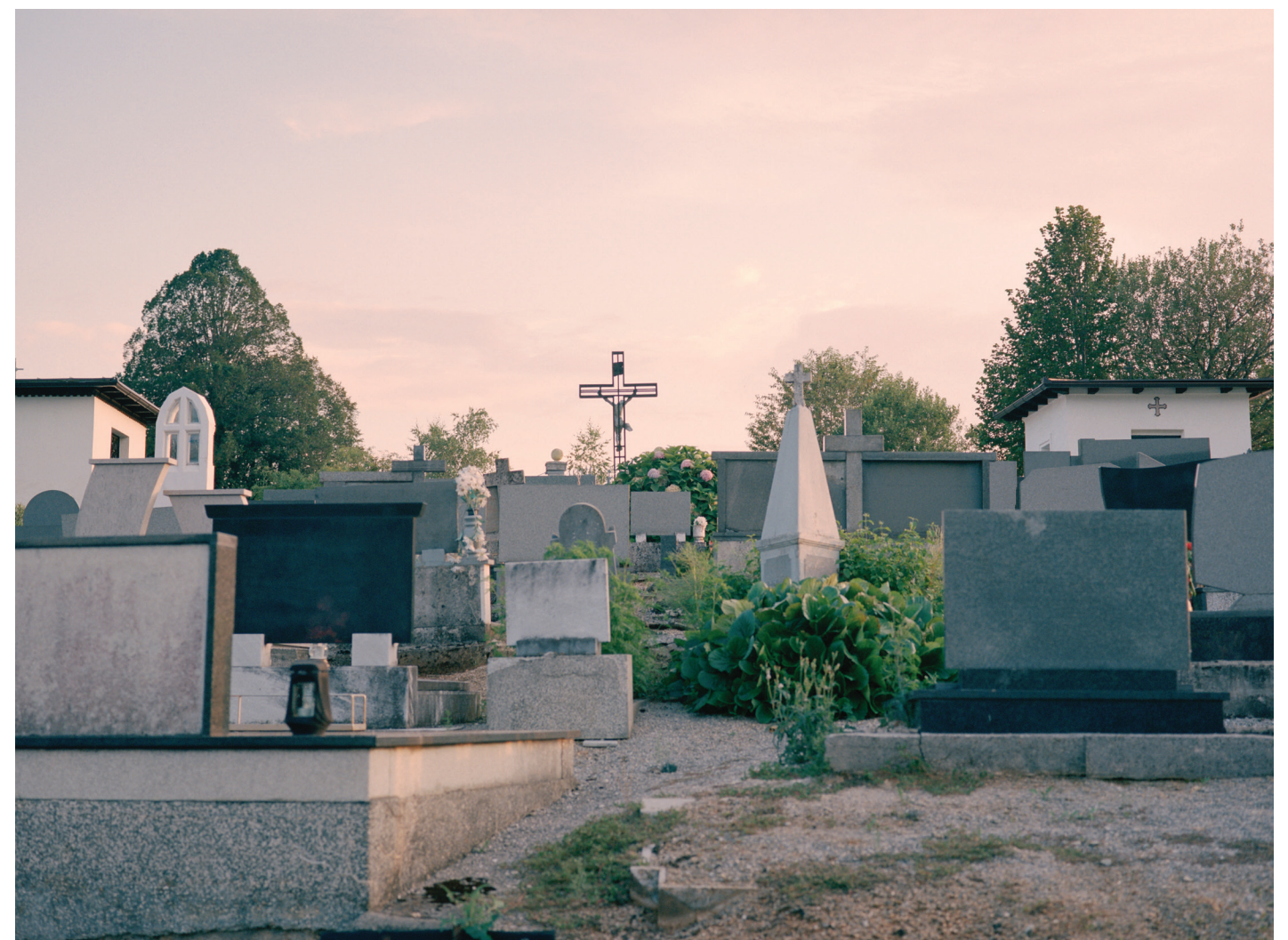
**The Veil**  
*Krk, Croatia*



**World War II Air Hospital**  
*Slovenia*

*My great-grandfather's brother Jovo carried mail here during World War II as a nine- to twelve-year-old (exact age debated).*





**Graveyard**  
*Draga, Slovenia*

**Jovo**  
*Jovo's Home, Draga, Slovenia*

*Jovo, my great-grandfather's brother, was a partisan child courier in World War II. He openly delivered mail to hospitals and secretly delivered wounded soldiers through Nazi checkpoints. He was recruited to do so because of his young age.*







### Draga Bombing Memorial

Draga, Slovenia

*This is a memorial to the partisan (Nazi resistance in Yugoslavia) lives lost on Hitler's birthday bombing of Draga. In addition to the lives lost, casualties included ancestral records burned in the fire, leaving very little knowledge about my family tree. The stone reads: "Commemorating the tragic event on the 60th anniversary of the bombing of your village. German aviation bombed the village on April 21, 1944, a village with a provincial partisan army station and a radio station housing an English army mission. Two women were killed in the bombing."*



*Sarah Robinson is a photographer living in Salt Lake City. Since graduating from BYU in December 2019, she has worked for brands such as Vita Coco and Yasso on their product launch campaigns, and she has received grants for her documentary work. When she isn't behind the camera, she can be found enjoying the Uinta Mountains with her husband and dog.*



# Studies in Uncertainty

Check out this list of ideas on uncertainty to read or watch and ponder.

## Arts for Uncertain Times

In April 2020 the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts sent a call to artists for proposals responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to the concurrent pandemic of racism in a moment of profound global uncertainty. Fifty grants were awarded to scholars, visual artists, writers, composers, designers, choreographers, filmmakers, and other creative artists. Their works will be distributed digitally in the coming weeks and months.

Visit [centerforlatterdaysaintarts.org/callforsubmissions](https://centerforlatterdaysaintarts.org/callforsubmissions) to learn more.

## Speaking of Uncertainty

### Humble Uncertainty

BYU devotional address by **J. SCOTT MILLER**, dean of the BYU College of Humanities, 2 October 2018, [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu)

### Embracing Uncertainty

Speech by **DUSTIN FRECKLETON**, founder and chief science officer at Happy Health, October 2021, in *Impact Magazine* (BYU College of Life Sciences), Fall 2020, [lifesciences.byu.edu/magazine](https://lifesciences.byu.edu/magazine)

### Waiting upon the Lord: The Antidote to Uncertainty

BYU devotional address by **ERIN KRAMER HOLMES**, BYU professor of family life, 4 April 2017, [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu)

### The Gift of Uncertainty

BYU devotional address by **AMY TANNER**, BYU associate professor of mathematics education, 9 July 2019, [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu)

### Love Is Not Blind

BYU devotional address by **BRUCE C. HAFEN**, then president of Ricks College, 9 January 1979, [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu)



### The Power of Not Knowing

BYU forum address by **LIZ WISEMAN**, CEO of the Wiseman Group, 26 January 2016, [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu)



# Model Arab League Shines

**I HAVE LOVED PARTICIPATING** in Model Arab League,” says Bethany Crisp, a senior majoring in political science. “It is a great opportunity to grow while at BYU.”

Crisp was part of last year’s Model Arab League team, which competed at the National Model Arab League Competition, held 25–28 March 2021. Nine BYU students participated, while a tenth, Christian Hawkes, served as secretariat—the first time that a BYU student has been part of the national conference leadership.

Model Arab League is similar to Model UN but with a focus on the Arab League. “Each school is assigned one specific country from the Arab League to represent on several councils,” explains Hawkes. “Students are given a list of topics that will be considered at the competitions and are encouraged to do background research before each conference on the topics and how their country might feel about them. At the conferences, students debate each topic and draft resolutions that propose solutions.” Another part of the competition is the Arab Court of Justice, in which schools are assigned court cases and a side to represent. This year BYU was assigned to advocate for the UAE in a case about a spy ring.

The national competition is usually held in Washington, DC, at Georgetown University, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 event was held over Zoom. “There were benefits and drawbacks to the online format,” says Hawkes. “On one hand, there is an in-person energy and excitement that gets lost in an online format, and as we know, Zoom fatigue can be very real. But the online format allowed students to participate in ways that they otherwise might not have.” And, says Crisp, the team found a way to enjoy the competition: “The students still met up to compete as a team so that we could have that sense of camaraderie—and snacks.”

This year’s BYU team was very successful at the competition: two students won distinguished delegation, two students won outstand-

ing delegation, and BYU’s team won distinguished overall delegation. Additionally, one of the BYU students who participated on the Arab Court of Justice won distinguished advocate.

The benefit to participating in Model Arab League, says Hawkes, is the skills you learn: writing—as students are constantly writing about their topics—as well as diplomacy and working with others. “Above all, it’s a great way to develop and practice rhetorical skills, especially under time constraints,” he says. “You often only have thirty seconds or a minute to articulate your point and raise issues that you think are important, so you learn to be succinct and get to the point in your speeches. These are all very important skills academically and especially in future careers.”

Students don’t have to major in international relations or Middle Eastern studies to get involved. Hawkes says, “Anyone and everyone who is interested in diplomacy, debate, or international relations, or even is just interested in competition or refining writing and public speaking skills, should definitely sign up.”

*The BYU Model Arab League program is supported by Middle East Studies/Arabic and led by Professor James Toronto.*



*Keeping their distance in masks made for difficult (but possible) diplomacy.*



# A Family Travels Before and After(ish) a Global Pandemic

By Berkeley Hill

**DISCLAIMER:** I know that the pandemic isn't over and that much of the world is still in restricted travel mode, so when I say "after the pandemic," I mean it in the way I imagine New Zealanders probably meant it in the summer of 2020 (winter for them). They were going to concerts without masks while most of the world was still in lockdown. Were we mad at New Zealand? No, of course not. We lived vicariously through them and dreamed of better days ahead. But since my husband and I are now fully COVID vaccinated, we have felt comfortable traveling within the US. It was our turn to be New Zealand. Here's a back-and-forth look at the last trip we took pre-pandemic and the first trip we took post-vaccination.

## New York City, December 2019

I work for an airline, so we often fly standby. On our flight to NYC, two of my kids were sitting by strangers. It would have been all three of them if it weren't for the eye-mask-wearing gentleman who had paid extra for an upgraded seat on a five-hour redeye flight and thought he'd be sitting next to an empty seat. He wasn't thrilled about his last-minute assignment of opening snacks for an overtired four-year-old. This man kindly offered to switch seats with me. Don't feel too bad for him: I was also sitting in an upgraded seat, so he didn't miss out on anything but my child's winning personality at 3 a.m.

## Los Angeles, June 2021

Even though I work for an airline, we chose to drive to California from Utah. It seemed the safest option since our kids are all under age twelve and were then ineligible for COVID vaccination. Also, we have a pandemic-born dog. My husband and I both work from home, and this dog feels abandoned when we take out the trash. We love her so much. She's too large to travel as a pet in cabin on most airlines, so even with my flight benefits, we may never fly again in her lifetime. Dogs are forever, not just for pandemics.

## NYC, December 2019

I accidentally dropped half a Levain Bakery cookie on the floor of the A Train. The kids asked if we should still eat it. "Of course we should. Did you know there are kids in Utah who go to bed every night without eating Levain Bakery cookies?" They did know. They were those kids. They would be those kids again once we got home. We ate the subway-grime cookie. And it was delicious.

## LA, June 2021

The kids felt that the Los Angeles County Museum of Art hand sanitizer was under-moisturizing and smelled gross. They had to make do with only the five hand-sanitizing options in my bag. Our daughter chose the Bulgarian Lavender scent for its bonus calming effect, and the boys went with an ambitious mixture of Coastal Surf, Grapefruit Grove, and Peony Parade, probably because they miss the good old days of mixing every Slurpee flavor at 7-Eleven.



It's no surprise that international travel has been struggling during the pandemic, experiencing a 65 percent decrease January to May 2021 compared to 2020.

More than 25 percent of GDP for small islands such as Jamaica, Maldives, Fiji, and Cyprus comes from tourism.

BYU sent out five study abroad programs in fall 2021 and ten more during winter 2022 while cautiously learning how to safely navigate travel complexities.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN S. DYKES

## NYC, December 2019

Our December trip plan was to do Christmas (read: touristy) New York things the kids would enjoy. The list included ice skating in Central Park because we had watched *Home Alone 2* on the airplane, visiting Macy's Santaland to stand on the magic star and see Cher, pointing out our favorite miniature dogs at the toy train exhibit in Grand Central Station, and making bougie Christmas crafts at the Met to feel like we did something not from *Home Alone 2*. What we didn't plan was for our trip to overlap with SantaCon, the annual pub crawl of Santa-ly clad adults living their most care-free lives. SantaCon, while both Christmas and touristy, is not for children. The first time we witnessed a "Santa" involuntarily purge her stomach of Christmas spirits, the kids looked worried and hoped "Ms. Claus" would be okay. We assured them she would feel better soon and advised of the likelihood of more Santa tummy troubles ahead. This led to a new family favorite game called "Is that smell SantaCon puke or Christmas Market raclette cheese?" You would be surprised how often we guessed wrong. Both smells were plentiful enough to play the game more than we wanted.

## LA, June 2021

While Utah's statewide mask mandate ended in April, California's was still going strong in early June, including an outdoor mask requirement. I wondered if any Californians actually wore masks outside. Just as we hit Orange County traffic, a motorcyclist passed us between lanes. This move seemed dangerous, but my husband pointed out that the man must prefer to live on the wild side, as he wasn't wearing a helmet. But guess what he was wearing: an N95 mask. Leather jacket? Check. Fringe chaps? Check. Helmet? Absolutely not. Baby-blue surgical-grade face covering? Double check. Way to play it safe, Cali.

I wonder at some (many) of our choices pre-COVID. When my son tripped and soaked his hands and knees in an NYC street puddle, we used a subway vent to dry him off. "Feel that warm, stinky air? That's Ninja Turtle steam! You are the luckiest boy in the world." He loved it. Would we do it again now? No. At least not until our preteen standard Ninjago humans are fully vaccinated. Should we have done it in the first place? Probably not. Time will tell if we've permanently learned to be cautious or if our safety phase overcorrects to a new dawn of YOLO.

**BERKELEY HILL** (BA English, 2010) and her husband, **Cody Hill** (BA European Studies, 2012; MPA, 2015), live in Provo, Utah, with their three children.

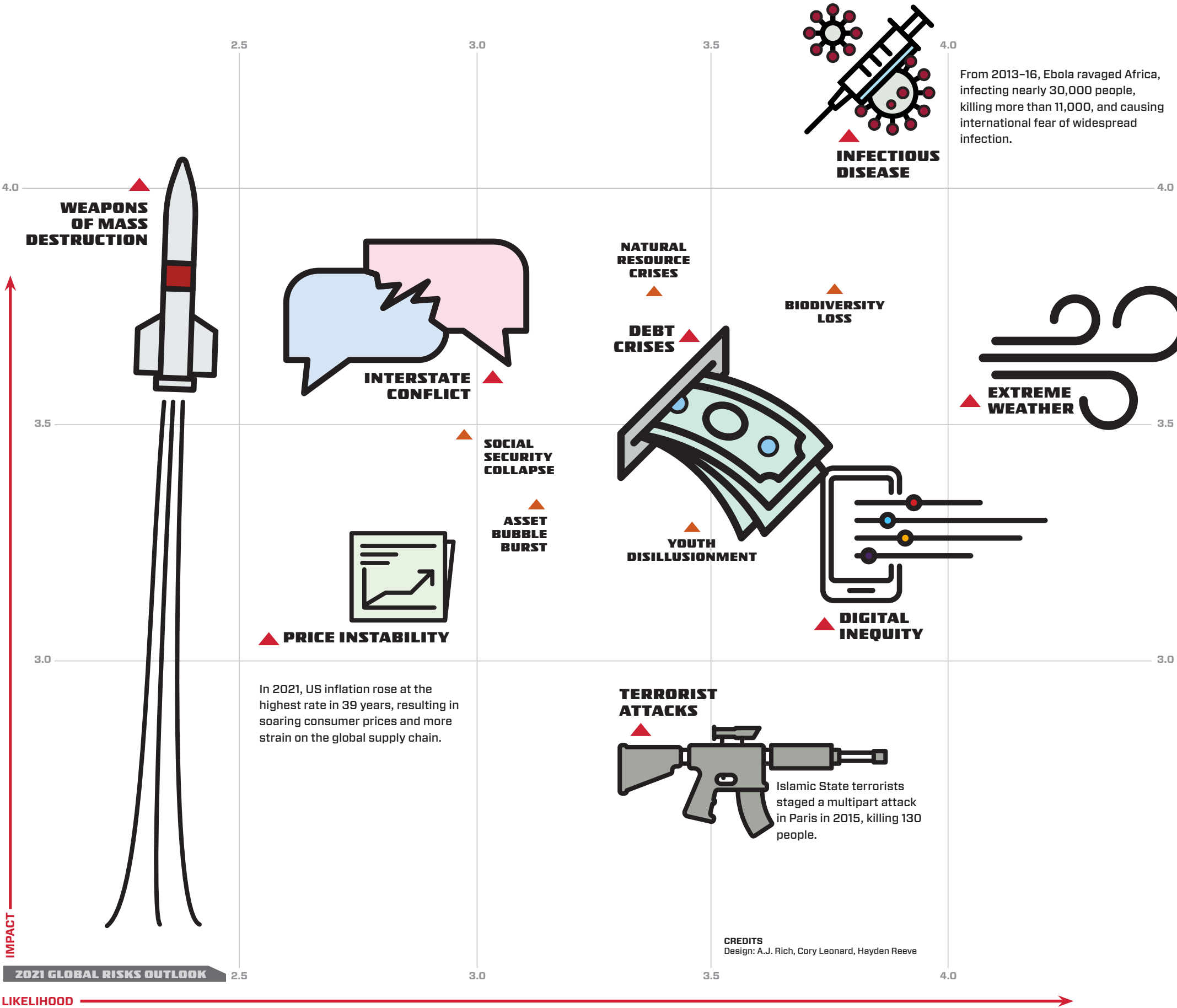




# Global Risk

Do you wonder if your fears really matter? Look at the data. One approach assesses political risk by country to quantify how geo-politics impacts stability and GDP outcomes. Another method, seen here, considers top global risks and attempts to predict their likelihood. It matters because uncertainty, driven by instability, lessens economic growth and investment.

Based on data from on the World Economic Forum's 2021 Global Risks Report



## UNCERTAINTY IN THE WORLD

The **World Uncertainty Index** counts usage of the word *uncertain* in the Economist Intelligence Unit country reports and then rescales by percent to track uncertainty based on a higher word count per report. (Size and boldness of event illustrates severity.)

US recession and 9/11  
**2002**

The Iraq War and outbreak of SARS  
**2003**

Financial credit crunch  
**2007**

Sovereign debt crisis in Europe  
**2012**

US fiscal cliff and sovereign debt crisis in Europe  
**2012**

FED tightening and political risk in Greece and Ukraine  
**2015**

Brexit  
**2016**

US presidential elections  
**2016**

China-US trade tensions and Brexit  
**2019**

**Coronavirus**  
**2020**

**SOURCE**  
The World Uncertainty Index, created by Hites Ahir, Nicholas Bloom, and Davide Furceri



## The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our “Correct” Beliefs

By Peter Enns

In this book, theologian and professor Peter Enns contends that the opposite of faith isn’t doubt but rather certainty. He makes the case that certainty has become a false god we worship that negates the need for faith and reveals a lack of trust in God. For Enns, uncertainty draws us closer to the divine in a way that deepens connection and conviction.

# Reading into Uncertainty

## The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century

By Thomas Friedman

Many of Friedman’s ten “flatteners” are as relevant today as they were sixteen years ago, such as when he explained that shifting patterns in offshoring and outsourcing would permanently disrupt how companies and employees deal with a new and expanding world of global business. Or that software developments would change how employees work with each other at home or in the office. As a result, he said jobs and business would become less routine, familiar, and certain in an ever-increasingly flat world. Sound familiar?

## 2 COLLECTED POEMS

By Philip Larkin

GENERALLY CONSIDERED Britain’s greatest postwar poet, Larkin left behind a slim but brilliant body of work that grapples with the political, social, and religious uncertainties of modern life. His ongoing quest for meaning and purpose is perhaps best seen in his 1955 poem “Church Going,” in which a deeply secular speaker asks what spiritual hunger he is trying to satisfy in his compulsion to stop and explore the old and largely disused churches that dot the English countryside.



## 8 CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS

By Isabel Wilkerson

THIS PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING author reexamines what lies under the surface of American life and explores how peoples’ lives are influenced by the unseen phenomenon of caste in America. This book is an eye opener. It pushes us to understand why things are happening the way they are across society today and to reexamine our assumptions and knowledge. The book has been called an instant American classic and required reading.

## 10 QUICHOTTE

By Salman Rushdie

SET IN THE CONTEMPORARY United States, this novel offers a clever turn on the old tale of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Like the Cervantes novel that inspired it, Rushdie’s novel explores the uncertainty between fiction and reality.

## 11 THE RIGHTEOUS MIND: WHY GOOD PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED BY POLITICS AND RELIGION

By Jonathan Haidt

HAIDT MAKES THE CASE that there are a handful of moral ideas that motivate people and help determine how they vote and what they choose to believe. He talks about several studies that bring these ideas out. After reading this book, you will never look at the uncertainty of elections in the same way.

## BEYOND THE BORDER recommended reads

## 4 AFTER THE APOCALYPSE: AMERICA’S ROLE IN A WORLD TRANSFORMED

By Andrew Bacevich

THE POST–WORLD WAR II liberal international order that the US constructed is coming apart; the rise of China, the retreat from democracy by many countries, and the populist movements on the left and right are new challenges to the old international order. The United States’ efforts at global military primacy to maintain the old international order have failed, and the key to a new sustainable and stable world order is yet unknown. Bacevich offers a thoughtful vision of the way forward.

## 5 LYING AWAKE

By Mark Salzman

THIS NOVEL WILL help you to realize the importance of quiet pondering and personal interaction with the divine. It is the fictional story of a modern nun who has had marvelous spiritual experiences that may have been brought about by a tumor. She must make a choice: threaten her life and continue her manifestations or save her life and dive into uncertainty. It is a beautiful read that you will come back to again and again.

## 9 CLOUD ATLAS

By David Mitchell

Here is a novel that explores uncertainties that are both unique to our time and yet similar to ages past and future. The novel actually has six different stories that span the 19th century all the way through the near and distant future.

## 6 LIFE AFTER LIFE

By Kate Atkinson

IN THE FIRST of Atkinson’s two novels about the Todd family, we observe the main character live many different versions of her life with different experiences and outcomes. Her life’s trajectory throughout the book is constant only in its uncertainty. As a reader, following her different lives made me ponder my own life and the chance encounters and intentional decisions that have brought me to where I am today.

## 9 CLOUD ATLAS

By David Mitchell

Here is a novel that explores uncertainties that are both unique to our time and yet similar to ages past and future. The novel actually has six different stories that span the 19th century all the way through the near and distant future.

## 13 THE END OF AVERAGE: HOW WE SUCCEED IN A WORLD THAT VALUES SAMENESS

By Todd Rose

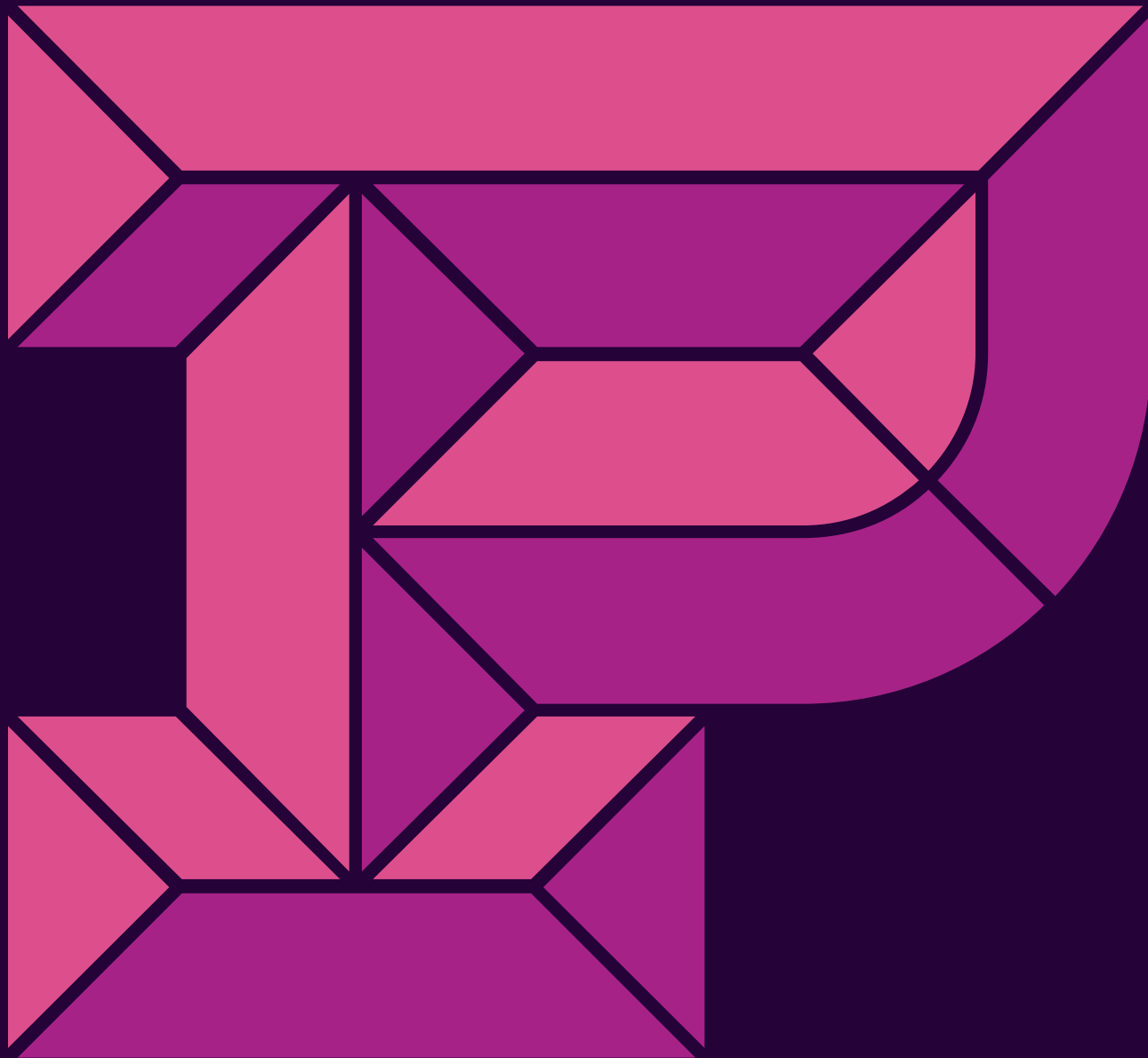
THIS BOOK EXPLORES the idea that there really is no such thing as “average” and shows that our individual unique attributes are strengths that should be explored without blending us together collectively for judgment values. Rose discusses several principles of individuality, including what he calls the “pathways principle,” for walking uncertain paths that help us discover our uniqueness.

Reviewers: (1) Kristin Matthews, BYU Professor of English and American Studies, Africana Studies, and Global Women’s Studies Affiliated Faculty; (2) Nick Mason, BYU Professor of English and European Studies Affiliated Faculty; (3) Bruce Money, BYU Professor of Marketing and International Business and Director of the Whitmore Global Business Center; (4) Eric Hyer, BYU Associate Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies Coordinator; (5) Rob McFarland, BYU Associate Professor of German and European Studies Affiliated Faculty; (6) Jane Lilly Lopez, BYU Assistant Professor of Sociology and Global Women’s Studies Affiliated Faculty; (7) Simon Greadhead, BYU Associate Professor of International Business and Global Supply Chain and European Studies Affiliated Faculty; (8) Moises Aguirre, Director of BYU Multicultural Student Services; (9) Robert Colson, BYU Associate Professor of Comparative Arts and Letters and Africana Studies Affiliated Faculty; (10) Robert Colson; (11) Lynn Elliott, Associate Director of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU and Director of International Study Programs; (12) Aaron Rose, International Study Programs Coordinator at the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU; (13) Sam Brown, Director of BYU International Student and Scholar Services



If we emerge from the pandemic unscathed but unchanged, we will have missed out on the full benefit of this unique experience.

—Kevin J Worthen, President of Brigham Young University



PORTRAIT ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
KEITH WITMER

**I**s the worldwide pandemic a lesson in global empathy? Technology writer and MIT professor Sherry Turkle thinks so. A *New York Times* review of her memoir, *The Empathy Diaries*, says she hopes “that the pandemic has afforded us a view of one another’s problems and vulnerabilities in a way we might not have had as much access to before.” With Zoom as a constant companion, we have been able to see inside dorms, homes, and lives in ways that were previously hidden.

University life has also become very strange. Physical Facilities projects ramped up, and the Kennedy Center benefited from new lighting, restroom renovation, and other constant construction activities. Other things stopped: there was no study abroad, and classes were taught in hybrid mode—with some entirely online and others in person but tentative and cautious.

The review says that Turkle sees this period, which we are still experiencing in our own different ways, as “a ‘liminal’ time, in the phrasing of the writer and anthropologist Victor Turner, a time in which we are ‘betwixt and between,’ a catastrophe with a built-in opportunity to reinvent.” Turkle says, “In these liminal periods are these possibilities for change. I think we are living through a time, both in our social lives but also in how we deal with our technology, where we are willing to think of very different ways of behaving.”

We reached out to see what alumni experiences have been from Norway to New York in these very strange times.

**(Very) Northern Perspectives**

As a Church member and entrepreneur living in literally the world’s northernmost town in Norway’s Svalbard islands, life has always been unique. Spiritually, we have lived with two hours of Zoom church for many years. So COVID ironically did not change much for us in terms of church meetings beyond having the rest of our small branch on the Norwegian mainland experience what we long had. Indeed, having some of them join our existing Sunday evening “family church” has been a way to build stronger bonds with our branch 1,000 kilometers south across the Barents Sea.



**LIFE IN A LIMINAL TIME:**

**PANDEMIO  
PERSPECTIVES**

FROM THE KENNEDY CENTER



**The ability to empathize with their struggles and work together to get through was a true indicator of whether one sees money as an end in itself or a stewardship to lift the lives of God's children and care for the planet He has entrusted us with.**

I am an entrepreneur selling a beverage to markets around the world, and COVID has introduced a need for greater flexibility and understanding. Our sales were initially damaged, but they then recovered and ran to new records as we found innovative ways to connect with our customers. While social media messages and arguments grew more uniform across the world due to big tech, reactions to them varied widely. Lockdown measures in London were different from those in Hong Kong. Government support programs in Florida were different from those in Taipei. People were not receiving and discussing the same media and cultural messages about the pandemic in Barcelona as they were in Warsaw. Disposable income was not being impacted the same in Oslo as it was in Johannesburg. And as customers and suppliers faced new hardships, the ability to empathize with their struggles and work together to get through was a true indicator of whether one sees money as an end in itself or a stewardship to lift the lives of God's children and care for the planet He has entrusted us with. I know of no better place than BYU and the Kennedy Center to begin one's career with the principles that have been helping our international business navigate the pandemic.

*Jamal Qureshi, Founder, Svalbard Polar Iceberg Water // Longyearbyen, Norway*

#### **A Personal Pandemic**

Recent uncertainties have had a profoundly personal cast for me. Two months into lockdown, my family and I had a bout with COVID-19. My son and I simply never got better. We are some of the estimated 10 to 30 percent of COVID patients known as "long-haulers," who suffer from debilitating fatigue, brain fog, and other symptoms long after the initial infection is gone. For us, it's been over a year now. I've lost count of the number of specialists I've seen and tests I've been through, but I count my blessings when I see others with worse symptoms or who have lost loved ones. The uncertainty can be overwhelming though. My son and I have adapted and found ways to manage most of the symptoms so far, but we are still not sure how this will work when the rest of the world is back to their pre-COVID lives and we can't spend hours resting on a couch each day. Normal expectations for my professional life, my son's academic future, and my ability to function as a single mom are no longer reliable. My sense of self has become as slippery as time in a pandemic.

In the middle of this profound unsettledness, I ran across one of the last things theologian and activist Dietrich Bonhoeffer ever wrote. In jail, shortly before being executed in Nazi Germany, he ended a poem with the line "Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine." For months I kept that sentence on the lock screen of my cell phone. I may not know who I am or what will be, but I know whose I am, and that suffices.

*Elizabeth Clark, Associate Director, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, and Executive Committee Board Member, International Society // Provo, Utah*

#### **People Priorities**

Every challenge presents an opportunity. In the midst of last year's uncertainty, we learned that times of unforeseen disruption can spur innovation. One of the key actions that allowed our teams to remain resilient was having a clear understanding of our clients' evolving priorities. COVID has changed client preferences, and prior "nice-to-haves" have now become needs in our industry.

Staying close to our clients has allowed our teams to more clearly understand changes in the way our clients use our working capital products, it has allowed us to adapt our strategy, and it has accelerated innovation that has made us more resilient. We can apply these principles to our day-to-day. By staying close to the priorities and needs of those around us, we can also, in turn, look for ways to disrupt ourselves to better meet the needs of our family, community, and network in ways we hadn't before the pandemic.

*Denika Torres, Director of North American Commercial Cards, Citi // New York, New York*




**DENIKA TORRES**

**Times of unforeseen disruption can spur innovation.**

**I've lost count of the number of specialists I've seen and tests I've been through, but I count my blessings when I see others with worse symptoms or who have lost loved ones.**

**—Elizabeth Clark**



 **Students  
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unpredictable  
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how they would  
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meet important  
human needs to  
be with others.** —Sandra  
Rogers

#### THE PANDEMIC FROM PROVO

For the last fifteen months I have watched our campus community manage in the face of uncertainty. Administrators tried to read murky crystal balls and make the best decisions possible with the verifiable knowledge available. Faculty faced switching to new techniques and strategies for educating students, often in modalities in which they had little experience. And students wrestled with an unpredictable future, wondering how they would learn, how they would prepare for the future, and how they would meet important human needs to be with others during COVID-19 restrictions. Uncertainty was the shared experience, from those responsible for supply chain disruptions to those trying to hang on and graduate.

Yet in that pervasive uncertainty, our campus community found ways to cope. With international travel being canceled, program coordinators in modern Middle East Studies moved quickly to arrange remote course work in Arabic from a school in Jordan. Students in Kennedy Center majors connected through Zoom and other applications to not only participate but shine in Model UN and Model Arab League competitions. Students in all our international and area studies majors and minors connected with and were inspired by scholars, diplomats, writers, journalists, and humanitarians through remote technology. Home-centered church reminded us that there is one certain thing in our lives, our Savior Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice. BYU students rose to the occasion in championship form by reaching out to each other in creative and compassionate ways.

*Sandra Rogers, Former International Vice President, Brigham Young University // Provo, Utah*

#### Reinventing Life

In 1986, my BYU days were coming to a close. The job market was tight, so finding the right position didn't come easily. For quite a few months, I found myself overwhelmed by uncertainty. Where would I live? Would I be moving across the country to a place I'd never even visited? What small slice of my newly honed professional skills would I be using? With little actual professional experience, I found it difficult to envision what even the most minute aspects of my new day-to-day life would be like. As a single woman, I found the lack of a traditional or obvious roadmap unsettling. I would be doing all of this without anyone else with whom to brainstorm or commiserate. But with no other options, I jumped into the void.

The years ahead were sometimes complicated. It often felt like I was driving in a heavy fog, as the future always seemed to reveal itself only one step at a time. But as I navigated two major career changes, started a couple of businesses, and traveled the world with various jobs, not to mention marrying a widower with seven young children, I found that my life evolved in a way I never could have foreseen. It was better than anything I could have planned with my twenty-four-year-old "wisdom." While ambiguity created a certain amount of anxiety, I also found that if I exercised the patience to let the uncertainty resolve itself, it taught me to have hope and that allowed me to enjoy awesome opportunities. Things almost always work out.

We've all recently participated in an advanced practicum in managing uncertainty that has been the pandemic. Some coped with the turbulence that came from having the props pulled out from under us by attempting to control what they could, even when it had little relationship to the actual crisis at hand (stockpiling toilet paper and bottled water, for example). And, truthfully, watching the chaos at Costco during the early days of the pandemic made it difficult to fight the powerful instinct to do something. Others addressed the global lack of clarity by creating theories that imposed a sense of control and definition on a situation where so much of the cause and the prognosis were just plain unknown—and therefore subject to constant change. If we could identify someone responsible for the disorder around us, then we should be able to hold them accountable and get back to normal. Whether we deliberately chose to or not, most of us also have coped by holding out hope and looking for the awesome opportunities. We found new, and in some cases better, ways to work, worship, and connect. We grew a profound appreciation for simple pleasures like hugging a grandchild or having dinner with friends. We learned that sometimes reinventing our lives is not necessarily a bad thing.

*Kathy Rowe, Financial Advisor, Rowe Financial Advisors // Drem, Utah*



KATHY  
ROWE

**If I exercised the patience to let the uncertainty resolve itself, it taught me to have hope and allowed me to enjoy awesome opportunities. Things almost always work out.**





DAVIS  
BELL

**The single most helpful thing came from reading the account of my great-grandfather George Bell, who ran a small seed and feed store in Ogden, Utah, at the onset of the Great Depression.**

#### Startup Sink or Swim

In December 2019 I started a new role as the CEO of Canopy, a software startup serving the accounting market. Prior to my joining, Canopy had a very difficult 2019 that included two large layoffs and the shuttering of a critical product. When you work at a startup, uncertainty comes with the territory. But when you work at a startup that's also a turnaround, uncertainty is the territory. The only way to inject more uncertainty in the mix? Work at a turnaround startup during a global pandemic. I can't think of a more uncertain time in my life than the spring and summer of 2020. Were we on the brink of a depression? Was our country going to fall apart? What would happen to our small company that relied on venture funding to fund our operations?

I coped with this uncertainty in a variety of ways—some healthy (prayer, exercise) and some less so (bread, ice cream). But for me, the single most helpful thing came from reading the account of my great-grandfather George Bell, who ran a small seed and feed store in Ogden, Utah, at the onset of the Great Depression. I read of his fear and despair as the Depression threatened to engulf his business, and then I read of his resolution to remain calm and cheerful, ultimately fighting his way through. It dawned on me that the challenges I was facing were not, in fact, unprecedented. People just like me, including my ancestors, had faced similar uncertainty and much worse. And so I resolved to face my own uncertainty in the same way they did—by refusing to panic, by relying on God, and by getting to work. I am glad to report that that time-tested formula worked.

*Davis Bell, CEO, Canopy // Lehi, Utah*

#### Uncovering Useful Opportunities

The COVID pandemic has been what Harvard Business School professors Max Bazerman and Michael Watkins might call a “predictable surprise,” a foreseeable crisis that everyone knows will probably happen but that few people and organizations plan for because details like timing, magnitude, and so on are unknowable. But the crisis eventually comes, and that lack of preparation leaves us facing a crisis that brutally exposes the flaws in the technologies, systems, and processes we depend on to perform critical tasks. COVID certainly did that. It taught us a painful lesson regarding our technology, but painful lessons uncover useful opportunities.

The lesson was that uncertainty in a crisis can flip the relationship between process and technology on its head. Developing stable, user-friendly software, hardware, or networks as a whole takes time, but time is the first resource lost in a crisis. As COVID sparked national lockdowns, many institutions quickly realized that their IT systems were designed to support business models and processes that the pandemic had rendered unviable. Leaders desperately tried to come up with new processes, but because they lacked the luxury of time, their attempts to adapt available technology to changing processes often became a twisting of processes to fit the available technology's capabilities. That process was extraordinarily painful, and many organizations didn't survive it.

The opportunity is to use COVID's exposure of those flaws to advance our technology. Crises don't just expose flaws, they also strip away uncertainties that hinder progress. COVID was a technological stress test that offered a preview of the demands that the Information Age will increasingly make on individuals, institutions, and society. The software and other IT needed to meet those demands will have to be far more capable than what we have today. Entrepreneurial software developers now have a much clearer picture of exactly the software features that the world will need and hence the kinds of apps and features most likely to be successful in the marketplace.

That begs the question of who will build them first. The developer or company that does will have a significant advantage over competitors. The nations that adopt and integrate them the most widely will be far better positioned to weather the next international crisis than the ones that don't—and the economic, cultural, and national security ramifications of those successes and failures will be enormous.

*Mark Henshaw, Author // Washington, DC*



MARK  
HENSHAW

**Crises don't just expose flaws, they also strip away uncertainties that hinder progress.**

**Uncertainty in a crisis can flip the relationship between process and technology on its head. Developing stable, user-friendly software, hardware, or networks as a whole takes time, but time is the first resource lost in a crisis.**

**—Mark Henshaw**





Could uncertainty  
on study abroad be  
a major feature,  
not a bug?

Illustrations by  
Andrew Lyons

### Frater Ave Atque Vale

BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

*Row us out from Desenzano, to your Sirmione row!  
So they row'd, and there we landed—"O venusta Sirmio"  
There to me through all the groves of olive in the summer glow,  
There beneath the Roman ruin where the purple flowers grow,  
Came that "Ave atque Vale" of the Poet's hopeless woe,  
Tenderest of Roman poets nineteen-hundred years ago,  
"Frater Ave atque Vale"—as we wandered to and fro  
Gazing at the Lydian laughter of the Garda Lake below  
Sweet Catullus's all-but-island, olive-silvery Sirmio!*

MANY SEE THE CURATED EXTERNALITIES of a study abroad on an Instagram feed: familiar photo spots, group adventures, new insights, food discoveries. But for John Talbot, BYU professor of English and director of the study abroad to Siena, Italy, disruption is intentional and uncertainty should be considered a programmatic skill set.

"Uncertainty is both a bad and a good thing. Too much of it can ruin a learning experience, but not enough of it destroys the opportunity," Talbot explains. "Something about being part of a study abroad entertains uncertainty as a virtuous principle"—as a major feature of the program, not a bug.

Of course nobody wants to participate in a program in which everything goes wrong—missed flights, lost luggage, closed museums, canceled tours. If these add up into a long list, such a program might be considered a failure. Yet for Talbot, "some have habituated to Western cultural practices that make uncertainty a horror." When enough is unknowable, students raise their defenses. It may even prevent them from fully entering into a sense of openness for learning.

A better approach involves some structure, planning, and design but also allows for a level of uncertainty in the confidence that it enters into unprogrammed things. The same thing happens in a book or a classroom discussion. Talbot muses, "Where will this class lead us, not based on a lack of structure or faculty incompetence? There's a vague thrill that something interesting might happen."

# UNCERTAINTY ABROAD



*We’ve faced a year of question marks. There’s been the big, terrifying uncertainty: Will the virus hurt someone I love? Will my industry survive? Layered on top is this daily volatility, which psychologists say can also have a big impact on our bodies and minds. Will my toddlers’ daycare class shut down? Will my internet flake out this morning? Where am I supposed to work if this storm takes out my power? . . .*

*We’re equipped to deal with occasional doses of uncertainty. . . . But chronic uncertainty leaves us no time to recuperate.*

—RACHEL FEINTZEIG, “THE KEYS TO DEALING WITH CHRONIC UNCERTAINTY,” *Wall Street Journal*, 21 MARCH 2021

### Observing Abroad

Professor Talbot sends his students wandering the streets of Siena with a rudimentary assignment to see what they discover when they’re not looking. It adds an element of improvisation. Talbot relates: “One day, while walking along the Via Cecco Angiolieri accompanied by fifteen students, I happened to notice a door open that I’d never seen before. We entered, leading us into a medieval castle that was owned by a *contrada*, one of the local societies to which citizens of Siena have belonged since medieval times. We soon bumped into one of the locals, who happily showed us around the castle, allowing us to see treasures that ordinarily no outsider would ever see. We explored the subterranean chamber for two hours. That kind of experience—taking your chances with an unexpected opportunity—is such a big part of study abroad. My job as director is to create conditions where you experience ‘I don’t know what this is . . .’”

A study abroad can be a great place to observe the diversity of student attitudes toward uncertainty. Some see uncertainty as an affront while others discover the value of it—and that’s why these students go on a study abroad in the first place.

### Coping Abroad

A great deal of effort goes into making programs safe by anticipating itineraries, reporting on crime, and ensuring support for logistics, health, and safety. But for Talbot, study abroad involves “actual peril,” evidenced by the chaotic character of Italy. “Rome is a dangerous place, and it is a good thing for students to be aware of and experience an element of risk,” he says.

Once, after lecturing at the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, Talbot organized student breakouts in which they wandered around and pursued whatever seemed interesting. Afterward, the group was supposed to meet outside the Coliseum metro station. (Timing can be tricky with a group of students exploring ancient sites.)

Two of his students failed to return. It turns out one of them had lost her cell phone in the Roman Forum, a vast expanse that is usually crawling with tourists. The local police showed little interest in helping them find it, but the students themselves took the initiative, fanning out across the forum and approaching locals for help, until they eventually found an administrator in a local office who made some calls and helped them find the missing phone. Talbot says, “It ruined our schedule, but in the process our students had a very real-world, unplanned experience, meeting Italians and working with them to solve a problem.” He sees faculty advisors as leaders who must constantly be unruffled and plan for these types of contingencies. “After all,” he says, “spontaneous changes in the itinerary are what students remember most.”

### Improvising Abroad

“In good teaching, if you have a secure foundation, you can allow yourself to begin to explore uncertain territory, where unplanned experiences lead to real learning,” says Talbot. “A faculty director can torpedo this as easily as a student if they are inflexible or resistant to the idea of genuine experience. Each must rely, on some level, on the value of the unforeseen.”

As one example, Talbot relates how the group improvised when their church experience suddenly became uncertain. “In sacrament meeting on our very first Sunday in the little branch of the Church in Siena, the stake president announced that the branch was

### Confronting the Unfamiliar in Russia

Navigating the Russian sphere can be complex, even for well-established programs with committed language learners. BYU students opting for international internships in this arena face high uncertainty at an individual level. “I can put two students in the same internship,” observes Tony Brown, faculty director of the Baltic States Internship Program and professor of Russian at BYU. “One sees it as an opportunity and another as a waste of time.”

In Moscow, Brown saw one student respond to new expectations by saying, “I can do something with this.” That student turned the experience into a second follow-up internship in Moscow. “That student knew how to build on that unfamiliar realm,” Brown remembers.

But a second student in the same internship said, “I’m too good for this; it’s below my expectations and ability,” and he opted out of it for something more familiar.

“It’s hard for us to break out of familiar environments. The second student went back to the cocoon, which turned out okay but wasn’t amazing,” Brown says.

Brown finds that a certain amount of resilience is required when learning abroad, and he builds lessons on that skill into the required internship prep course. This includes practical suggestions for navigating the uncertain, such as how to negotiate with a supervisor if the experience misses your expectations. “Supervisors tend to be more willing to work with students if they know and understand their specific needs,” Brown says, having placed hundreds of students in various organizations. “Sometimes BYU students err on the side of not wanting to offend their supervisors, so they miss out on opportunities. They may not be as proactive as their peers at other universities who have no compunction to push a little.”

According to Brown, this doesn’t mean that students need to be ambitious but rather that they need to take initiative instead of waiting for supervisors to give out assignments. “Students who said, ‘What if I did this in addition?’ or ‘I’m really interested in what my colleagues are doing; can I help over here?’ find that supervisors reward this effort,” says Brown.

Sometimes students go incommunicado. Typically, no news is bad news. “I might not hear anything from a student, and then on a site visit a couple months into a program I find out for the first time that they are miserable and haven’t done anything. My in-country directors get frustrated as well,” Brown says. His Moscow directors attribute BYU students’ reticence to voice concerns to a tradition of showing deference to authority and a desire not to “offend the host.” That being said, they frequently comment about how much they love working with BYU students. Even so, Brown sees assertiveness, professionalism, negotiation, and communication as part of the internship learning experience.

Cultural differences can be another challenge for students. These differences inevitably emerge, which necessitates adjusting



certain expectations. For example, in Russian culture, much of the work takes place out of the office. Westerners see the “workplace” as being the office, not a pub or a restaurant. But in Russia, informal settings are where many things get done. “Some of the best ideas come when people are sitting together informally sipping tea with colleagues—something often perceived by westerners as taking away valuable time from the workday,” notes Brown.

As another example, “Russia has a long history of upheaval and economic instability, which translates into an internship provider saying, ‘Call me a few days before they arrive, and we’ll see how things are going.’” Brown says. Such an absence of advanced planning would be unheard of in a country such as Germany, where providers like to have six months of advance notice. Brown tells students, “Most of you come from a culture that rewards advanced planning, but you won’t always see the end from the beginning with some experiences.”

In the near future, perhaps more BYU students will be able to return to intern and study abroad in unfamiliar settings, confronting more uncertainty but equipped with the needed skills and understanding to see them through.

UNCERTAINTY  
ON INTERNSHIP





**Catullus 101**  
BY GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS

*Multas per gentes et multa per aequora vectus  
advenio has miseras, frater, ad inferias,  
ut te postremo donarem munere mortis  
et mutam nequiquam alloquerer cinerem  
quandoquidem fortuna mihi tete abstulit ipsum  
heu miser indigne frater adempte mihi  
nunc tamen interea haec, prisco quae more parentum  
tradita sunt tristi munere ad inferias,  
accipe fraterno multum manantia fletu.  
atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale.*

*Carried through many nations and over many seas,  
I arrive, brother, for these wretched funeral rites  
so that I might present you with the last tribute of death  
and speak in vain to silent ash,  
since Fortune has carried you, yourself, away from me.  
Alas, poor brother, unfairly taken away from me,  
now in the meantime, nevertheless, these things which in the ancient custom of ancestors  
are handed over as a sad tribute to the rites,  
receive, dripping much with brotherly weeping.  
And forever, brother, hail and farewell.*

*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.*  
*We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.*

—ARUNDHATI ROY, “THE PANDEMIC IS A PORTAL,” *Financial Times*, 3 APRIL 2020

permanently dissolved, effective immediately,” Talbot recalls. “We hadn’t had any previous warning. What were we going to do for church?”

The group held its own sacrament meeting. They had to figure out how to make it work, but the result was a meeting in which everyone in the program could talk. It even lasted longer than usual.

The group was also able to explore how other faiths worship by respectfully attending services in local cathedrals and churches, including the Valdesian Branch, the protestant sect from which the first Latter-day Saint Italian converts were drawn in the nineteenth century. In addition, directors diverted budget funds to travel to Florence three different times so that the group could attend the ward there to see what it was like, revealing something new.

Talbot considers including a range of unprogrammed time as well as improvisation as essential, with the latter being more of an attitude. “Faculty know when something is interesting. They can drop everything and just go for it,” says Talbot. “To live in the tension of the schedule and opportunity is fun. It’s one of the many things that justify the study abroad experience.” This mirrors the tradition of the “grand tour” in the style of Henry James, whose account of his first tour in Italy exposes and cultivates direct experience with the great sites.

**Lit Gets Real**

Classes afford another visceral opportunity for students to grapple with planned uncertainty. As a scholar of ancient Latin literature and Roman culture, Talbot teaches a class about the influence of ancient Roman writers on modern English poets. One such source of inspiration was the Roman Catullus from Sirmione, who wrote a poem reflecting on the beauty of his native Lake Garda in the north of Italy and another mourning the death of his brother. Nearly 1,800 years later, Alfred Tennyson, still mourning the death of his own brother, arranged a tour to visit the place Catullus had described so beautifully.

Upon arriving at Lake Garda, Tennyson boarded a boat from Desenzano to the middle of the lake, where he composed an entirely new work based on the rhythmic beat of the rowers who sang a song. “This English poem was a response to the Roman poem,” Talbot says. “So I asked my students, ‘Should we see if we can recreate Tennyson’s journey, taking a boat across Lake Garda from Desanzano to Sirmione? It could be a disaster. We could get stranded.’” The students opted to go, and Talbot required one more thing: they had to memorize the poem and then recite it in unison upon the lake.

“I had no idea if it was going to work,” Talbot remembers. “But after a memorable experience crossing the lake, we arrived at a local hotel to find the very poem we had learned in class carved on the wall with a bust of both Catullus and Tennyson.”

In the end, Professor Talbot sees great value in taking such risks while studying abroad: “To the extent that uncertainty is foreclosed upon, students lose opportunities to grow. With a reasonable level of uncertainty, students learn flexibility and grit. When things go wrong, they can roll with it—and a shrewd director can create conditions when this is more likely to occur,” resulting in increased interactions across the host country, numerous academic benefits, and life experiences that stick.





OF PHRAGMITES  
AND CHICKENS:

# A Great Spiritual Biodiversity

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By **Melissa  
Inouye**

I LIVE ACROSS THE STREET FROM A SMALL CITY PARK called the Mehraban Wetland Park. I love the wetlands. I love the smell of the warm, wet earth, the light on the water, the variety and changeability, but also the constancy of growing things. Truly, as the psalmist says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

The more time we spend in the wetland, the more we learn about it; and the more we learn about it, the more we realize that its beauty is fragile and threatened. It exists in a balance.

The park once had another catchment basin, a third pond, but this basin has been completely filled in by the most pernicious weed of all: phragmites. The problem with phragmites is that they take over. They spread both through seed, blown through the air, and through roots, which spread horizontally below ground. They propagate rapidly, creating thick mats of biomass that choke out other vegetation usually found in wetland areas: bulrushes, sedges, willows, cattails.





# *Biodiversity— the fullness of the earth— is literally a matter of divine design.*

Biodiversity, scientists tell us, is not simply a matter of nature being quirky and creating a lot of embellishments. It is fundamental to sustaining life on the planet itself: the food that grows, the water we drink, the seasons, and the stable weather on which human beings depend. Biodiversity of species on the living planet is like rivets on the wing of a plane. The loss of one or two will not crash the plane, but the more that are lost, the more likelihood there is of a serious problem.

By destroying God's creations and being extractors, not stewards, of the natural life that They have placed on earth, modern human beings have now created this serious problem. We have taken over, destroyed the Earth's natural bounty of trees, plants, bushes, creeping things, and fishes in the water (30 percent of which are critically low). We have waged war on the birds of the air in all their variety and replaced them with chickens.

That's right, chickens. Seventy percent of all birds on earth are domestic birds, the vast majority chickens. Only 30 percent of the birds on earth are non-chickens. Many of them, like the peregrine falcon, the bald eagle, and the hummingbird, are threatened for loss of habitat.

## **Spiritual Biodiversity**

But what does biodiversity have to do with the theme of "Gathering Light and Truth from All Nations" at this International Society Conference?

God did not create a world to be covered with only Latter-day Saints or only Pure Land Buddhists. Our Eternal Father and Mother did not endow Their children with the spiritual imagination to only see the beauty of the Qur'an or to only appreciate the Bhagavad Gita. My point is that diversity is *essential* in all life. Without incredible variety and complex difference, there is no life.

Biodiversity—the fullness of the earth—is literally a matter of divine design. Our Father and Mother could have created a world in which every lakeshore was covered with only phragmites and 70 percent of the birds were chickens. But instead They created a complex, ever-evolving system with willows, cottonwoods, bulrushes, sedges, and cattails, with peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and hummingbirds. God did create them as part of a grand design of sustaining the intricate webs of life on the planet, where all God's children live, breathe oxygen, drink water, and eat the fruit of the soil.

With regard to scripture and spiritual teachings and ontological assumptions, our Father and Mother could have created a world in which everyone shared the same holy works, the same spiritual exemplars, and the same frameworks of reality. It was within Their power. It was within Their capacity to reveal to everybody the same truths.

And yet God created conditions in which individuals have wildly different access to ideas, theology, and moral codes. Why? For those of us who are religious, who believe in a God who has all truth and all power and who loves all people on the earth with a parent's love, this can be a head-scratcher.

Why would a God who loved everyone and wanted everyone to flourish not give everyone the same access to truth and righteousness? How could we imagine that Heavenly Parents who loved all Their children and dedicated Their whole work to helping them all become better would select a few "chosen children" to have it all?

## **Gave I unto Men and Women Their Agency**

In that same book of scripture where God is explaining Their work and Their glory—"to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of [Their children]" (Moses 1:39)—God also gives a little note about how this was supposed to come about: "In the Garden of Eden, gave I unto [men and women their] agency; . . . [I have] said, and also given commandment, that they should love one another, and that they should choose me, their Father; but behold, they are without affection, and they hate their own blood" (Moses 7:32–33). To rephrase this, God gave Their children the choice to love one another and to love God. The heavens weep because people choose not to love one another (see Moses 7:28). Clearly, making this choice isn't easy because of our immense plurality, because of our many differences. But it is this process of choosing to love one another despite our differences that leads to immortality and eternal life.

We Latter-day Saints believe that this was the risk inherent in God's plan, a risk that was avoided in Satan's plan. In Satan's plan for human redemption, people would be forced







to make the correct choices, and none of us would be allowed to screw up. There would be no diversity whatsoever. We would all have chicken and phragmites. We would get used to chicken and phragmites and would not cultivate the potential for complexity, maturity, or the vast experience in our divine nature.

In God's plan, there would be immense variety and innumerable differences, causing us to frequently fail to choose one another and, thereby, fail to choose God. But because of the difficulty of the task, when we did figure out how to bridge our differences and understand from multiple perspectives, we would have come closer to seeing as God sees.

### Negotiating the Spaces Between Us

This is why, I believe, when God created the natural world, They made sure to create it with such biodiversity, and when God created humankind, They made sure to create us with spiritual diversity. Acknowledging planetary-scale spiritual diversity is not some watery, weak-kneed gesture of moral relativism, because both the laws of creation and Latter-day Saint theology witness that diversity is a fundamental principle of God's plan for us.

God did not intend for us to learn to follow Them in a world of only phragmites and chickens. God wants us to live rich lives, connected to many others in a complex web of interaction and interdependence, using distinctive gifts within distinctive roles to bless all God's children and help them achieve their divine potential.

The project of becoming as our Heavenly Parents involves negotiating the wide, empty spaces between us and our fellow beings in our many different circumstances. As we learn to know and to understand and to receive each other, we are able to give each other gifts of wisdom and insight that bring us closer to that perfect, divine understanding. There's nothing wrong with phragmites or chickens. The only problem is when there's nothing but phragmites or nothing but chickens.

### Spiritual Biodiversity and Latter-day Saints

Now, some of my fellow Latter-day Saints might be getting nervous. You might be thinking: We're a missionary faith. We want to spread to all corners of the world. We believe that we will fill the earth. Is she saying Latter-day Saints are an invasive species? Is she saying we're phragmites or chickens?

In the realm of human religiosity, we are so far from being phragmites or chickens. Compared to all the religions out there that have ever been over thousands and thousands of years, our presence barely registers.

*In the context of God's vast plan and **all varieties** of God's creation, we, the Latter-day Saints, are **both supremely unimportant** and **absolutely essential**.*

Latter-day Saints, currently the most numerous we have ever been, constitute .02 percent of the world's population. This is tiny. In terms of biomass, we are definitely not on par with chickens. Not even ostriches or emus. More like hummingbirds: tiny but energetic, willing to expend a lot of energy to get to where we're going, very detail oriented. We move around a lot. We're not the only good birds out there. We're just a fairly recent species of hummingbird. But like all living things, we have a distinctive contribution to make. All by ourselves, there aren't enough of us to sustain life or save the world. But we must do the work we do best, the work God has called us to do. As Patrick Mason points out in his book *Restoration*, only we know how important this work is, only we can do it, and if we don't do it, it won't get done.

In the context of God's vast plan and all varieties of God's creation, we, the Latter-day Saints, are both supremely unimportant and absolutely essential. And we exist within a wider network, a system, of other human beings in every place who do what they do. This diversity of action and roles is not only beautiful but life giving.

For thousands of years of humanity, God, our Eternal Father and Mother, have spoken to us, Their children, in our own language and cultural idiom. They spoke to the ancient Israelites. They spoke to the people of ancient India. They spoke to the woman at the well in first-century Palestine. They spoke to Juan Diego, the Aztec who heard music and saw a vision at Tepeyac Hill in 1531. They spoke to my ancestors in Japan as they prayed in the Jodo Shinshu temples and to my Uncle Frank and Auntie Kay at the Evergreen Baptist Church.

I don't know why God has called me to be a Latter-day Saint, to serve a Latter-day Saint mission in Taiwan and invite others to come join with us, to marry in a Latter-day Saint temple, and to muddle through my callings in a local Latter-day Saint ward. It is through a distinctly Latter-day Saint lens that I see God—my divine Father and Mother. It is through a distinctly Latter-day Saint lens that I see Christ. I know we are tiny and the world is wide. But time and again, the Spirit has declared that this is where God wants me. Here, as T. S. Eliot says in *Four Quartets*, "prayer has been valid." Here I find joy, strength, and truth.

It can be unsettling to follow Joseph Smith in seeking truth wherever it can be found, ranging widely across the world's many varieties of right. But the spirit of the Latter-day Restoration is of expansion, interconnection, synthesis, and plurality. The restored gospel can accommodate truth wherever it is found, and we Latter-day Saints who grew up singing "I Am a Child of God" can find sisters and brothers everywhere.

May we not squander the extravagant diversity—the fullness—with which God has blessed this earth and all the living souls upon it. May we not long for a world with only phragmites and chickens but instead work to protect a world in which all of God's creations, majestic and miniature, find ways to thrive and enrich each other. This is the life that God, in Their wisdom, prescribed for Their children on the earth. As we protect each other's sacred relationships with the divine and share our unique gifts, we will learn to live in the spaces outside our own experience. We will gain emptiness for receiving and become useful vessels in Their great plan. [E](#)

**MELISSA INOUE** is senior lecturer in Chinese studies at the University of Auckland and historian/writer in the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This excerpt is from her talk "*The Earth Is the Lord's, and the Fulness Thereof: Divine Biodiversity*," delivered at the 31st Annual International Society Conference, held online in April 2021, where she received the International Service Award. Watch her full remarks at [bit.ly/spiritualbiodiversity](https://bit.ly/spiritualbiodiversity).





INTERVIEW BY CHARLOTTE SUDWEEKS  
AND CORY LEONARD

PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY COTI AT FLYTOGRAPHER



# Uncertain World

Marren Haneberg is launching a global career in which understanding risk is the plan.

Marren Haneberg is a risk intelligence analyst with FiveBy Solutions. Haneberg graduated in international relations from the Kennedy Center in 2017 and is a native of Snohomish, a city located thirty minutes north of Seattle, Washington. She spoke with *Bridges* magazine in February 2021 during the pandemic about risk, uncertainty, and launching a career in the middle of many obstacles.

## Tell us about your work.

I'm currently working in the private sector doing risk analysis, focusing on sanctions risk tied to US and EU foreign policy priorities. Our company provides consulting on risk, fraud, security, and disinformation. We use our deep knowledge of foreign language, economics, and business to assess risks and help clients understand what it all means. As a research analyst and risk consultant, I assess client data to identify sanctions, trade risk, and compliance.

## What are some of the things that you have done?

My areas of expertise are Russia and Eurasia, along with military end use. In addition to client work, I have worked with colleagues on advisories about upcoming sanctions and disinformation risks, which are published on our company website. One issue I'm particularly interested in right now is Turkey as a national security risk and how the Biden administration might address this.

## All of these issues sound timely. What does it mean to think about uncertainty in your area?

All of us confront uncertainty, and to some extent this was magnified under the Trump administration. With so many countries around the world facing challenges right now that have brought them nearly to a boiling point, it's hard to know what will happen. Consider the example of Myanmar, where Aung San Suu Kyi rose to the top and yet doesn't appear to respect the rights of the Rohingya, an ethnic minority within the country, which would bring the country into conformity on democracy and human rights issues. The entire situation in Myanmar has been uncertain, so this is an example of a situation we monitor and evaluate for clients. Recently, President Biden issued a new executive order sanctioning Myanmar generals and businesses—which, again, creates uncertainty for global companies working in that country.

## How did your academic studies prepare you for now?

My international relations degree, which focused on the Russian language and Russia, taught me excellent research, writing, and language skills, all of which I use on a daily basis. One project that's been really interesting to me has been watching the case of Alexei Navalny, who was poisoned and appeared as though he was going to die. Yet after recovering in Germany, he returned to Russia—even though it seemed unsafe for him to do so. There's a lot of uncertainty in this field and not always a script or formula to resolve new issues. It's crucial to have a foundation and tools to deal with them. The analysis and research skills I developed at BYU have set me up to analyze these types of situations and make sense of them.

## What were your initial plans as a student?

I was dead set on working in the Foreign Service or in other government agencies, so I didn't realize what was available in the private sector. Open-source intelligence is becoming a much bigger thing. For example, my boss came from the US Treasury intelligence unit, and you can get a lot of information simply from open-source right now. Working inside government channels can be a great path, but even they rely on open-source contractors, which is an opportunity for students and new alumni just starting out.

## What advice would you give to current Kennedy Center students?

When I graduated, I wasn't able to work full-time initially, so I did everything I could to stay engaged with my field. I volunteered with Praemon.org, the national security student organization, where I met and connected with some outstanding people and gained useful experience. I got involved with an anti-human-trafficking group and wrote blog posts and press releases for them. Since I wasn't working



**Even though I didn't find my current position through a connection, developing relationships with students and colleagues is still very important. Even if a connection can't offer you a job, they might be able to provide feedback, mentoring, or support in your search.**



full-time, I was able to contribute a lot. Volunteering while you're looking for full-time work is a great strategy.

Even though I didn't find my current position through a connection, developing relationships with students and colleagues is still very important. Even if a connection can't offer you a job, they might be able to provide feedback, mentoring, or support in your search.

In sanctions risk, we have this idea of inherent risk, which you can't control, and another part that you can control, called marginal risk. You're left with residual risk, which you can't control, but you do what you can—that's the strategy I recommend when building your résumé and searching for a job. In thinking about careers, you control what you can—don't take rejection from a company personally. It wasn't easy finding a job in my field. I didn't land the first position I applied to, but I learned something from each application and interview. Sometimes it's a matter of how you present yourself, but it can also be a matter of timing and budgets for the company or culture fit.

#### **Did you have any uncertainty about studying abroad?**

I was hesitant to go abroad, but it was a requirement for the Russian minor. Ultimately, going abroad and studying language and culture in the Higher School of Economics in Nizhny Novgorod was a lesson to me that it's worth it to take some risks and to do things even when you're not sure how they will turn out. I developed on-the-spot thinking, learning how to deal with unexpected situations, and gained a lot of new exposure to the world. All of the things I learned abroad have been very helpful in the workplace, where situations come up all the time that you don't learn about in the classroom.

#### **Will you keep working in this area?**

I didn't realize risk intelligence and compliance was a career. A few years back, I thought it was for business-school people and that it sounded boring. But it is very interesting because I'm doing what I love, which is researching about Russia and creating packaged analytical products. Also, I have a much greater awareness of private sector opportunities, and my company is excellent about supporting continuing education, which has been wonderful.

#### **How can students find out about companies or groups working in this area?**

Students can look for opportunities for risk analysts. Employers frequently want people with an area studies background who can look at information and determine what looks risky based on certain typologies. Some of the specific areas include sanctions/anti-money laundering compliance and anti-piracy.

Also, copyright management is a new area. One of my connections, another international relations graduate, recently took a job in this area. Using their language and regional expertise, they track infringement and analyze data requirements.

Finally, check out the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) for postings on anti-fraud positions to get more ideas.

#### **What does your career trajectory look like right now?**

I'm still very early in my career and in a position where I can explore many different career paths. Right now I'm building my sanctions and anti-money laundering compliance skills. I'm not sure that there exists one clear path but rather many different fields that provide opportunities.

#### **What have you been reading?**

I have been reading *Kleptopia: How Dirty Money Is Conquering the World* by Tom Burgis. It is a carefully reported narrative focusing on global corruption, an area the Biden administration has been concerned about.

Also, I'm reading *Putin's People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took on the West* by Catherine Belton. It lays out a good summary on the Russian oligarchy and current issues there with balanced perspectives. Sometimes I read things highlighting the human rights issues in Russia, which I'm also concerned about, but in order to understand the Kremlin's behavior, it's imperative to take a look from its perspective too.

#### **What are the news sources you engage with every day?**

*The Wall Street Journal*, Bloomberg, Radio Free Europe (covers Eastern Europe), Bellingcat (open-source intelligence), the *Financial Times*, and the *Economist's The Intelligence* podcast.

#### **Any final thoughts?**

I want to give a shout-out to the Kennedy Center, which equipped me with problem-solving skills, multidisciplinary quantitative courses, foreign language abilities, and experiential learning through study abroad and presented me with planned uncertainty. In becoming recent alumni, we are the next generation of global leadership. It's important that we gain perspective and analytical/problem-solving skills to deal with the uncertainty in whatever situation comes up next. Also, don't sell yourself short. There are opportunities out there, and BYU provides a solid education that holds its own against students from what might be considered more elite universities. ☑





# Lectures

## Will China Save the World on Climate?

Jonas Nahm

“There’s a constant battle in the media over whether China will make it impossible to fix the climate problem or whether China will be the next global leader on climate policy,” Jonas Nahm said in his 12 February 2020 lecture, “Will China Save the World on Climate?” The lecture was part of the Kennedy Center’s winter 2020 Environmental Stewardship lecture series.

Nahm, who is an assistant professor of energy, resources, and environment at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, addressed seemingly contradictory information about how the Chinese government handles environmental issues. On the one hand, China is the dominant producer of many clean energy technologies and has developed important innovations to make these technologies viable for mass production. On the other hand, China produces more than 70 percent of its energy via coal, an action that contributes to air and water pollution.

According to Nahm, one of the biggest and most misunderstood issues is how various groups within the Chinese government interact. He said, “We often think of authoritarian governments as monolithic actors,” which can lead people outside of China to believe that “[China] should be able to fix the climate problem if they want to.” The truth, Nahm said, is that the Chinese national government is made up of various groups with competing interests, making it difficult to create environmental cooperation. Additionally, local governments in China are incentivized to put local GDP growth above all other considerations, including the environment. Both of these factors influence China’s ability and willingness to protect the environment.

To get China’s cooperation on environmental issues, Nahm said, the United States will need to make some changes, particularly regarding trade with China: “Our current policy toward China is incredibly confrontational and very zero-sum. . . . If we want China to do well on climate, we need to allow it to do well economically in these sectors.”

Nahm concluded by answering the question posed in his lecture’s title, “Will China save the world on climate?” He said: “Whether China will save the world or not depends a lot on the rest of us.”

## Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency

Larry Diamond

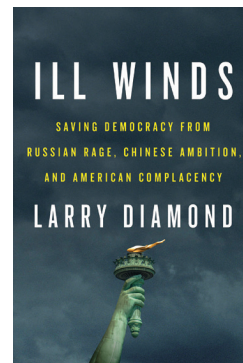
The fall 2020 book of the semester was *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency*. The author, Larry Diamond, is a Stanford professor, Hoover Institution senior fellow, and prolific author. In his book, Diamond argues that the United States must be a leader in advancing democracy and freedom in a world that is retreating from those ideals.

In his lecture on 21 October 2020, Diamond outlined the current state of democracy across the world, a state he referred to as a “global democratic recession.” To illustrate this recession, he pointed out that in 2006, 57 percent of countries with a population of more than one million were electoral democracies; however, that number has decreased steadily since then, hitting 48 percent in 2019. “We have a situation that we haven’t had since the end of the Cold War,” Diamond said, “where it is no longer the case that the majority of sizable states in the world meet a minimum test of electoral democracy.”

The breakdown of individual democracies was once caused by military and executive coups, said Diamond, but this is no longer the case: The breakdown of democracies is now “much more subtle, as illiberal populists rise and make extraordinary claims about the corrupt nature of the democratic system and the need for them to concentrate power in order to save it.”

Diamond concluded with antidotes for the worldwide decline of democracy. “We need to revive and repair our own advanced liberal democracies,” he said. “If we don’t do this, both with policy and with electoral reforms that restore strength and vigor and confidence to our democracies, and reduce the scope and incentives for political polarization, I don’t think we’re going to be able to revive democratic progress globally.”

But hope is not lost, he said, because worldwide public opinion data indicates that very few people want to surrender their freedoms. “I think that we’re going through a difficult patch, but if we do what we can and must do to push back on authoritarianism in the world, . . . I think that history, morality, and the generational tide is on the side of freedom.”



## LECTURES A Sampling from WINTER-FALL 2020

### 16 January 2020 Kazakhstan and the US in 2020

His Excellency Erzhan Kazykhanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States



### 26 February 2020 Environmental Crisis and the Nature of Cinema

Christopher Oscarson, Associate Professor of Comparative Arts and Letters, Brigham Young University



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH



### 29 January 2020 Journey into Amazonia and Earth Ethics from Indigenous Perspectives

Juan Carlos Galeano, Professor of Spanish, Florida State University



### 30 January 2020 Current Issues in Rwanda

Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States



### 4 March 2020 How Animal Encounters Shape Landscape Value in Patagonia: From Darwin to Che Guevara

Emily Wakiild, Associate Professor of History, Boise State University



8 April 2020

## Every Saint a Steward: Why Latter-day Saints Should Go Green

George Handley, Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities, Brigham Young University



APRIL

30 September 2020

## Populism and the Challenge to Democracy

Kirk Hawkins, Associate Professor of Political Science, Brigham Young University



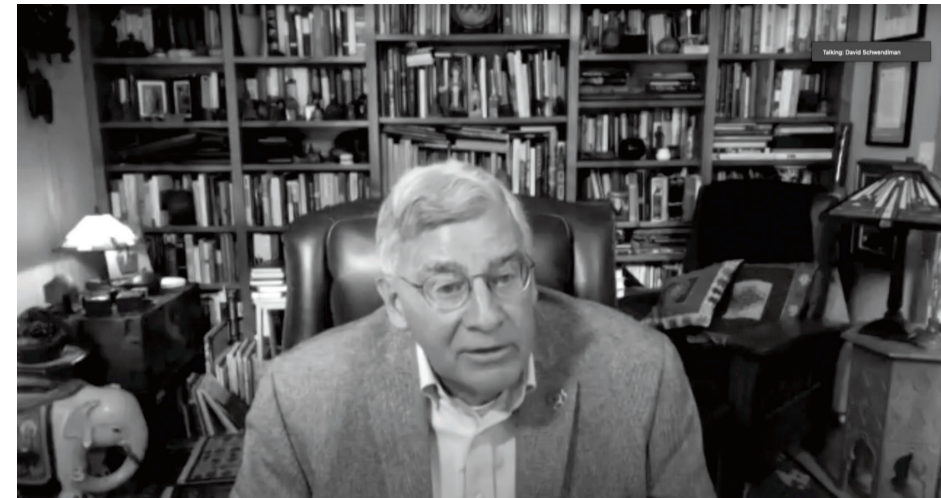
SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

11 November 2020

## Truth. Justice! . . . and the American Way?

David J. Schwendiman, Deputy Chief Prosecutor and Head of the Special Department for War Crimes of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina



NOVEMBER

18 November 2020

## What's Culture Got to Do with It?

Leila Lehnen, Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Brown University



DECEMBER



9 September 2020

## The First Political Order: How Sex Shapes Governance and National Security Worldwide

Valerie Hudson, Professor of International Affairs, Texas A&M University



14 October 2020

## From Protest to Politics

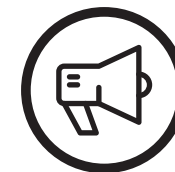
Rebecca de Schweinitz, Associate Professor of History, Brigham Young University



28 October 2020

## The State of Democracy in Africa

Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, Founder of Afrobarometer

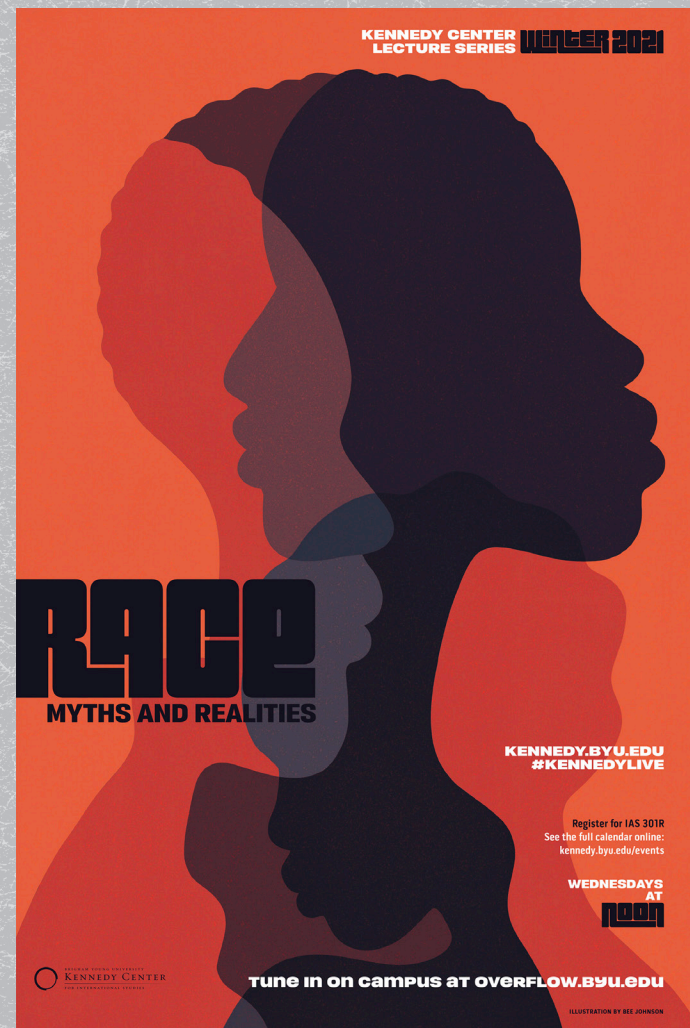


2 December 2020

## The Spirit of Party Versus the Constitution

Jeremy Pope, Associate Professor of Political Science, Brigham Young University





## LECTURE SERIES

**READY, SET, ZOOM**—During the pandemic, the Kennedy Center saw its normal flow of speakers quickly move from in-person to online. How did that work? First, the main conference room (238 HRCB), where speakers have been hosted for decades, became more like a studio with the addition of new lighting rigs. The podium was used only for campus-based speakers. Most weeks, we Zoomed like everyone else and learned how to manage the waiting room, set up the registration for our audience, and deal with the occasional Zoom bomber. See for yourself: most lectures are on our YouTube channel, but the familiar backdrop changed for a more personal one, self-created by speakers.

**Are you on Twitter?**  
Many speakers join in online before and after their presentation—and so can you: [@byukennedyctr](#) using [#KennedyLive](#) for lectures, seminars, and much more.

**@BYUKennedyCtr**  
“Our form of popular democracy . . . is an ambitious, constantly evolving, magnificent experiment.” —David J. Schwendiman  
[#mrschwendiman](#)  
[#kennedylive](#)



[@iclrsorg](#)

*We were honored to host a panel of Azerbaijani religious and government leaders yesterday with [@BYUKennedyCtr](#). The panel shared their experiences of interfaith harmony and acceptance. We thank the panelists, and we thank [@DurSchLAndRelig](#) [Cole Durham] for moderating the discussion.*

[@BYUKennedyCtr](#)

“We are facing a new human condition—that of living on a fragile earth.” The Kennedy Center had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Juan Carlos Galeano yesterday about his programs and studies in the Amazon basin. We thank everyone who attended and participated.





# Alumni

**WHERE IN THE WORLD** are Kennedy Center alumni? While most current students focus on diplomacy, development, and national security careers, as you can see, most alumni work in the private sector and the government, with some in higher ed, communications, and even the medical field.

## 1978

**MARK MORRISON** is an election monitor for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Prior to that position, he had a long career in national security and public service. Morrison spent thirteen years as director of legislative affairs at Lockheed Martin. He then became deputy chief of staff for Senator Robert Bennett, followed by a stint as chief of legislative affairs for US Africa Command. Morrison spent two years as a professor in China. He also served as director of the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies in 2019 and 2020. He has a master's degree in international relations and affairs from Troy State University and a master's degree in national security affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School.  
*BA: International Relations, 1978*  
*Minor: Political Science*

## 1979

**DERENE ALLEN** currently sits on the boards of the Social Enterprise Alliance and the AnewAmerica Community Corporation. She also teaches courses on social entrepreneurship through both the University of San Francisco's Silicon Valley Immersion Program and the UC Berkeley Extension. Allen has held positions such as general manager at Women's Action to Gain Economic Security, partner at Santiago Solutions Group, and executive director of the Ignite Institute at Pacific School of Religion. She also served for seven years as a mentor to global social enterprises through Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefits Institute. Allen earned an MBA in international management through Thunderbird School of Global Management.  
*BAs: International Relations and Spanish, 1979*

## 1987

**GREG MATIS** was recently named senior vice president and chief legal officer at Intermountain Healthcare. Matis received his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1990 and clerked for the Honorable Stephen H. Anderson of the US Court

of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Matis has worked in healthcare law for many years; he has been associated with Intermountain Healthcare for twenty-three years, initially as outside counsel before being hired as senior counsel. In 2013 he was named deputy general counsel for Intermountain and was promoted to vice president in 2018. Matis also serves as an adjunct professor at the BYU J. Reuben Clark Law School.  
*BA: International Relations, 1987*

## 1988

**TIMOTHY R. CLARK** is CEO of LeaderFactor, a global leadership consulting and training firm that he founded in 2006. He is the author of five books and has written more than 130 articles for various publications, including *Forbes* and *Harvard Business Review*. Clark earned a PhD in social science from Oxford University and a master's degree in government and economics from the University of Utah. He studied at Seoul National University's social science research center as a Fulbright Scholar. While at BYU, he was a first-team Academic All-American football player.  
*BAs: International Relations, Political Science, and Korean, 1988*

## 1993

**DAVID SNYDER** is currently unit chief in the Internal Policy Office of the FBI. Previously, he served as special agent, supervisory special agent, and unit chief in the International Operations Division—where he was responsible for all FBI operations in Europe—and legal attaché in Yemen, Eastern Africa, Central Asia, and Hungary. Before joining the FBI, he worked in sales at Cintas and at Buckeye International and served for six years in the US Army. He earned a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.  
*BA: Portuguese, 1993*  
*Minor: International Relations*

## 1995

**DAVID A. DAYTON** is CEO and founding partner of Silk Road International, a consulting agency that helps clients doing business in China and Southeast Asia understand and work with local cultures. Additionally, he is a

professor of business anthropology at Utah Valley University, where he teaches courses on business development in China. He also founded Prosperity Education Route, a Utah-based global education company that teaches students skills in order to give them a competitive edge in the global community. Dayton earned master's degrees from Northern Illinois University and Florida International University, as well as a PhD in global sociocultural studies from FIU.

*BAs: International Relations and Asian Studies, 1995*

## 1999

**SHANE JACOBS** is a global business advisor with Global Upside, which supports international businesses by providing solutions for staffing, accounting, human resources, and other business needs. Before that, he was strategic relationship manager for OpenWorks, national enterprise account executive for FacilitySource, and director of business development at both Sodexo and Johnson Controls. He received an MBA with an emphasis in international business from Thunderbird School of Global Management, where he also received a French Business Language Certification.  
*BA: International Relations, 1999*  
*Minor: French*



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## 2001

**BRANDON CARTER** recently became the managing director of financial systems at NewAge Inc., a Colorado-based healthy products company. Prior to this position, he spent twenty-two years in a variety of roles at Morinda Inc.  
*BA: International Studies, 2001*  
*Minor: European Studies*

**ANDREW EATON** is director of financial planning and analysis at Bigge Crane and Rigging Co. and was previously director of pricing strategy and manager of financial planning and analysis at the company. Before that, he worked at a number of different firms and trusts in the finance industry, including BRE Properties, Acacia Capital, and Prudential Mortgage Capital Company. In 2001 he was a congressional intern for California's Fourteenth District representative Anna Eshoo.  
*BA: International Studies, 2001*  
*Minor: European Studies*

**DIANNE ORCUTT** has worked as an attorney in Utah for fifteen years, first as deputy county attorney for Utah County, then as deputy district attorney for Salt Lake County. She is also one of the founders of Aspiring Mormon Women, a nonprofit organization with the broad purpose of encouraging, supporting, and celebrating the educational and professional aspirations of Latter-day Saint women of all ages and stages of life. Orcutt earned her law degree from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School, after which she served for a year as a law clerk in the Utah Office of the Attorney General.  
*BA: International Studies, 2001*  
*Minor: Spanish Studies*

## 2004

**SCOTT MILLER** is currently alumni records and database manager at Brigham Young University. Prior to this position, he worked for six years for United Way of Utah County as resource development director, senior team leader, and donor relations manager. Before that, he was finance manager at Hawk Captive Management and acting branch manager at US Bank.  
*BA: International Relations, 2004*  
*Minors: Business Management and French Area Studies*

**MICHELLE WERNER** has been director of communications at the Women's Information Network since 2010. Prior to her current position, she was communications manager at iLearningGlobal, marketing communications manager at MonaVie, and product manager and associate marketing manager at Nu Skin Enterprises.  
*BA: International Studies, 2004*  
*Minors: Asian Studies and Ballroom Dance*

## 2006

**KALEB JOHNSON** is senior program manager with USAID (United States Agency for International Development), where he has worked in various capacities since 2012. Before working with USAID, he was state refugee health coordinator for the District of Columbia Department of Health. Johnson received a master's degree in international relations from the Université de Montréal and an MPA with an emphasis in federal government management from George Mason University.  
*BA: International Relations, 2006*  
*Minor: Spanish*



## 2007

**CHIZURU ASAHINA** has spent the last four years on the staff of IC Net Limited, a multidisciplinary international development firm headquartered in Tokyo. Before that, she worked as a project officer for the Japan Center for Conflict Prevention. She has also held a number of positions related to education and international development, such as teacher; research intern at the Sri Lankan Ministry of Higher Education, Technology, and Innovation; and program evaluator for the Global Language Network. She received a master's degree in international and comparative education from the George Washington University.

**BA: International Studies, 2007**

**Minors: Sociology and African Studies**

## 2008

**ALEX KONOPASEK HULME** currently serves as director of executive relations for the Influence Board, a Denver-based startup that allows people to secure sales meetings with executives by donating to charity. Hulme is also an associate attorney with Woodbury Legal in Utah. She received her law degree from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. During her studies there, she interned with the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office in Utah and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in California.

**BA: Political Science, 2008**

**Minor: Middle East Studies**

## 2010

**MARK NIELSON** is cofounder and COO at Earlux, a Salt Lake City-based company that aims to revolutionize hearing health-care through in-home visits and telecare. Before Earlux, Nielson was COO at Pop Zero Popcorn, network businesses operator at Fifth Partners, and CEO of Fivers. Nielson received an MBA in entrepreneurship and supply chain management from BYU.

**BA: International Relations, 2010**

**KENNARD L. NOYES** currently works as a corporate and securities lawyer with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Seattle. Prior to his current position, he spent three years as an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP in London, representing large multinational corporations. Noyes earned his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law.

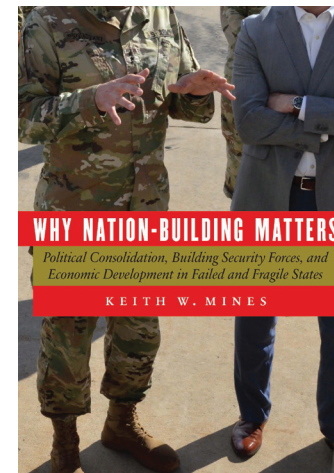
**BA: International Relations, 2010**

## 2016

**CHRISTOPHER YOUNGS** has spent much of his educational and professional career in South Korea. He spent a semester as an exchange student at Kyung Hee University as part of his undergraduate degree at BYU and later returned to South Korea as an EFL teacher. Soon after, he began graduate school at Kyung Hee University, earning a master's degree in international business. During his time at the university, he completed two internships with South Korean companies and is now employed on the sales team at HanKook Capability in Pyeongtaek.

**BA: Asian Studies, 2016**

**Minor: Korean**



to spend time there—opened up a world I later drew on as US consul general in Mazār-e Sharīf, Afghanistan, where I worked with all the newly independent Central Asian states. Professor Michael Seibt's theory that the most dynamic periods of history were those with competing city-states was a principle I applied in debates over the structure of the Iraq federalist state (and if it doesn't look like it was entirely successful, I remind people that Iraq is still a democratic state with three competing factions living largely at peace—a miracle in today's Middle East). Professor David Chandler's very thorough treatment of the political culture of Latin America, especially on elite politics, resonated clearly in El Salvador, Colombia, and Haiti and is fresh for me now working on Venezuela.

People used to ask me what I considered a stupid question. "What are you going to do with your degree?" Well, there's the answer.

### SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

*Two BYU alumni represent the United States at posts in Laos and Kosovo, while a Kennedy Center Asian Studies alumnus serves in Congress.*

**Peter M. Haymond** was sworn in as US ambassador to Laos on 3 January 2020. Ambassador Haymond received a BA from BYU and an MALD and PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He was previously deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Bangkok. He has also served in various posts in China, Laos, Thailand, Korea, and Washington, DC.

In July 2021, **Jeffrey M. Hovenier** was nominated by President Joe Biden for ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Kosovo. He was confirmed by the Senate on 18 November 2021. Hovenier received his BA in international relations from BYU and his master's degree from Georgetown University. He is currently a member of the Senior Foreign Service and has extensive experience in European affairs, most recently serving as deputy chief of mission in Germany and Turkey. Hovenier is one of the founding members of the Kennedy Center's International Advisory Board.

Second-term congressman **Andy Biggs** is currently serving in the US House of Representatives for Arizona. Congressman Biggs received his bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Brigham Young University, his MA from Arizona State University, and his JD from the University of Arizona. He lives in Gilbert, Arizona, with his wife of thirty-five years, Cindy. They have six children and five grandchildren.

### CONDOLENCES

**Ruth Sorensen Beal** (1943–2020) met Richard Smith Beal while in a class on international relations at BYU. The two hit it off, and after her stint as a Pan Am flight attendant, Ruth married Richard in January 1969. They spent fifteen short years together, during which time they had five children, lived in several states and countries, and eventually settled down in northern Virginia, where Richard served in the Reagan White House. Richard passed away at the age of thirty-eight, leaving Ruth to raise their children on her own. A collection of books donated by the Beals is available in the Kennedy Center's Student Leadership Lab (144 HRCB).

**Kelly Charles Crabb** (1946–2019) received a BA in international relations and Asian Studies and an MPA from BYU. He also graduated from the ROTC program. He later earned a JD from Columbia University in 1983. Crabb wrote the book *The Movie Business* (2005), taught sports law at the University of Southern California, and served as head international counsel to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee. He also represented Paul McCartney, Dave Matthews, Charles Barkley, NBA China, and MLB China, as well as Paul Hamm, Muhammad Ali, Elizabeth Smart, and Dinesh D'Souza.

**David Christopher Montgomery** (1940–2021) began working at BYU in 1970, teaching world, ancient Near Eastern, and Central Asian history as well as Altaic languages. He earned a BA in history from BYU and graduated first in his class in Russian at the Army Language School in Monterey, California. He later earned a PhD in history from Indiana University, completed a Fulbright experience in Ankara, Turkey, and then traveled solo in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, while it was still part of the Soviet Union to study the Uzbek language and culture.

## ALUMNI NEWS



*How does a BYU alumnus turn a liberal arts degree into a global affairs career? According to Keith W. Mines, director of the Latin American program at the United States Institute of Peace and a recent speaker at the Kennedy Center, his career got started in Provo.*

I recently completed a thirty-five-year career in the US Army Special Forces and the diplomatic corps and have written about my experiences from mission to army to diplomacy and peacebuilding in *Why Nation-Building Matters: Political Consolidation, Building Security Forces, and Economic Development in Failed and Fragile States*. The book recounts my experiences across eight countries the US was assisting to reset after years of war or other malfunction and tells the story of the thousands of Americans who have made sacrifices in these missions.

One of the common quips about nation-building is that "we need to do more nation-building at home," by which most mean that we should bring our foreign-assistance dollars to the US and spend them on infrastructure here. My main takeaway is that building stuff is the easy part. What is hard is the political consolidation that makes a nation function—unity, cohesion, strong and trusted institutions, and a common national narrative and vision. The book includes Colombia, Grenada, El Salvador and Honduras, Haiti, Somalia, Darfur, Iraq, and Afghanistan, from the Cold War through the humanitarian interventions of the 1990s and into the post-9/11 era. But it all began with the grounding I received at BYU and a Latter-day Saint mission to Colombia.

I can still recall with absolute clarity some of the unique concepts I learned at the Y. Professor David Montgomery's courses on Asiatic Russia—he was one of the few westerners





# Newsroom

## VIRTUAL CONVOCATION

Because of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kennedy Center convocations in both April 2020 and April 2021 were held virtually.

In April 2020, with students and faculty only recently sent off campus and with heavy lockdown restrictions newly in place, convocation consisted entirely of videos posted on social media. Faculty and staff from the Kennedy Center recorded messages to graduating students from their homes. Graduates were mailed a diploma case and an International Study Programs backpack—the first time the bags have been given to anyone not participating in a study abroad.

The April 2021 convocation was more elaborate, as Kennedy Center staff had time to prepare and some restrictions had been lifted. A half-hour video consisting of messages from alumni and faculty and dance performances from Indonesia and Uganda was streamed on YouTube (and is still available for viewing). Once again, graduates were mailed a backpack. They also received a global snack box with candy and chips from around the world that they could enjoy while watching the livestream.



## NEW MIDDLE EAST STUDIES/ARABIC COORDINATOR

Political science professor Josh Gubler has been named faculty coordinator of the Middle East Studies/Arabic (MESA) program at the Kennedy Center. The appointment comes as Quinn Mecham, former faculty coordinator, replaces Stan Benfell as an associate director of the Kennedy Center. Gubler has been associated with the MESA program since being hired at BYU in 2011 and has worked closely with Mecham as part of MESA's executive committee.

Gubler received a BA in Near and Middle East Studies/Arabic from BYU and then an MA in Middle East Studies and political science from the University of Utah, followed by a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar doing field research in Israel and Palestine before coming to BYU.

Gubler's topical area of emphasis in his research is intragroup cooperation and conflict. As a political psychologist, he focuses on prejudice reduction, particularly against minority groups such as Muslims.

"I think the Middle East is important to understand simply because it's a region that has played and will continue to play an important role in shaping the history and future of the world," he says.

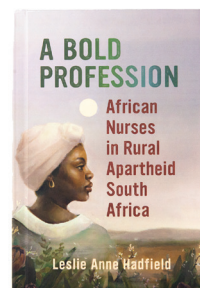
## FACULTY BOOKS

Three faculty affiliated with the Kennedy Center have recently published books.

In November 2019, Jeffrey M. Shumway, associate professor of history and coordinator of the Latin American Studies program, published *A Woman, a Man, a Nation: Mariquita Sánchez, Juan Manuel de*

*Rosas, and the Beginnings of Argentina*—a fascinating tale of two estranged friends who symbolize the politics of Argentina in the nineteenth century. "[The book] is an introduction for English readers to the amazing Mariquita Sánchez," says Shumway, "and it is a fresh look at Juan Manuel de Rosas, one of the most controversial figures of nineteenth-century Latin American history. Their parallel lives offer us important insights into the beginnings of the Argentine nation."

*The First Political Order: How Sex Shapes Governance and National Security Worldwide* was published in March 2020 by Donna Lee Bowen, professor emerita of political science and Middle East Studies/Arabic, along with Valerie M. Hudson and Perpetua Lynne Nielsen. The book stems from research conducted by Bowen and her colleagues as part of the Kennedy Center's Woman Stats Project. "In our book," says Bowen, "we provide strong empirical proof of linkage between women's subordination and negative outcomes in areas of political stability and governance, security and conflict, economic performance, economic rentierism, health and well-being, demographic security, education, social progress, and environmental protection."



See what students are interested in on both of our Instagram channels: @byukennedycenter for lectures, programs, and global activities and @byuabroad for international experiences. During 2021, with no programs abroad, the latter channel revisited past student stories—and wistfully looked forward to when students could safely go abroad again.

In May 2021, Leslie Anne Hadfield, associate professor of history at BYU and coordinator of the Kennedy Center's Africana Studies program, published *A Bold Profession: African Nurses in Rural Apartheid South Africa*. "I decided to write this book after hearing about the impressive success that nurses had working with inadequate resources in rural clinics, especially in delivering babies," says Hadfield. "I suspected there was much for us to learn from their experiences."

## THINKING CRITICALLY

Original op-ed pieces from BYU students on a variety of topics related to politics and current events are regularly featured in the *BYU Political Review*, a student publication sponsored by the Kennedy Center and the Department of Political Science with the aim "to educate, engage, and empower [the BYU student body] through thought-provoking writing, encouraging readers to think critically about issues facing our nation and world."

Printed in magazine format once a month, the *BYU Political Review* features writing from students in a variety of majors. Topics can vary widely, with recent op-ed pieces covering transracial adoption in Utah, the negative effects of fast fashion on the environment, facial recognition, disinformation versus misinformation, and indigenous rights.

Josh Gubler is the faculty advisor for the publication, but current editor in chief Kaity Marquis says that "all of the writing, editing, printing, publishing, designing, and distributing is done by students. Our illustrations are done by our student designer as well." Copies of the *BYU Political Review* can be found across campus, including in the Kennedy Center, the BYU library, and the Wilkinson Student Center.

## JOURNALS SHOWCASE STUDENT RESEARCH

Student journals enhance the educational experience by giving students an opportunity to publish their academic research and by giving student journal staff experience in reviewing, selecting, and publishing others'

research. The Kennedy Center supports a number of publications in conjunction with its academic programs.

The *Rice Papers* is the student journal for Asian Studies. The faculty advisor is political science professor Eric Hyer. An issue was published in the spring of 2021, with Pierce Bassett as editor in chief. Topics covered included the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, Chinese philosophy during the Warring States period, and the female experience in post-Choson Korea.

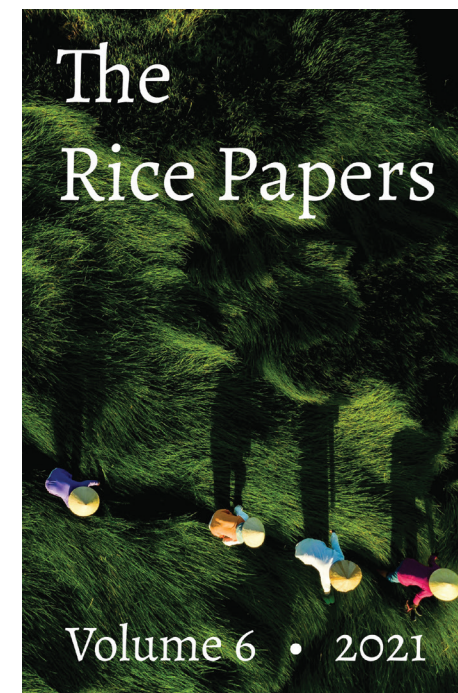
*Sigma* is a student journal for undergraduate research focused on political science and international relations. Scott Cooper of the Political Science Department is the faculty advisor. The 2020 issue, for which Tanner Cox was the editor in chief, covered topics from religion and suicide to the Trans-Pacific Partnership to the link between gender and corruption. The 2021 issue, for which Sara Lopez was the editor in chief, covered topics as varied as populism and evangelicalism, US military policy in the Balkans, and gender equality in Tunisia. Previous issues of Sigma can be found at [sigma.byu.edu](http://sigma.byu.edu).

Published each summer, *Studia Antiqua* is BYU's student journal for studies related to the ancient world. Submissions are considered by a faculty review board. In the 2020 issue, for which Lincoln Blumell was head of the faculty review board, topics included the symbolism of temple gates in ancient Israel, the symbolism of wells in the Bible, and archetypal similarities between the Noah, Abraham, and Moses narratives. In the 2021 issue, for which David Seely was head of the faculty review board, topics included gendered imagery in the birth of Athena, peculiar animals of ancient Egypt, and Nike in ancient Greece. Previous issues of this journal can be found at [studiaantiqua.byu.edu](http://studiaantiqua.byu.edu).



*All of the writing, editing, printing, publishing, designing, and distribution is done by students.*

—KAITY MARQUIS,  
BYU POLITICAL REVIEW



*Student articles explore Chinese philosophy during the Warring States period, look at the consequences of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, and survey the female experience in post-Choson Korea.*





# Scholars

**EVEN WITHOUT TRAVEL**, students continue to research and produce outstanding global work—a unique strength and student opportunity based on the BYU mission and aims. Notably, we continue ranking among top universities in national security, language, and international/area studies scholarships. And we’re not slowing down. Watch for more student awards next year in FLAS, Gilman, Boren, Fulbright, and beyond.

## KENNEDY SCHOLARS

The Kennedy Scholars award was established in 2005 to honor David M. Kennedy, the namesake of the Kennedy Center and a man distinguished by his service in business, government, and church positions. The award is given to full-time undergraduate students who embody the mission and purpose of the Kennedy Center, particularly those students with an international or global emphasis to their studies, research, or extracurricular activities.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2020 Kennedy Scholars

**Andrew Bonney**  
Hometown: La Plata, Maryland  
*Major: Middle East Studies/Arabic*  
*Minors: International Strategy and Diplomacy, Economics*

**Carolyn Dalziel**  
Hometown: Loveland, Ohio  
*Major: Communications*  
*Minor: Business*

**Spencer Knowlton**  
Hometown: Lehi, Utah  
*Major: International Relations*  
*Minor: Spanish*

**Sarah Koger**  
Hometown: Springville, Utah  
*Majors: Biology, Arabic Language*

**John Richardson**  
Hometown: Huntington Beach, California  
*Major: History*  
*Minor: Music*

**Maryn Rolfson**  
Hometown: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
*Major: Psychology*  
*Minors: Global Women’s Studies, Sociology*

**Tanner Wegrowski**  
Hometown: South Jordan, Utah  
*Major: Global Supply Chain Management*

**Calvin Westfall**  
Hometown: Aliso Viejo, California  
*Majors: Spanish Translation, European Studies*

**2021 Kennedy Scholars**  
**Alanna Anderson**  
Hometown: Layton, Utah  
*Major: International Relations*  
*Minor: International Development*

**Aaron Gorner**  
Hometown: Raymond, Alberta, Canada  
*Major: Ancient Near Eastern Studies (Hebrew Bible)*  
*Minor: Classical Studies (Greek)*

**Paul Guajardo**  
Hometown: Houston, Texas  
*Majors: English, History*  
*Minor: Latin American Studies*

**Jane Morrissey**  
Hometown: Pocatello, Idaho  
*Majors: Latin American Studies, Spanish Studies*  
*Minor: International Development*

**Hayden Reeve**  
Hometown: St. George, Utah  
*Major: International Relations*

**Morgan Selander**  
Hometown: Cottonwood Heights, Utah  
*Major: European Studies*  
*Minors: Nonprofit Management, Global Business and Literacy*

**Lydia Shaw**  
Hometown: Bountiful, Utah  
*Majors: Middle East Studies/Arabic, Arabic Language*  
*Minor: Editing*

**Steven Stenquist**  
Hometown: Medina, Ohio  
*Major: International Relations*  
*Minor: Spanish*

**Emma Webster**  
Hometown: Gilbert, Arizona  
*Major: Economics*  
*Minors: Global Women’s Studies, Nonprofit Management, Mathematics*

**Grace Wilson**  
Hometown: Highlands Ranch, Colorado  
*Major: European Studies*  
*Minors: Russian, International Strategy and Diplomacy*

**Ashley Whetten Soroa**  
Hometown: Allen, Texas  
*Major: International Relations*

**Abigail Woodfield**  
Hometown: Provo, Utah  
*Majors: Political Science, Psychology*  
*Minor: European Studies*



## BYU NAMED TOP-PERFORMING SCHOOL FOR BOREN AWARDS

The Boren Awards aid language study abroad in countries that are critical to US national interests. “The Boren Scholarship is one of the most prestigious scholarships we help students apply for,” says James Mayo, scholarships coordinator at the BYU Kennedy Center for International Studies. “It’s quite competitive. Most universities only receive one or two awards.”

BYU and the Kennedy Center have consistently had more recipients than average. In both 2020 and 2021, BYU was named a top-performing institution for Boren Scholarships. This recognition is given to the top five institutions in the country in terms of award recipients (based on initial selections). To have such a high number of recipients in 2021 is especially notable, says Mayo, considering the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic: “We are so happy to have so many recipients in such a difficult and distanced year.”

## KENNEDY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Twice a year, the Kennedy Center recognizes the best in undergraduate research related to international topics by awarding research fellowship grants of \$1,000. The recipients have an opportunity to present their research before an audience of faculty and students as part of the weekly Kennedy Center Lecture Series.

### Fall 2020

**Braeden Davis**, a political science major and European Studies minor, was recognized for his paper “Not So Safe: Electoral Systems and the Policy Successes of Far-Right Parties.”  
**Morgan Selander**, a European Studies major with minors in nonprofit management and global business and literacy, received a fellowship for her paper “The Wild, Wild East: The Soviet Underground Economy in the Brezhnev Era.”

### Winter 2021

**Kaitlin Hoelzer**, an English major with minors in Global Women’s Studies and history, received a fellowship based on her research paper “‘Something Large and Old Awoke’: Ecopoetics and Compassion in Tracy K. Smith’s ‘Wade in the Water.’”  
**Aïsha Lehmann**, an art major with minors in Africana Studies and sociology, was recognized for her paper “No Mixing.”

### Fall 2021

**Sam Ames**, a political science major, was awarded a fellowship for his research titled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Development: A Quantitative Analysis.”  
**John McHenry**, with majors in Middle East Studies/Arabic and Arabic language, was recognized for his paper “Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Modernity in Turkish Society: Evaluating Far-Right Viewpoints Among Turkish Youth.”  
**Rebecca Wright**, a political science major and European Studies minor, received a fellowship for her paper “Who Takes Charge? What Happens When a Hegemon Quits.”

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Boren Scholarship**  
**2020–21**  
*Arabic / Morocco*  
**Brendan Hatch**  
**Hannah Miller**  
**Jonathan Rosenbalm**

*Korean / South Korea*  
**Semie Lee**

*Mandarin / China*  
**Zachary Boyce**  
**Louisa Dayton**  
**Holly Lesser**  
**Derek LeSueur**  
**Michael Shukis**

**2021–22**  
*Arabic / Morocco*  
**Ella Baldwin**  
**Elijah Bickmore**  
**Daniel Harker**  
**Hunter Huillet**

*Korean / South Korea*  
**Drew Horne**

*Mandarin / Taiwan*  
**Katherine Free**  
**Ryan Young**

**Fulbright US Student Program**  
**2020–21**  
**Ashlen Lemon**, *Cambodia, English Teaching Assistant Award*  
**Charles Lewis**, *Czech Republic*  
**Ruth Eldredge Thomas**, *United Kingdom, Study/Research Award*  
**Austin Vaterlaus**, *Brazil, Study/Research Award*  
*(Ruth Thomas was selected as an alternate for the United Kingdom Study/Research Award, as Austin Vaterlaus was unable to participate.)*

**2021–22**  
**Natalya Nielsen**, *Sweden, Study/Research Award*  
**Orion Weller**, *Israel, Study/Research Award*

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarships (FLAS)**  
**Asia FLAS, Summer 2020**  
*Chinese*  
**Dewey Walter**

**Latin America FLAS, Summer 2020**  
*Quechua*  
**Ashley Lundquist**  
**Kate Nielsen**  
**Alaina Thompson**



## SCHOLARSHIPS

<b><i>Asia FLAS, 2020–21</i></b> <i>Chinese</i> Christina Chan Holly Lesser Tyler Parsons Thomas Richards Yang Vang	<i>Guarani</i> Torin Kelley
<i>Hindi</i> Kray Jubeck Rico Puri	<i>K'iche'</i> Jacob Anderson Margia Melca Arkell
<i>Indonesian</i> Kaylee Anderson	<i>Quechua</i> Charles Alger Ashley Lundquist
<i>Japanese</i> Braden Allred Andrew Watabe	<b><i>Asia FLAS, Summer 2021</i></b> <i>Chinese</i> Brooke Anderson Esther dos Santos Caleb Harding
<i>Korean</i> William Anderson Minhee Cho Loriana Goulding Drew Horne	<i>Hindi</i> Aedan Andreason Jacob Blood Lindy Miller Jonathan Williams
<i>Russian</i> Morgan Farnsworth Jared King Kara Molnar Rachel Pitt	<i>Indonesian</i> Adam Strathearn
<i>Tagalog</i> Emmaline Clark Mariah Critchfield	<i>Japanese</i> Kathryn Blau Carston Buss Jessica Ivie
<i>Thai</i> Laura McDonnell Ryan Young	<i>Thai</i> Madeleine Helvey Ryan Young
<b><i>Latin America FLAS, 2020–21</i></b> <i>Brazilian Portuguese</i> Mio Cannon Calla Chamberlain Maren Christensen Sebastian Demetter Christian Dodart Lance Gregory Tyler Haws Austin Haymore Marissa Martin Colter Miller Tanner Nelson Arthur Occon Ryan Pinkney Thomas Robins Matthew Rollins Brandon Southwick Olivia Stubbs	<b><i>Latin America FLAS, Summer 2021</i></b> <i>Brazilian Portuguese</i> Isabel Sirrine
	<i>Guarani</i> Nathan Seastrand
	<i>K'iche'</i> Margia Melca Arkell
	<i>Nahuatl</i> Travis Meyer
	<i>Quechua</i> Charles Alger Auna Brooks Ashley Lundquist Lydia Mercado
	<b><i>Asia FLAS, 2021–22</i></b> <i>Chinese</i> Jack Ellison Elena Guanuna Derek LeSueur Brady Turpin

<i>Hmong</i> Sarah Sowards	<b>Gilman Scholarship</b> <b><i>Spring–Summer 2020</i></b> <i>Czechia</i> Nicholas Merrill
<i>Indonesian</i> Cody Hakes	<i>Ecuador</i> Yazmine Tovar
<i>Japanese</i> Omar Briceno	<i>Greece, Morocco, Albania, and Montenegro</i> Abby Gibbs
<i>Korean</i> William Anderson Bethany Curtis Ashley DiPenti Brianna Giles Cameryn Rae Kahalewai Heather Lee Jessica Lee Beverly Unrau	<i>Italy and Austria</i> Vanessa Aparicio-Herrera
<i>Russian</i> Morgan Farnsworth Sally Jensen Melissa Scott	<i>Japan</i> Brendon Hymas
<i>Tagalog</i> Olivia Black Addison Fisher	<i>Mexico</i> Linda Maldonado
<i>Vietnamese</i> Catherine Felicity Loveland	<i>Portugal</i> Katelyn Jackman
<b><i>Latin America FLAS, 2021–22</i></b> <i>Brazilian Portuguese</i> Jacob Badal Maren Christensen Kendra Earl Benjamin Harris Austin Haymore Rachel Higgins Valerie Howell Carolyn Scherbel Janotti Michael McKinley Michelle McMurray Alexander Peek Katie Ann Powell Elliana Shillig Joseph Tate Daniel Unklesbay Kenneth Virgin Solstice Welling Calvin Westfall	<i>United Kingdom and Netherlands</i> Edgar Columna
	<i>United Kingdom and Netherlands</i> Gina Young
	<b><i>Fall 2020</i></b> <i>China</i> Holly Lesser
	<i>Jordan</i> Joshua Brown Jordan Chou Sarah Koger Maddison Thyer-Brown
	<i>Morocco</i> Jonathan Rosenbalm
	<i>Taiwan</i> Zachary Boyce
<i>Haitian Creole</i> Lili Auten Jeremy Lewis Julianne Pulsipher	<b><i>Spring–Summer 2021</i></b> <i>Argentina</i> Mason Warner
<i>Quechua</i> Auna Brooks	<i>Brazil, Peru, Argentina, and Chile</i> Jonathan Boyack
<b>Critical Language Scholarship</b> <b><i>Summer 2020</i></b> <i>Hindi / India</i> Alden Thriot	<i>Denmark, Czechia, Austria, and United Kingdom</i> Benjamin Stubblefield

## SCHOLARSHIPS

<i>Fiji</i> Megan Cann Jarom Morris
<i>France</i> Hailey Ipson Ashlie Johnson
<i>Greece</i> Jenna Shaw
<i>Hungary, United Kingdom, Austria, and Netherlands</i> Alyssa Larsen
<i>Israel</i> Kai Hicken
<i>Jordan</i> Jo Huey
<i>Jordan and Israel</i> Mckayla Wahlquist
<i>Portugal</i> Chandrelyn Kraczek
<i>South Africa</i> Kee Ranger
<i>South Korea</i> Breeze Parker
<i>United Kingdom and India</i> Margaret Price
<i>United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, and Hungary</i> Rico Puri
<b><i>Fall 2021</i></b> <i>Costa Rica</i> Mckay Matheson
<i>Germany</i> George Pinillos
<i>Jordan and Israel</i> Andrew Bonney
<i>Morocco</i> William Allred Garrett Maxwell Monica Privette
<i>Peru</i> Katherine Haruch Nathaniel Haruch
<i>United Kingdom</i> Cara Nickels

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### A STAY-AT-HOME STUDY ABROAD

Jo Huey, a Middle East Studies/Arabic (MESA) major, will be the first to admit that she took a roundabout path to studying the Middle East and Arabic. While serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Malaysia, she was applying to transfer to BYU, but she had minimal time to research different majors. When she noticed MESA listed, it caught her attention. Though she had little connection to the Middle East, Huey’s time in Malaysia had prompted an interest in issues related to Islam and human rights. She also knew that she wanted to work and live abroad at some point.

“So I declared [MESA] as my major, took Intro to Middle East Studies, and loved it,” she says. “Then I started taking Arabic and just fell in love.” On her mission, Huey discovered that she loved learning languages, which contributed to her love for the MESA major. “I really loved the intimate way of getting to know a culture and a people.”

However, COVID-19 threatened to derail Huey’s Arabic study. All MESA majors are required to spend fall semester of their third year participating in an intensive Arabic study abroad in the Middle East. Huey had been looking forward to the experience of immersing herself in Jordanian culture and improving her Arabic skills, but COVID-19 travel restrictions meant that no BYU students would be traveling to the Middle East for this program in the fall of 2020.

“Finding out that the Jordan program would not happen in Jordan was heartbreaking,” Huey says. “I think all of us at some point went through the stages of grief.”

***“I really loved the intimate way of getting to know a culture and a people.”***

Faculty at BYU and at Qasid Arabic Institute, BYU’s partner for the program in Jordan, put together a stay-at-home version of the study abroad, or what Huey jokingly calls a “study in-broad.” Though the students stayed in Provo, they did intensive Arabic study involving online classes with Qasid personnel, one-on-one tutoring, and on-campus classes with BYU professor Spencer Scoville.

Though Huey was disappointed to not be in Jordan, she ended up appreciating her unique study-at-home semester. “It was definitely an enlightening experience,” says Huey. “I didn’t anticipate that I could learn as much as I did, learning online. There were still definitely some aspects that were lost by not being able to be in Jordan as I’d anticipated, but our teachers . . . were very dedicated to giving us a wonderful experience. So I was able to feel as immersed as possible in the language.”

Huey loves finally being at a point where she can say, “I can speak this language.” She continues: “Maybe I’m still at an intermediate or low-advanced level, but I can talk to people and communicate what I’m thinking and understand them. It’s just so rewarding for me.”

Her career plan is to enter the Foreign Service. “For the Foreign Service, language is crucial,” she says. “You have to be able to communicate in any country. And I anticipate that if I do get into the Foreign Service, I’ll be able to at some point serve in the Middle East or Southeast Asia. . . . This is definitely foundational to everything that I’m hoping to do.”





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### A CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

When **Ashlen Lemon**, a linguistics major and TESOL minor, heard about the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program in Cambodia, the timing felt providential. At the time, Lemon was in Cambodia studying culture and the Khmer language at the Center for Khmer Studies, and she had heard about the Fulbright program through her classmates there. The ETA program seemed like the ideal way for Lemon to come back to Cambodia.

The reality was a little more complicated. When Lemon returned to the US, she applied for and received the Fulbright grant. Her time in Cambodia was supposed to begin in the fall of 2020, but because of COVID-related travel restrictions, she could not go. At that point, Lemon had two options: wait and see whether travel opened up soon—which meant missing other opportunities for something that might never happen—or make other plans for the upcoming year and close the door on her Fulbright opportunity altogether.

Lemon decided to wait and hope, essentially putting her life on hold for the new few months. Her patience paid off when she was finally able to fly to Cambodia in January 2021 to begin her teaching assignment.

Her main placement was at the University of South-East Asia, where she had several assignments. She ran an English club twice a week and cotaught an applied linguistics class, for which she lectured three hours a week about introductory linguistics topics. “My university had not originally planned to assign me this class,” she says, “but when they found out that I have a degree in linguistics, they tailored my responsibilities to fit my experience.” She also held office hours at the university’s American Corner—an initiative through the US embassy in which students and members of the community can access a library of various English-language materials.

Along with her university assignment, Lemon volunteered with the Cambodia Community Dream Organization’s teacher training program and with a group called Kids Play International. “Outside of these main assignments,” Lemon says, “ETAs are also asked to act as cultural ambassadors. Many people [in Cambodia] do not know many Americans, and those they do know are just tourists.” The fun part of her experience as a cultural ambassador was that there was no set structure. Joining locals on outings or even chatting at the supermarket could count as cultural ambassador interactions.

In an interview while still in Cambodia, Lemon spoke about what aspects of the program she enjoyed most: “My favorite parts of my Fulbright experience are my students and experiencing the local culture,” she says. “I love seeing my students try new things and push themselves. It is rewarding to see them grow and improve their English skills. They are also so sweet and respectful of each other and of me. I also love seeing Khmer culture in more depth. I have tried foods I have never heard of, seen historical structures I didn’t know existed, and heard so many different life experiences. I am constantly in awe of this country and the people here, and I am so happy to be participating in a small way.”

Lemon’s time in Cambodia came to an end in September 2021. She’s now back in the United States and is teaching English to speakers of other languages. Lemon says that her



**BEST IN  
FULBRIGHT:** For  
more than 75 years,  
the award has sent  
400k participants  
on exchanges  
worldwide.



*“I am constantly in awe of this country and the people here,  
and I am so happy to be participating in a small way.”*

experience with the Fulbright program was incredibly rewarding in terms of building bridges between cultures, changing perceptions of Americans for those Cambodians she met, and making connections with people from all kinds of backgrounds.

Reflecting on her time in the ETA program, Lemon says, “[It] was exactly what I had been looking for: a way to come back to Cambodia, a country I loved so much, and make a positive impact while also growing personally and professionally.”

## DIPLOMACY SCHOLARSHIP

### THE TANNER SCHOLARSHIP FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMACY: A DEEPER LOOK

**V Jordan Tanner** has had a twenty-seven-year career in the Foreign Service. He, his late wife, **Pat**, and his three sons lived around the world while Tanner held positions at embassies in Korea, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Australia. Tanner was also posted in Washington, DC, and Provo, Utah. After Tanner retired from the Foreign Service, the US Department of State requested that he work with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, where for twenty-six years he was a liaison officer working with leaders from around the world. Jordan has a long history with BYU’s David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies and has led workshops with hundreds of students interested in careers in diplomacy.

In 2018, Jordan and Pat Tanner established the V Jordan and Patricia N. Tanner Endowment Scholarship for American Diplomacy, which provides scholarship assistance for Kennedy Center students interested in pursuing a career in diplomacy.

**A BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH TANNER**  
*Why do you think it’s important for BYU students to pursue careers as Foreign Service officers?*

**Tanner:** In the world we’re living in today, diplomacy has never been so critical. We are faced with a tremendous number of serious issues.

Young people with a variety of academic backgrounds and life experiences are needed in the Foreign Service. It doesn’t matter what their major is at BYU; all majors are needed in the diplomatic service. And for me, there is no finer career that’s available than being a diplomat. I highly encourage students who have the ability and the desire to live abroad and who have an interest in furthering diplomatic relations and furthering the American government’s positions

on important issues to consider joining the Foreign Service.

I have always felt that the Kennedy Center plays a vital role in helping students who are studying to have a career in US diplomacy. David M. Kennedy would be extremely proud of the work of the center’s study program, and I feel tremendously thankful for the many decades I have been associated with the center, including the twenty-six years that I have conducted workshops for students interested in becoming Foreign Service officers.

*What made you decide to establish the scholarship?*

**Tanner:** During the period when I was holding workshops with Kennedy Center students, I recognized that there were students who had financial needs. Pat and I talked about it, and we decided that we’d like to establish an endowment at the David M. Kennedy Center for students interested in careers in diplomacy.

And so far, with what Pat and I have given plus other donations, I think we’re up to about \$195,000. We hope that in the years to come we will have many persons who get into the Foreign Service recognize the needs of others at BYU and decide, “I have been successful in my career, and I want to help other students at BYU.” I would like to encourage both alumni and students—particularly those interested in helping students who want to have careers in government, especially in the Foreign Service—to contribute to the endowment in order for more students to be helped. One of my most important feelings about life is that the best part of life is your ability to help others.

**THE INAUGURAL TANNER  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

In May 2021, **Liam Smith** and **Kara Molnar** became the first BYU students to receive the V Jordan and Patricia N. Tanner Endowment Scholarship for American Diplomacy. Their experiences while at BYU demonstrate their deep commitment to public service and their plans for a career in the US Foreign Service.

Liam Smith holds a bachelor’s degree in American Studies with a minor in Africana Studies from BYU. As an undergraduate student, Smith completed internships in Ghana and Uganda, as well as for the US Mission to the United Nations (USUN). He is currently in his fourth and final year of the JD/MPA program at BYU. While in law school, Smith has interned for USAID in Egypt, USUN in Geneva, and USAID’s Office of the General Counsel. He was one of the first BYU students to be selected as an intern for the State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser, and he has also worked as a legal intern in South Africa for the Office of General Counsel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and as a summer associate for an environmental and natural resources law firm.

Kara Molnar is a senior at BYU studying history and Spanish with minors in mathematics and European Studies. She has completed internships at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, the US embassy in Spain, and the Council on Foreign Relations. She also currently serves as copresident of

*“For me, there is no  
finer career that’s  
available than being  
a diplomat.”*

—V JORDAN TANNER

BYU’s Foreign Service Student Organization and is a teaching assistant with BYU Model United Nations. After she graduates, Molnar plans to spend several years working in Washington, DC, and then attend graduate school for international relations and join the Foreign Service. She speaks French, Russian, and Spanish with an advanced proficiency. “This scholarship provided funding for my studies here at BYU,” she says, “which has allowed me to dedicate a semester to language study—an essential skill set to develop for diplomatic work. Additionally, it assisted me in making valuable connections with professionals in diplomacy who can serve as mentors as I work toward my goal of matriculating into the Foreign Service.”





# Grants

**THE KENNEDY CENTER** encourages high-quality research with an explicit international focus and recognizes that seed monies are often important in incubating such research. Consequently, a limited number of research grants are made available each year to full-time BYU faculty to help them jump-start international-focused research. Examples of research activities include archival research, surveys, field studies, archaeological digs, or small meetings that help faculty collaborate with experts in other countries. Faculty who receive research and travel grants are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the Kennedy Center. Here is a list of the 2020–21 research and travel grant awardees.

## FACULTY RESEARCH AWARDS

The Kennedy Center offers research awards of up to \$5,000 for full-time BYU faculty doing research with an international emphasis.

### 2021

*Anthropology*  
Jacob Hickman

*Asian and Near Eastern Languages*  
Steven Riep

*Comparative Arts and Letters*  
Martha Moffitt Peacock

*Family Life*  
Alexander Jensen

*History*  
Christine Isom-Verhaaren

### 2020

*Ancient Scripture*  
Mark Ellison  
Matthew Grey

*Asian and Near Eastern Languages*  
Kirk Belnap  
Julie Damron  
David Honey  
Spencer Scoville

*Comparative Arts and Letters*  
Marc Yamada

*Geological Sciences*  
Gregory Carling

*History*  
Mark Choate  
Eric Dursteler  
Shawn Miller  
Edward Stratford

*Neal A. Maxwell Institute*  
Catherine Gines Taylor

*Plant and Wildlife Sciences*  
Steven Petersen

*Political Science*  
Celeste Beesley  
Darren Hawkins  
Chad Nelson

*Psychology*  
Niwako Yamawaki

*Public Health*  
Jeff Glenn

*Educational Leadership and Foundations*  
Pamela Hallam

*Music*  
April Clayton  
Geralyn Giovannetti  
Jaren Hinckley  
Laurence Lowe  
Christian Smith

*Spanish and Portuguese*  
James Krause

## RESEARCHING GLOBAL POLITICS

Out of necessity, research conducted in the Global Politics Lab (GPL), a Kennedy Center–supported research lab, has adapted to the pandemic. Unfortunately, says GPL faculty director **Darren Hawkins**, “COVID has made it impossible to travel, and that puts a damper on things for folks like us interested in the world.”

One notable GPL project that is being undertaken by Hawkins recently received a prestigious J. Reuben Clark Award from BYU. It focuses on bureaucrats in Latin American countries. According to Hawkins’s grant proposal, “As essential actors in the public policy process, bureaucrats can profoundly affect how well or poorly a democracy functions. Yet, political science has largely ignored bureaucrats as a critical actor.”

The proposal has four aims: “In Latin America, a region that has continually struggled to sustain high-quality democracies, we seek to better understand: (1) bureaucrats’ role in making and implementing public policy, (2) when and whether they make use of pertinent evidence in that process, (3) their understandings of and level of commitment to democracy, and (4) their relative support for populism.” In their investigation, the team will perform qualitative interviews, surveys, and experiments with bureaucrats from across Latin America.

“In this project,” Hawkins writes, “I wish to evaluate the extent to which Latin American public servants are committed to democratic and gospel-oriented principles of accountability, individual agency, and



evidence-based public policy (rather than interest-group-based policy) and to explore ways to deepen that commitment.”

The Global Politics Lab was founded in 2008 to increase understanding of topics related to development, economics, security issues, and other subjects of interest in the realm of political science. Hosted by the Kennedy Center in partnership with the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences, the GPL focuses on international research with the aim “to inform and influence policy and advance understanding of global problems and solutions.” Its research is featured in top academic journals and in media outlets such as the *Washington Post*’s blog *Monkey Cage*.

## GLOBAL FAMILY RESEARCH LAB

Interested in learning about family patterns around the globe? Check out the research being done by the Global Families Lab. Hosted by and located in the Kennedy Center, this lab collects and collates family-related data from around the globe, ensures the quality of the data, and makes it available to interested parties.

**Spencer James**, associate professor in the BYU School of Family Life and Africana Studies affiliate, is head of the lab. He directs students in collecting and processing the data. The data is made available through the website [globalfamilies.byu.edu](http://globalfamilies.byu.edu), which, as James says, “is designed to be an interactive resource for the public, policymakers, and academics.” While the site is still in the process of being populated with data, there is currently a great deal of information available there. When complete, the website will allow users to access country profiles, global family profiles, and additional resources regarding global family patterns.







# Teach at Universities in China

Open to individuals  
and couples

The China Teachers Program (CTP) is a nonprofit outreach program of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University. Its purpose is to provide capable US teachers to Chinese universities.

Since the program's inception in 1989, more than 1,500 teachers have taught tens of thousands of students at major universities in China. CTP teachers are retired educators and professionals who bring the wisdom and experience of their successful careers to their classes. Their conscientious service benefits Chinese students, host universities, BYU, and the teachers themselves.

Learn more at [kennedy.byu.edu/chinateachers](https://kennedy.byu.edu/chinateachers),  
and watch our new video at

[bit.ly/BYUChinaTeachers](https://bit.ly/BYUChinaTeachers).



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FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

*“If we are not willing to grapple with the  
frustration that comes from honestly and bravely  
facing the uncertainties we encounter, we may  
never develop the kind of spiritual maturity that  
is necessary for our ultimate preparations.”*

**—Bruce C. Hafen**

*“Love Is Not Blind: Some Thoughts for College  
Students on Faith and Ambiguity,”  
BYU devotional address, 9 January 1979*