

February Faculty Update

02/24/2026

Mike Ashfield, Chad Ford, Rachel Robison-Greene, and Patrick Mason were awarded a little over \$10,000 for a GPR2 Public Engagement and Impact grant for funding public-facing global philosophy of religion programming.

Mike Ashfield, Rachel Robison-Greene, Patrick Mason, and Michael Otteson were awarded \$1,000 from the American Philosophical Association's Berry Fund for Public Philosophy. The funds from this grant will be used to organize a public-facing panel at the Logan Tabernacle on the question of philosophy's compatibility with the LDS faith.

Mustafa Banister published "[Across Sea and Ocean: Transmitting and Receiving Caliphal Sovereignty Claims between the Late Medieval Cairo Sultanate and the Sultanates of India](#)" in the *Journal of Middle East Medievalists* in a special dossier issue on the Indian Ocean world. **Banister** also published "'Knowledge of the Three Shone in One': Contextualizing al-Sakh#w#'s Perceptions of Islamicate Trilingualism in the #aw# al-L#mi#" in the *Maml#k Studies Review*.

John Crow's book, co-authored with Elizabeth J. Harris, *The Life of Allan Bennett, Bhikkhu Ananda Metteyya* was published by Equinox Publishing Ltd in 2025.

Mark Damen was recently announced as the Norm Jones Faculty Fellow for 2026. **Damen** received \$4,000 in recognition of his work and will hold the title "Norm Jones Faculty Fellow" for the 2026 calendar year.

Chad Ford was [interviewed for a Salt Lake Tribune article by Gordon Monson](#) that discusses **Ford's** journey from sports writer to professor at USU.

Rachel Robison-Greene's op-ed, "[The Temptations of Nostalgia](#)" in *3 Quarks Daily* was recognized by the American Philosophical Association as a winner of their Public Philosophy Op-Ed Contest in 2025.

Rachel Robison-Greene, Charlie Huenemann, and Michael Otteson were invited to talk on UPR's "Access Utah" segment with Tom Williams about World Philosophy Day in November, 2025. You can listen to the segment [here](#).

Amanda Katz, currently in Greece as a Fulbright U.S. Visiting scholar, will be delivering the keynote address for their 4-day symposium *Freedom 250 Seminar: Celebrating 250 years of United States Independence: historic Ties and Democratic Bonds with Greece* in Athens.

Colleen O'Neill's book *Waging Sovereignty: Native Americans and the Transformation of Work in the Twentieth Century* was published by The University of North Carolina Press in February, 2026.

James Sanders recently published an essay titled, "'The World Has Celebrated': The 1860s as Turning Point in the Global History of Colonialism, Republicanism, and Democracy," in the book *Transatlantic Monarchisms in the Americas and Europe, 1812-1868*, edited by Rodrigo Escribano Roca and Rebeca Viñuela Pérez.

Susan Shapiro co-edited a special issue (33.2) of *Mediterranean Studies*, titled "Human Rights as a Developing Concept in the Mediterranean." **Shapiro** wrote the Introduction to the issue, and one of the articles, "The Foundations of Human Rights in Ancient Greek Thought," as well as co-writing the editors' Introduction.

Dominic Sur was invited to give a talk about his current research at the annual conference organized by the [Tsadra Foundation](#). **Sur's** talk, entitled "Old School (nyingma) Philosophical Vajray#na," on November 12th, discussed his ongoing work documenting Tibetan innovation and developments in the history of Buddhist philosophy.