



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



The (Mormon) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Monday, April 4th 2022

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

COR B112

Option to view the talk via Zoom for those unable to come in person will be available – you may be limited to viewing only and quality will differ depending on connection. See [website](#) for details.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints use various overlapping terms of self reference: Members, Saints, Mormons, LDS, Latter-day Saints, etc. More than being a simple matter of interchangeable synonyms, these terms are regularly contested and (re)negotiated both in the official rhetoric of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as we in the daily usage of Latter-day Saints themselves. In this talk, I highlight relatively recent public instances of negotiation concerning these terms of self reference. While some observers see these negotiations as a novel or contemporary development, I argue that they more accurately understood as the social linguistic manifestation of an important tension built into the foundational truth claims of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In doing so, I draw attention to the way these different terms of self reference do different kinds of social work when they are deployed.

EVERYONE WELCOME