

The **SUNSTONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION** presents

The Smith-Pettit opening lecture for the  
**2012 SALT LAKE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM**

**Wednesday July 25, 2012 at 8:00 pm**  
**University of Utah Olpin Student Union's Saltair Room**  
**FREE and open to the public**

**MORMONS AND THE NEW POLITICAL RESTORATIONISM**

**Presented by Dr. Mark R. Silk**



Mormonism is often considered a tradition set apart from the rest of American society, but over the past half-century it has become an integral part of the country's political life. From the Equal Rights Amendment through California's Proposition 8, the LDS Church has played a crucial if episodic role in the country's culture wars. As a voting bloc, Mormons have become an anchor of the GOP—the most Republican of any religious grouping. And ideologically, Mormon conceptions of the United States and its founding have helped imbue the Republican Party with a new restorationist political religion. As the Republicans prepare to nominate a Mormon as their presidential nominee, this lecture will examine this new restorationism in the context of national religious politics, showing how it epitomizes the arrival of the Mormon community in the political mainstream.

Professor Silk is the author of *Spiritual Politics: Religion and America Since World War II* and *Unsecular Media: Making News of Religion in America*. He is co-editor of *Religion by Region*, an eight-volume series on religion and public life in the United States, and the co-author of *The American Establishment, Making Capitalism Work*, and *One Nation Divisible: How Regional Religious Differences Shape American Politics*. In 2007, he inaugurated "Spiritual Politics," a blog on religion and American political culture (<http://www.religionnews.com/blogs/mark-silk>) that the Religion News Service began publishing in 2012.

**This lecture is FREE and open to the public.**

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For additional information about Sunstone and the 2012 Salt Lake Symposium, contact:

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