

# PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

**BYU** School of Family Life

SUMMER

SUMMER

**2019 - 2020**

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August 31, 2020



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## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Faculty and students from Brigham Young University's School of Family Life continue to produce public scholarship aimed at informing both local and national audiences on marriage and family life. Where appropriate, they also engage constructively on matters of core importance to Brigham Young University and its institutional sponsor.

This report documents these contributions, which, over the past year, have reached influential audiences that total in the hundreds of thousands. From the *New York Times* to the *Institute for Family Studies*, faculty are participating in influential national conversations; and, in venues such as the *Ensign* or the *Deseret News*, faculty are helping BYU's core constituents navigate contemporary complexities with informed, research-based perspectives aligned with the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

This year has also seen the flourishing of student participation in public scholarship. Aided by the dedicated work of faculty members, especially Julie Haupt, Stephen Duncan, Jeffrey Dew and Chelom Leavitt, among many others, the School of Family Life is working to refine student writing into publishable articles that meaningfully contribute to the public discourse. Many students are now regularly drafting pieces with faculty and publishing in notable venues.

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This year, faculty published 100 public scholarship articles with 44 instances of additional media attention. About 16% of these contributions had a direct focus on The Church of Jesus Christ. In some instances the pieces helped correct or respond to misinformation. Articles by faculty and students working together totaled 22 pieces; approximately 10% were focused on a Church audience. Students published more than 90 pieces, and about 16% of those were oriented toward a Church audience.

Observations garnered from these public scholarship efforts include the following:

- On research reports and major public writing efforts, the School of Family Life benefits from internal university links (e.g., the Wheatley Institution, etc.) as well as external collaborations (e.g., the Institute for Family Studies). The School of Family Life will look for additional avenues to catalyze such scholarly cooperation across campus and beyond.
- Through increased focus and emphasis, the School of Family Life is increasing its output of high quality, impactful public scholarship in a variety of venues.
- Faculty have found success in augmenting the impact of their writing by sharing ideas simultaneously with local and national audiences, reaching thought leaders within the academy and policy arenas as well as with BYU's core constituencies.

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- Faculty are increasingly mentoring students in public scholarship efforts, co-authoring articles and refining student-initiated pieces; these efforts have shown great promise to expand experiential learning efforts within the School.
  - The School of Family Life has largely focused on written media, but is prudently exploring other mediums for sharing its work such as podcasts, radio, television, and digital avenues.

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## B. FACULTY MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

The following are examples of public scholarship produced by faculty from Brigham Young University's School of Family Life during Spring/Summer 2019 through Spring/Summer 2020.

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## **“Ties that Bind: Is Faith a Global Force for Good or Ill in the Family?” [Report]**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES & THE WHEATLEY INSTITUTION

May 2019

A number of School of Family Life faculty, including Jason Carroll, Spencer James, David Dollahite, and Loren Marks contributed to an 11-country report on the impacts of religion on family life. The results of the study suggest that “highly religious couples enjoy higher-quality relationships and more sexual satisfaction, compared to less/mixed religious couples and secular couples.” Study results were highlighted in a number of national and local media outlets, including the *New York Times* and the *New York Post*.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“Religious Men Can Be Devoted Dads, Too.”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

May 19, 2019

#### **“The Ties That Bind”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

May 20, 2019

#### **“Which Is Better for Families — Traditional, Religious Gender Roles or Secular Ones?”**

DESERET NEWS

May 20, 2019

#### **“The Sexual Revolutionaries Got Sexual Satisfaction All Wrong”**

NATIONAL REVIEW

May 26, 2019

#### **“What Makes Happy Marriages, Left and Right”**

NEW YORK POST

May 27, 2019

#### **“The Happiest Wives: The J-Curve in Women’s Marital Quality”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES\

May 30, 2019

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## “Religious Men Can Be Devoted Dads, Too”

THE NEW YORK TIMES

May 18, 2019

The New York Times

W. Bradford Wilcox, Jason Carroll, and Laurie DeRose compare wives' marital satisfaction among secular and highly religious couples, while considering familial ideology—progressive or traditional. Both progressive secular couples and traditional religious couples display high marital satisfaction—the authors analyze why such outcomes might be present in both feminist and faithful couples with the common variable being devoted fathers.

Opinion

## Religious Men Can Be Devoted Dads, Too

Faith, like feminism, sets high expectations for husbands.

By W. Bradford Wilcox, Jason S. Carroll and Laurie DeRose

The authors are collaborators on a new report about marriage, faith and families.

May 18, 2019

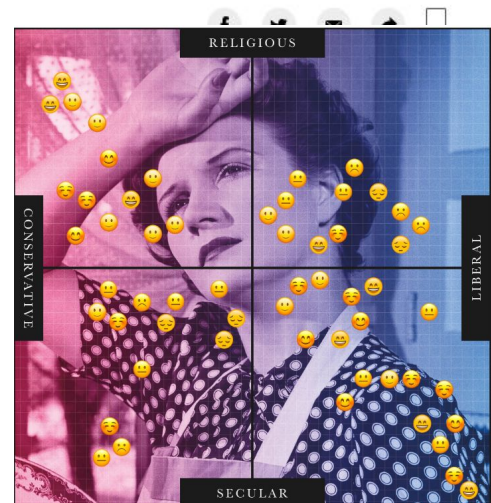


Illustration by Na Kim; photograph by Lambert/Fototrove, via Getty Images Plus

### ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

## “Faith Leads to ‘Devoted Dads’ and Better Marriages, Authors of New Report Argue in The New York Times”

DESERET NEWS

May 19, 2019

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## **“Are Religious Faith and Sexual Satisfaction Mutually Exclusive—or Surprisingly Mutual?”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

May 16, 2019

Scholars Jeffrey Dew and Brian Willoughby discuss the expound on a recently published study in *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* examining the link between religiosity and sexual satisfaction for married couples.

## **“Faithful Fathering: Ten Narratives of Wisdom from Fathers of Different Faiths”**

MERIDIAN MAGAZINE

June 13, 2019



LATTER-DAY SAINTS SHAPING THEIR WORLD

Drawing on their extensive field research, Loren Marks and David C. Dollahite distill ten lessons on fatherhood from interviews with religious dads of differing faith traditions.



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## “What You Lose When You Diss the Public Good of Marriage”

NATIONAL REVIEW

July 10, 2019

Responding to an article from *The Atlantic*, Alan Hawkins analyzes the claim that marriage diminishes social interactions. Additionally, Hawkins explores how society values, such as loyalty, sexual fidelity, stable parenting, etc. are all best achieved through marital relationships.



### ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

## “What You Lose When You Diss the Public Good of Marriage”

YAHOO NEWS

July 10, 2019



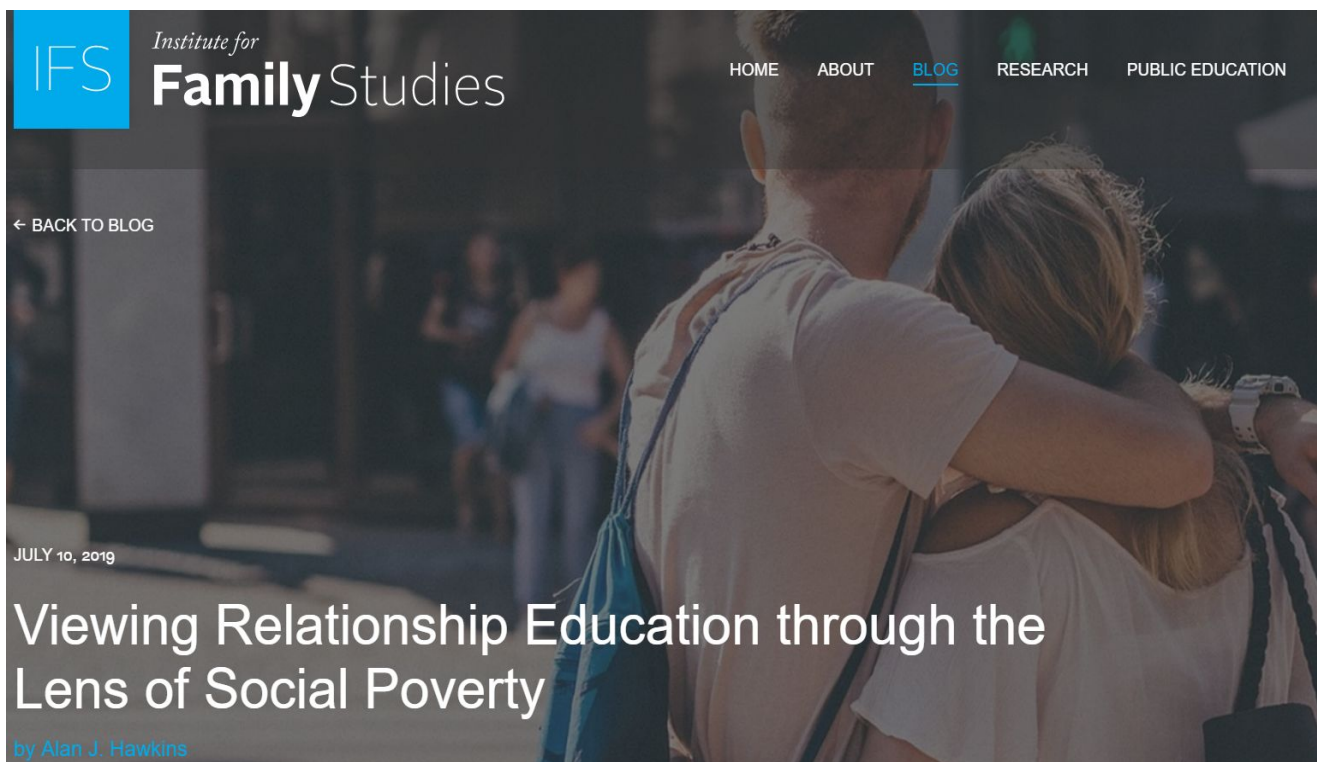
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## [“Viewing Relationship Education through the Lens of Social Poverty”](#)

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

July 10, 2019

Professor Alan Hawkins provides an informed analysis and review of Sarah Halpern-Meekin’s new book, [Social Poverty: Low-income Parents and the Struggle for Family and Community Ties](#), discussing the impact of government-funded education programs that aim to help lower-income couples improve marital relationships.



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## **“iFidelity: Interactive Technology and Relationship Faithfulness” [Report]**

THE NATIONAL MARRIAGE PROJECT, THE WHEATLEY INSTITUTION, & THE SCHOOL OF FAMILY LIFE

July 2019

BYU School of Family Life faculty members, Jeffrey Dew, Spencer James, and Betsy VanDenBerghe contributed to the “iFidelity” report which published significant findings regarding how technology affects faithfulness within marriage.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“Social Indicators of Marital Health and Well-Being” [Chapter]**

THE NATIONAL MARRIAGE PROJECT, THE WHEATLEY INSTITUTION & THE SCHOOL OF FAMILY LIFE REPORT

July, 2019

#### **“Marriage and Fidelity in the Internet Age”**

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

August 6, 2019

#### **“Fidelity Report with Jeffrey Dew”**

KSL RADIO

August 9, 2019

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## **“Flirting Online and Relationship Troubles Go Hand-in-Hand, Even if No One Finds Out, New Research Shows”**

THE WASHINGTON POST

August 6, 2019

**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

Scholars W. Bradford Wilcox, Jeffrey Dew, and Betsy VanDenBerghe published a piece in the *Washington Post* drawing on the “iFidelity” report findings. Specifically, they focused on how technology has made online flirting (often with former romantic partners) a growing gateway for broken relationships.



Inspired Life

### **Flirting online and relationship troubles go hand-in-hand, even if no one finds out, new research shows**

Younger Americans and cohabiting couples have an especially hard time resisting Internet temptations.

## **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

### **“Flirting Online and Relationship Troubles Go Hand-in-Hand, Even if No One Finds Out, New Research Shows”**

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

August 6, 2019

### **“Flirting Online and Relationship Troubles Go Hand-in-hand, Even if No One Finds Out”**

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

August 7, 2019

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## **“David Dollahite: Bishop Interviews in the LDS Church.”**

**UPLIFT [AUDIO PODCAST]**

August 13, 2019

David Dollahite joined podcast host, Leo Winegar, to discuss the role Latter-day Saint bishop interviews can play within the faith tradition.

## **“Are Federally Supported Relationship Education Programs for Lower-income Individuals and Couples Working? A Review of Evaluation Research” [Report]**

**AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE**

September 3, 2019

In a review of research on federally-funded relationship programs, Alan Hawkins illuminates findings which paint a slightly more optimistic



picture than what’s been portrayed by those “convinced that this policy initiative was a resounding failure.” Hawkins’ analysis shows the long-term results of these programs, suggesting some positive results worth further study and investment.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Are Federally Supported Relationship Education Programs Working?”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

December 10, 2019

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## **“Our Porn Problem Has a True Christian Solution”**

**DESERET NEWS**

September 5, 2019

Responding to University of Oklahoma sociologist Samuel L. Perry, Hal Boyd makes the case that “when guilt and sin burden the soul, the solution isn’t to run from religion or to chip away at divine ideals...[but rather] the solution is to embrace them more deeply.”

## **“How Abusers Use Denial to Excuse Themselves and Blame Others”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

September 12, 2019

Jason Whiting describes the chronic defensiveness of abusers who don’t accept responsibility for their actions and often play the victim by denying the wrongs they’ve committed.

## **“Sex, Childbearing and Family Life Are More Complicated Than Graphs Can Communicate”**

**DESERET NEWS**

September 20, 2019

Analyzing recent Deseret News survey results on public perceptions about the state of marriage and divorce, Hal Boyd discusses why trends in contemporary family life may merit a more nuanced discussion than what often fits into headlines.

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## **“How Depletion Is Draining Your Marriage”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

September 26, 2019

Jason Whiting explains how mental, emotional, and physical fatigue can affect more than personal well-being—it can also harm marriages. He describes signs of fatigue and how it clouds judgement to make good decisions.

## **“Spencer James: Falling in Love”**

**THE APPLE SEED [RADIO/AUDIO PODCAST]**

October 2, 2019

Radio personality Sam Payne interviews professor Spencer James about research on love and relationships.



## **“Why Shame a Mother for Wanting to Be a Mother?”**

**DESERET NEWS**

October 13, 2019

Scholar Jenet Erickson discusses the challenge presented to the many mothers who are working far more hours than they would prefer.

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## **“The Church Does Not Support Conversion Therapy, But That Doesn’t Fit in Some Headlines”**

**DESERET NEWS**

October 17, 2019



Psychology PhD Jacob Hess and Hal Boyd point out that some media coverage regarding The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ position on conversion therapy didn’t properly reflect the Church’s actual public position on the issue.



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“The Well-being of Youth Shouldn’t Be a Zero-sum Battle”**

**PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE**

October 17, 2019

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## **“Declining Divorce in Jacksonville: Did the Culture of Freedom Initiative Make a Difference?” [Report]**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

October 2019

Spencer James, alongside sociologists Bradford Wilcox and Wendy Wang, produced a report evaluating the Culture of Freedom Initiative, a project seeking to improve family life and marital relationships in Jacksonville, Florida. The analysis shows promising results for these types of programs.



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

**“Declining Divorce in Jacksonville: Did the Culture of Freedom Initiative Make a Difference?”**

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

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## “Divorce Rates Are Falling, but Put a Hold on the Celebration”

NATIONAL REVIEW

October 31, 2019

Alan Hawkins and Betsy Vandenberghe analyze how both young adults and certain families are still suffering from the consequences of divorce. Whether from observing failed marriages or participating in unstable familial environments, these two groups of our society remain affected by divorce, even while divorce rates in certain pockets of society are decreasing.

### ≡ NATIONAL REVIEW

CULTURE

## Divorce Rates Are Falling, but Put a Hold on the Celebration

By ALAN J. HAWKINS & BETSY VANDENBERGHE | October 31, 2019 6:30 AM



Listen to this article



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## “Journalism’s Uncomfortable Marriage to Non-monogamy”

MERCATORNET

November 8, 2019

A number of recent

documentaries and articles

embellish consensual

non-monogamous

relationships, resulting in somewhat inaccurate or even misleading information for both couples and society. Hal Boyd and Alan Hawkins emphasize the need for journalists to produce more objective portrayals that also show the challenges to family life presented by non-monogamous pairings.



Uncategorized

### **Journalism’s uncomfortable marriage to non-monogamy**

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## **“You Aren’t Going to Change Your Spouse, So Deal With It”**

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

November 13, 2019

Jason Whiting teaches couples how to embrace their differences, rather than try to always combat them. Whiting gives four main suggestions—embrace conflict, accept differences, have a voice, and respect both sides—in order to address spousal differences.



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## **“The Thread Between BYU’s Honor Code and LGBTQ Activism”**

**DESERET NEWS**

November 17, 2019

In this article, Hal Boyd underscores that LGBTQ individuals at the time lacked federal nondiscrimination protections and points to the efforts by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to support a “Fairness for All” coalition to expand federal nondiscrimination protections while also balancing First Amendment rights.

## **“Searching For God (Instead of Ideas About Him)”**

**PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE**

November 25, 2019

Betsy VanDenBerghe writes movingly about how faith crises are sometimes rooted in a set of beliefs or opposition to certain beliefs rather than a rich relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Searching For God (Instead of Ideas About Him)”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

December 2, 2019

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## **“Conversion Therapy, The Church and Utah’s Culture of Compromise”**

**DESERET NEWS**

November 27, 2019

This article by Hal Boyd discusses Utah’s spirit of compromise and cooperation regarding sometimes complex political and social issues.

## **“Spencer James: Keeping Kids and Your Privacy Safe Online for Cyber Monday”**

**THE DOUG WRIGHT SHOW [RADIO/AUDIO PODCAST]**

December 2, 2019

KSL’s Doug Wright interviews Professor Spencer James regarding the impact of out-of-wedlock births in the state of Utah.



## **“Ebenezer Scrooge and Our Current Culture of Loneliness”**

**DESERET NEWS**

December 8, 2019

In a seasonally appropriate column, Jenet Erickson discusses how to overcome our culture of loneliness through family and greater social cohesion.

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## **“Why Do They Tithe? Perspectives on Giving Back to God”**

**MERIDIAN MAGAZINE**

December 10, 2019

Loren Marks, David Dollahite, and Jeffrey Dew explore reasons why religious individuals tithe from their research as part of the American Families of Faith research project.

## **“Monogamy—Yea or Nay?”**

**WEB TALK RADIO [RADIO/AUDIO PODCAST]**

December 17, 2019

Alan Hawkins discusses monogamy and emerging cultural discussions surrounding non-monogamy.

## **“The Washington Post Says The Church of Jesus Christ has Billions. Thank Goodness”**

**DESERET NEWS**

December 17, 2019

This article, written by Hal Boyd and Lynn Chapman, a PhD in public policy, responding to a *Washington Post* story about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' finances received nearly 250,000 page views over the course of a week.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Rod Arquette Show Daily Rundown”**

**KNRS [RADIO/AUDIO PODCAST]**

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## **“Emerging BYU Scholars Kindle the Fire of the Future”**

**DESERET NEWS**

December 29, 2019

This article discusses the writings efforts of BYU students in the School of Family Life which “provide both practical and theoretical information to support our most cherished relationships and institutions.”

## **“The Counterfeit ‘Honesty’ of Polyamory”**

**NATIONAL REVIEW**

January 7, 2020

Many who promote polyamorous relationships uphold these types of relationships as advancing “radical honesty,” claiming that they allow for more freedom and transparency in

relationships. However, in an effort to clarify the ramifications of “radical honesty,” Daniel Frost and Hal Boyd present the characteristics of another kind of honesty within marriage--that of living up to marital commitments such as fidelity.



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“The Counterfeit ‘Honesty’ of Polyamory”**

**YAHOO NEWS**

January 7, 2020

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## **8 Reasons Women Stay in Abusive Relationships”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

January 8, 2020

Jason Whiting uses real-life experiences and research to explain why it is harder for victims of abuse to leave the relationship than most people might assume. Victims of abuse may stay in a relationship because of distorted thoughts, damaged self-esteem, financial stress, familial responsibilities, fear, or isolation.



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“Harvey Weinstein’s Attorney Asks ‘Why Did She Stay’?”**

**FORBES**

February 5, 2020



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## “Changing the Screen-time Debate”

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

January 9, 2020

Parents often worry about the amount of time their children spend on social media. Recent studies suggest that the way in which children use social media is, in fact, more predictive of mental health than the amount of time they spend

on it. Scholar Sarah Coyne helps parents go from a restricting screen time mentality to helping teach constructive media use. Using two hypothetical teenagers as examples, Coyne shows the difference between active and passive social media use, illustrating potentially positive interactions with social media.



### ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

## “Why Reducing Screen Time Won’t Fix the Mental Health Crisis”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

February 11, 2020

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## **“Loren Marks & David Dollahite: ‘Holy Script!’ Sacred Text in the Home”**

ONE PAGE PODCAST [AUDIO PODCAST]

January 12, 2020

Loren Marks and David Dollahite discuss their research on sacred texts in the home with podcast hosts, Amanda Fristrom and Jill Berrett Given.

## **“More Women are in the Workforce than Men. Should We Celebrate or Be Concerned?”**

DESERET NEWS

January 19, 2020

Jenet Erickson examines a recent phenomenon of having more women than men in the workforce.

## **“How Parents Pass their Religious Beliefs on to Children, Knowing They May Walk Away”**

DESERET NEWS

January 23, 2020

This article by journalist Lois Collins discusses the research of Loren Marks and David Dollahite on religious parenting.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“How Parents Pass Religion on to Children, Who May Reject It”**

REAL CLEAR RELIGION

January 30, 2020

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## **“Fight or Flight’ or Love”**

ENSIGN February 2020

Connecting with family members while feeling stressed, angry, or fearful can be difficult, especially when the natural reaction is to “fight or flight.” Lee Johnson and AnnaLisa Carr discuss how to respond productively in those moments by making lifestyle changes and practicing appropriate responses in the moment.

## **“Fight or Flight” or Love?**

By Lee N. Johnson, PhD, and AnnaLisa Carr, MS, PhD Student

How to achieve a “connecting” response when our emotions are high.



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## **“Loren Marks & David Dollahite: Loving Your Spouse and Your Sacred Text”**

ONE PAGE PODCAST [AUDIO PODCAST]

February 4, 2020

Loren Marks and David Dollahite delve further into their research on relationships and sacred texts with podcast hosts, Amanda Fristrom and Jill Berrett Given.

## **“Romney’s Vote to Convict and What a Christian Conscience Demands”**

DESERET NEWS

February 5, 2020

In an article seeking to infuse more charity into the political conversation, Hal Boyd discusses how people of faith can understand sensitive political issues differently.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“The Link Between Mitt Romney’s Impeachment Vote And His Faith**

NPR [RADIO INTERVIEW]



#### **“Mitt Romney Is a ‘Judas’ to Many Republicans. But Not in Utah”**

NEW YORK TIMES

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## **“The Best Practices—and Benefits—of Religious Parenting”**

**PUBLIC DISCOURSE**

February 6, 2020

Analyzing social science research, David Dollahite, Loren Marks, and Hal Boyd detail several benefits and potential challenges related to religious integration in the home by outlining a series of practical best practices.



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## **“Guest Opinion: Changing Our Sexual Culture Starts With a Focus on Morality”**

**DESERET NEWS**

February 9, 2020

OPINION GUEST OPINIONS

### **Guest opinion: Changing our sexual culture starts with a focus on morality**

By Daniel Frost and Jenet Jacob Erickson, Contributor | Feb 9, 2020, 8:00am MST  
For the *Deseret News*



Daniel Frost and Jenet Erickson discuss solutions to society’s broken sexual culture, which they write nudges “boys toward disrespect and detachment in intimate encounters.”

## **“Rebuilding Failed Institutions: How to Restore the American Dream”**

**DESERET NEWS**

February 9, 2020

Hal Boyd reviews a new book by thinker Yuval Levin about how to restore important societal institutions such as marriage, family, and religion.

## **“Hal Boyd: Eliminating the Hyphens in Disciple-Scholar”**

**LDS LIVING—ALL IN [AUDIO PODCAST]**

February 12, 2020

Podcast host Morgan Jones of *LDS Living* sits down with Hal Boyd to discuss engaging on issues related to faith and family in the public square.

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## “Rock and Religion: The Pursuit of Everlasting Love”

PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE

February 13, 2020

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PUBLIC SQUARE *Magazine*

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# ROCK AND RELIGION: THE PURSUIT OF EVERLASTING LOVE

February 13, 2020



David Dollahite and Loren Marks appeal to both a musical and religious audience as they combine rock and roll music with love and religion. Although many rock and roll lyrics promote superficial sex, some communicate a message that most people search for--enduring and committed love. Using both research and unique rock and roll references, Dollahite and Marks

emphasize the underlying human desire to have an eternal and marital companionship.

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## “Romantic Love and Religion—A Match Made in Heaven?”

REAL CLEAR RELIGION

February 14, 2020

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Davidollahite and Loren  
Marks combine both  
religion and empirical



evidence to analyze the similarities and complementary characteristics between religion and romantic love. Religion not only helps to improve sexuality and romantic devotion, but it also serves as a foundation of how to endure day-to-day struggles.

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## **“Equal Partnership Marriage In An Individualistic America”**

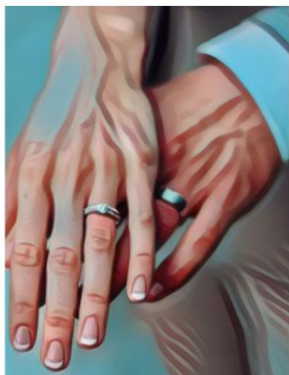
**PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE**

February 17, 2020

Using principles from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Professor Julie Haupt helps an individualistic America recognize the viable rewards of an equal partnership union. She emphasizes the importance of maximizing each spouse’s unique talents, while also maintaining equal governorship in the family; thus, dismissing selfish tendencies of the individual.

PUBLIC SQUARE *Magazine*

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## **EQUAL PARTNERSHIP MARRIAGE IN AN INDIVIDUALISTIC AMERICA**

February 17, 2020

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Equal Partnership Marriage in an Individualistic America”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

February 19, 2020

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## **“Addicted Utah: The Debate around Porn Addiction—Interview with Brian Willoughby”**

KUTV

February 18, 2020



KUTV sat down to interview scholar Brian Willoughby regarding the state of research when it comes to pornography and addiction.



## **“The Family Advantage”**

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE-HARDLY WORKING PODCAST [AUDIO PODCAST]

February 19, 2020

Professors Alan Hawkins and Bradford Wilcox engage on issues related to family and marriage on the podcast for the American Enterprise Institute.



## “Four Factors That Help Women Leave Abusive Relationships”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

February 21, 2020

Many women tell their stories and reasons for leaving abusive relationships on Twitter and other

social media platforms. Therefore, Jason Whiting and several colleagues examined hundreds of these Twitter posts, organizing them into the four most common reasons why women leave their abusive relationships.

**Psychology Today**

Find a Therapist ▾Get Help ▾Magazine ▾Today ▾

Find a Therapist (City or Zip)



Jason Whiting Ph.D.  
Love, Lies and Conflict

### Four Factors That Help Women Leave Abusive Relationships

Escaping violence isn't easy, but research shows what helps survivors get free.

Posted Feb 21, 2020





## **“The Nuclear Family Is Still Indispensable”**

THE ATLANTIC

February 21, 2020

W. Bradford Wilcox and  
Hal Boyd respond to  
media and literature that

seem to highlight the “disintegration of the  
nuclear family.” They analyze contemporary  
research to argue that the nuclear family not  
only predicts upward mobility, but continues to  
remain indispensable to community success.

### IDEAS

## The Nuclear Family Is Still Indispensable

Rumors of its demise have been greatly exaggerated—and it remains the stablest environment in which to raise children.

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

**W. Bradford Wilcox**

Senior fellow at the Institute for Family Studies

**Hal Boyd**

Associate professor of family law and policy at  
Brigham Young University



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS / GETTY

## **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

### **“‘Ward Families’ May Account for Utah’s Marriage Success”**

DESERET NEWS

February 21, 2020

### **“The Nuclear Family Is Still Indispensable”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

February 21, 2020

### **“Is It Time to Kiss the Nuclear Family Goodbye?”**

MERCATORNET

February 24, 2020

### **“We Need to Shore Up the Ecology Around the Family”**

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

February 24, 2020- *A response by David Brooks.*

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## “Achieving Oneness in Marriage”

ENSIGN March 2020

# Achieving Oneness in Marriage

By Alan J. Hawkins, PhD, Director of the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University, and Laura Waters Black

With God’s loving guidance, a husband and wife can form a special, unbreakable, eternal bond.



Illustrations by Justin Wheatley

Alan Hawkins and BYU student, Laura Waters Black explain the importance of achieving oneness in marriage and also offer a guide to achieving such unity—they explain that it requires sustained effort by both husband and wife.

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## “The Strengths and Challenges of Contemporary Marriages of Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”

BYU STUDIES QUARTERLY

March 2020

Research from scholars Dean M. Busby and David C. Dollahite looks at the unique marital values, processes, practices, and outcomes among married members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The findings suggest that Latter-day Saint relationships benefit in ways that research had not fully analyzed.



ARTICLE FROM JOURNAL 59:1



PDF (Download) \$0.00

Download PDF

### The Strengths and Challenges of Contemporary Marriages of Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Author: Dean M. Busby, Author: David C. Dollahite

Research indicates that religious adherence leads to a higher quality of marriage and family life: greater physical and mental health, positive psychological outcomes in adolescence, transformation in marital relationships, reduced anxiety, marital stability, reduced domestic violence,

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## “Proactive Parenting”

ENSIGN March 2020

Given how many distractions and temptations surround youth today, Laura Padilla-Walker emphasizes the need to practice proactive parenting. She teaches parents how to protect, prepare, and respect their children.

# Proactive Parenting

By Laura Padilla-Walker

*Professor, School of Family Life at Brigham Young University*

We shouldn't wait to arm our children against the evils of the world.



Illustrations by Roger Motzkus

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## **“Healthy Religion is Good for American Families”**

**DESERET NEWS**

February 29, 2020

In an opinion piece, David Dollahite and Loren Marks argue that a healthy form of faith remains a positive influence on families and society.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Healthy Religion is Good for American Families”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

March 10, 2020

## **“BYU and the Temptation of Campus Activism”**

**DESERET NEWS**

March 9, 2020

Amid a growing campus protest culture, this article argues that public campus expressions have an important role but that the core purpose of campus life at any university remains the intellectual and moral formation of students.

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## “Tweeting With a Teacher: Using Social Media With Students”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

March 23, 2020



Due to the difficulties of in-person education during COVID-19, Sarah Coyne shares a variety of ways that teachers have continued educating their students through

social media. She gives particular attention to the benefits of remote learning for low-income families. Teachers who give one-on-one direction via social media may help low-income children improve academically.



Sarah M. Coyne  
The Right Media Mindset

### Tweeting With a Teacher: Using Social Media With Students

How social media use by teachers might help students thrive.

Posted Mar 23, 2020



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## **“Apocalyptic Fear and Authentic Faith”**

**MERCATORNET**

March 25, 2020

David Dollahite and Loren Marks examine the advantages of home worship during COVID-19’s quarantine. Research and personal experience from a variety of religion adherents lend insights into incorporating religious routines into family life. Dollahite and Marks emphasize the benefits of the small, but significant religious activities that can help to increase mental, relational, and physical health.



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Apocalyptic Fear and Authentic Faith”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

March 25, 2020

## **“Genuine Faith Practiced at Home Is a Powerful Antidote to Apocalyptic Fear”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

April 2, 2020

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## “Keeping Your Relationship Healthy During the Coronavirus”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

March 25, 2020



Jason Whiting Ph.D.  
Love, Lies and Conflict

### Keeping Your Relationship Healthy During the Coronavirus

During stressful and cramped times, partners need soothing.

Posted Mar 25, 2020



In response to  
unaccustomed  
marital and  
relational stressors,

Jason Whiting uses his expertise to provide advice for struggling couples during the Coronavirus pandemic. Rather than emit frustration, Whiting suggests that couples can find ways to help each other during such a difficult and stressful time.



Specifically, he says to focus on basic  
needs and kind language.

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## “No Fever? That Doesn’t Mean Your Relationship Health Is Good Right Now”

DESERET NEWS

March 26, 2020



OPINION | GUEST OPINIONS | CORONAVIRUS

### **No fever? That doesn’t mean your relationship health is good right now**

Here are 7 tips for forging stronger ties with those you love most during the COVID-19 outbreak

By Angela Bradford, Contributor and Hal Boyd, Contributor | Mar 26, 2020, 12:59pm MDT |

f t SHARE

Relational stress has been overwhelming for many families during

COVID-19. Angela Bradford and Hal Boyd give suggestions about how to cope with the constant presence of family members during quarantine. While validating the difficulty of the situation, they give instructions for how to prioritize familial relationships. They give specific examples of how to implement forgiveness, empathy, self-care, family rituals, and realistic expectations into daily life.

April 3, 2020

Utah's unique religious, family-oriented culture (its young population, low rates of smoking, and alcohol consumption) present both advantages and

challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hal Boyd discusses them in a series of articles.



## Hal Boyd - 4/3/2020

As COVID-19 continues to spread, many Utahns aren't staying home.



April 13, 2020

April 17, 2020

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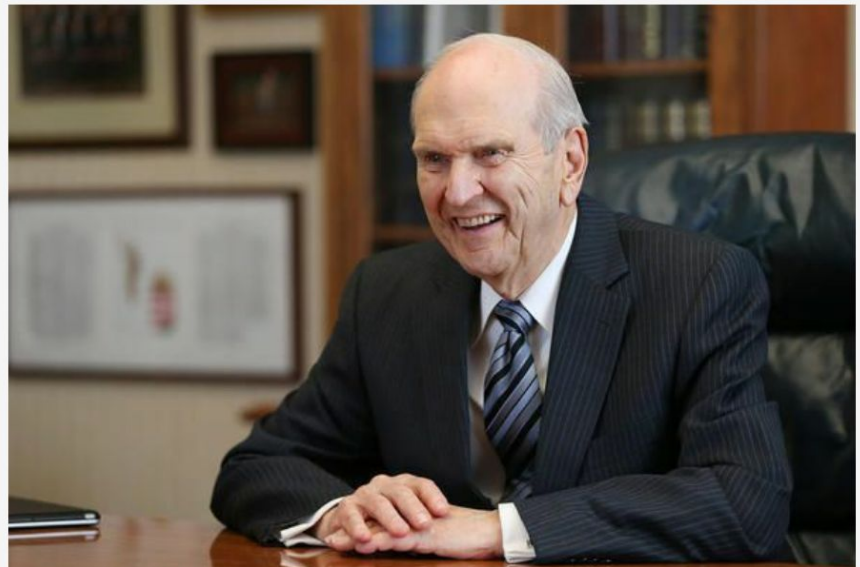
## “A Letter from the Prophet to a (former) Unbeliever”

LDS LIVING

April 8, 2020

Working with Craig S. Fisher, Loren Marks discusses the inspiring message of Church President Russell M. Nelson. For Fisher, the Prophet’s message changed his life and led to his membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LDSLiving



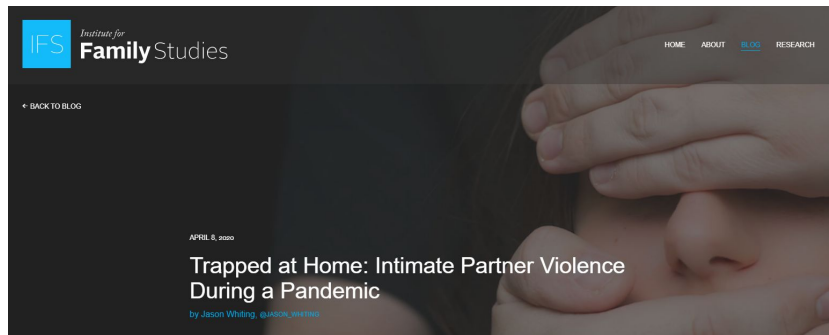
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## **“Trapped at Home: Intimate Partner Violence During a Pandemic”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

April 10, 2020

The Coronavirus has created unemployment, financial stress, and fear of contagion throughout the world.



Unfortunately, such new and overwhelming stressors have invoked more domestic abuse. Despite the resources available, many have decreased due to ramifications from COVID-19 (domestic violence shelters, police force, etc.). While acknowledging all of these variables, Jason Whiting gives encouraging advice to those who may be stuck in an abusive relationship during quarantine.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“What to Do If You're Isolated with an Abuser During the Pandemic, According to Women's Shelter and Anti-Domestic Violence Advocates”**

**BUSINESS INSIDER**

June 28, 2020

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## **“One Blessing of Coronavirus Quarantine: Enforced Family Time”**

**DESERET NEWS**

April 12, 2020

Jenet Erickson explores the importance of family time for developing child-parent relationships during the pandemic.

## **“In the Midst of a Pandemic, Join Together in Fasting”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

April 13, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, President Russell M. Nelson called upon people of all faiths to participate in a worldwide fast to help relieve the world of the suffering involved in the current health crisis. Rob Eaton, Soren Schmidt, and Hal Boyd extend this invitation to families and individuals of all faith backgrounds.

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## **“Criticism of The Church’s COVID-19 Aid Was Premature”**

**DESERET NEWS**

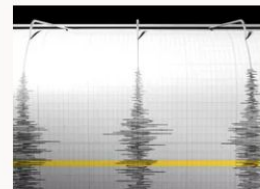
April 15, 2020

This article responds to premature criticism that, at the beginning of the pandemic, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was insufficiently engaged in humanitarian efforts to help those suffering. The article received more than 70,000 pageviews online.

### **Most Read**



Criticism of the Church of Jesus Christ's COVID-19 aid was premature



### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“A Response to Commentators Who Criticized Conference”**

**LDS LIVING**

April 16, 2020

## **“Holy Weeks in the Shadow of Death”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

April 17, 2020

To encourage hope during the pandemic, David Dollahite draws on interviews with families of faith conducted during the first Holy Week that followed 9/11.

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## **“Parents, You Can Stop Feeling Guilty About Screen Time”**

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

April 21, 2020

With the growing

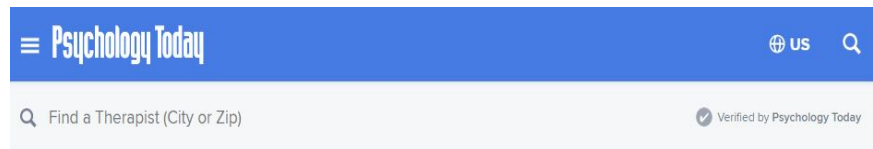
prominence of screens in

households, especially

during a time where many

families are quarantined,

it’s easy to get anxious about children’s screen usage. Sarah Coyne discusses how families that are active and mindful about the way they utilize media can help alleviate anxiety and feel more in control of the ever-pervasive technology that surrounds us.



Sarah M. Coyne  
The Right Media Mindset

### **Parents, You Can Stop Feeling Guilty About Screen Time**

Why technology use feels different during a pandemic.

Posted Apr 21, 2020



## **“The Short-term Impact of COVID-19 on Families”**

THE WHEATLEY INSTITUTION

April 22, 2020

While COVID-19 has allowed some families to spend more quality time together in quarantine, other families struggle with added stressors. Brian Willoughby gives several suggestions for how families might deal with the new stressors that COVID-19 brings.

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## **“Turning the Coronavirus Crisis Into a Crucible”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

April 22, 2020

Public health crises around the world can be both a turbulent and meaningful time for families. Sarah Coyne equates the public restrictions in response to the global pandemic



to a crucible that can lead to greater personal and familial growth. To make meaning out of a world where parents are the teachers and children are left inside, families can make meaning out of the current health crisis by viewing it as situational, building family family identity, understanding where one can grow, and practicing patience with oneself.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Turning the Corona-Crisis Into a Corona-Crucible”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

May 1, 2020

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## “Coronavirus Porn is the Latest Violent and Disturbing Internet Trend”

THE INDEPENDENT

April 27, 2020

Pornographers are capitalizing on the current global



Contribute

Subscribe

LOGIN



### *Coronavirus porn is the latest violent and disturbing internet trend*

Just because it can be difficult to isolate and quantify the direct harm of pornography doesn't mean it should be exempt from public scrutiny

pandemic by producing more violent and taboo content, a growing trend that should spark the attention of policy makers. While all youth who do view pornography aren't suddenly transformed into criminals, pornography can adversely alter sexual triggers and exacerbate predispositions toward aggression. Daryl Austin, Hal Boyd, and Jason Carroll call for greater oversight and regulations in hopes of a healthier tomorrow.

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## “Living Well With Depression—My Personal Journey”

PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE

April 29, 2020

PUBLIC SQUARE *Magazine*

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# LIVING WELL WITH DEPRESSION—MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

April 29, 2020

Scholar Mark H. Butler provides principles that aided him in his own journey with depression. Incredibly and incrementally, Butler has found appropriate and personal depression combatants that, when cultivated mindfully, may help individuals live well with depression.



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MARK H. BUTLER

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## **“Holy Envy: What We Learn By Studying Other Faiths”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

May 4, 2020

David Dollahite explores the wisdom that his own students have garner from learning about other faith traditions.

## **“Mother’s Day is a Celebration of Vulnerability, Brokenness and Love”**

**DESERET NEWS**

May 10, 2020

Jenet Erickson writes that Mother’s Day can help us celebrate “the gift of an unparalleled level of connection with another soul,” rather than perfectionism.

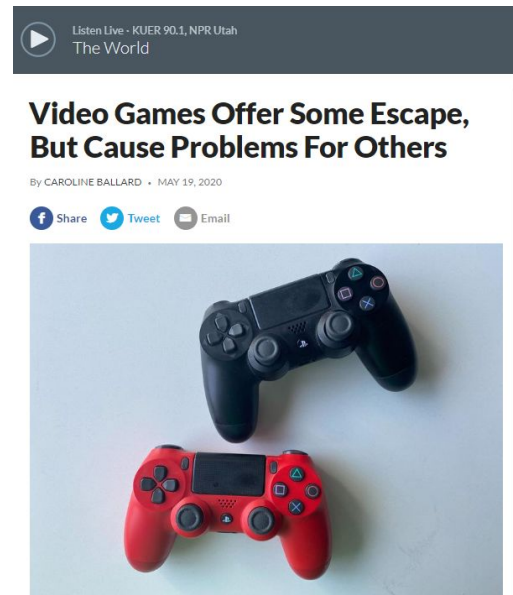
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## **“Video Games Offer Some Escape, But Cause Problems For Others”**

**KUER**

May 19, 2020

KUER’s Caroline Ballard interviews Sarah Coyne to discuss her research on video games and their effect in the family setting (both the good and the bad). Coyne shares her personal interest in the topic as well as helpful tips she’s found from her research.



## **“Media and Technoference in Romantic Relationships”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

May 21, 2020

Technoferencing can send negative messages to our loved ones. Sarah Coyne shares the potential challenges of technoferencing on relationships and then gives suggestions for how to avoid them. Creating healthy boundaries around technology and learning to use it wisely can help to strengthen our relationships with others.

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## “In June, the Constitution and Civil Religion Hang in the Balance”

DESERET NEWS

May 31, 2020

OPINION | U.S. & WORLD | FEATURED

### **In June, the Constitution and civil religion hang in the balance**

The Supreme Court will at long last reveal what specific religious rights the Constitution continues to protect during these contested and increasingly laical times.

By Hal Boyd, Contributor | May 31, 2020, 6:00am MDT |

f t  SHARE



The Supreme Court

recently decided cases

looking at how to further

the rights of the LGBTQ+

community, and some

wondered how faith-based

organizations might be

impacted. Religious

schools and other religious

organizations have sought to balance any potentially conflicting rights. Hal Boyd argues that courts are capable and should grant religious organizations space to determine their employment standards while protecting fundamental freedoms for the LGBTQ+ community.

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## **“Teaching Your Children about Money”**

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS--ENSIGN

June 2020

Scholars Ashley LeBaron and E. Jeffrey Hill detail “seven gospel-related principles to help your children stand on firm financial footing.”

# **Teaching Your Children about Money**

By Ashley B. LeBaron, MS

*PhD candidate in Family Studies and Human Development,  
University of Arizona*

And by E. Jeffrey Hill, PhD

*School of Family Life, Brigham Young University*



## **“Seeing Persons, Not Masks: How Compassion and Community Can Prevail in Pandemic-Era Worship Services”**

DESERET NEWS

June 5, 2020

David Dollahite and Loren Marks discuss why “wearing facial coverings at religious services is a wise and compassionate thing to do and a charitable exercise of one’s personal liberty.”

## **“In Protecting LGBTQ Workers, America Must Not Overlook Religious Rights”**

**DESERET NEWS**

June 15, 2020

In the wake of the Supreme

Court’s landmark decision to extend federal

nondiscrimination protections to gay and transgender individuals, Hal Boyd and

Robert Snyder reflect on the need to seek a balance that provides fairness and

opportunities for all.



OPINION

### **In protecting LGBTQ workers, America must not overlook religious rights**

The LGBTQ community must have rights. How, then, do we break the minority-majority persecution?  
By Hal Boyd, Contributor and Robert Snyder, Contributor | Jun 15, 2020, 2:21pm MDT |

## **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

### **Protect Both LGBT Workers and Religious Rights**

Hal Boyd & Robert Snyder Deseret News June 16, 2020



### **“Protect Both LGBT Workers and Religious Rights”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

June 16, 2020

### **“Hal Boyd: LGBTQ Rights in the Workplace”**

**ROD ARQUETTE SHOW**

June 16, 2020

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## [“Family-Friendly Workplaces Facilitate Engaged Fathering, BYU Research Reveals”](#)

CHURCH NEWS

August 12, 2020

Journalist Jason

Swenson details research by scholar

Erin Holmes, examining “the key role that the workplace plays in a father’s ability to be a nurturing and available presence in their children’s lives.”



### **Family-friendly workplaces facilitate engaged fathering, BYU research reveals**



## [“Think You’re Above Average? Don’t We All](#)

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

June 2020, 2020

Jason Whiting argues that inflated egos are especially dangerous in relationships, as couples tend to overstate how much they contribute. To combat this egocentric mindset, couples should seek to obtain a reality-centered perspective on their relationship—a perspective that often includes both members’ perspectives.

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## **“Father’s Day Honors the Transformative Gift of Fatherhood — Which Makes Them True Heroes”**

**DESERET NEWS**

June 21, 2020

Jenet Erickson writes about how fathers can become true heroes in the lives of their families.

## **“Work and Home: Family-Supportive Environment, BYU Study Finds”**

**KSL**

June 21, 2020

Journalist Sean Walker reports on findings from professor Erin Holmes regarding work-life balance and the presence of parents in the home.

## **“Making Meaning of COVID Loss”**

**PUBLIC SQUARE  
MAGAZINE**

June 29, 2020

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PUBLIC SQUARE *Magazine*

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In an evocative essay, Betsy VanDenBerghe details how her family found meaning in the opportunities that were lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

## **“Making Meaning of COVID Loss”**

**REAL CLEAR RELIGION**

July 1, 2020

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## **“How to Build a Debt-Free Future”**

ENSIGN July 2020

Asking for the Lord’s guidance with financial questions and problems can help make money issues much more manageable. Bryan Sudweeks and E. Jeffrey Hill give advice on how to build financial stability, while also including the Lord.

## **“You Will Never Win Your Political or Relationship Arguments”**

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

July 1, 2020

Jason Whiting explains that attempts at understanding help mitigate that which divides us.

## **“Why the Supreme Court Cited the Doctrine and Covenants in This Week’s Key Religious Liberty Decision”**

DESERET NEWS

July 9, 2020

Hal Boyd discusses *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*, a Supreme Court case holding that key religious employees fall under a ministerial exception.

Digital Only: Young Adults

## **How to Build a Debt-Free Future**

By Bryan Sudweeks and E. Jeffrey Hill  
*Marriott School of Business and School of Family Life,  
Brigham Young University*

When faith is involved, financial decisions become much more manageable.



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## “The March Toward a ‘New’ Monogamy Should End in Somerville”

NEWSWEEK

July 10, 2020

In July 2020, the city of Somerville, Massachusetts approved an ordinance that permits citizens to

have more than one domestic partner. Alan Hawkins and Hal Boyd discuss non-monogamous partnerships, examining the familial, economic, and social challenges that come from consensual non-monogamy.



### ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

#### “BYU Professors Speak Out on Rise of Polyamory”

DAILY HERALD

August 8, 2020

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## “Denial Prevents Pain, but Also Prevents Change”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

July 30, 2020

When faced with responsibility or truth, many seek the comfort of denial; however, Jason Whiting illuminates the dangers of such denial as it only prolongs the moment of true healing.

## “Conversations about Intimacy and Sex That Can Prepare You for Marriage”

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS--YOUNG ADULTS

August 2020

Scholar Chelom Leavitt discusses how “talking about intimacy and sex—at the appropriate times and in appropriate ways—is an important part of preparing for marriage.”

Digital Only: Young Adults

## **Conversations about Intimacy and Sex That Can Prepare You for Marriage**

By Chelom E. Leavitt

*Assistant professor in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University*



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## “Six Strategies for Family Media Safety”

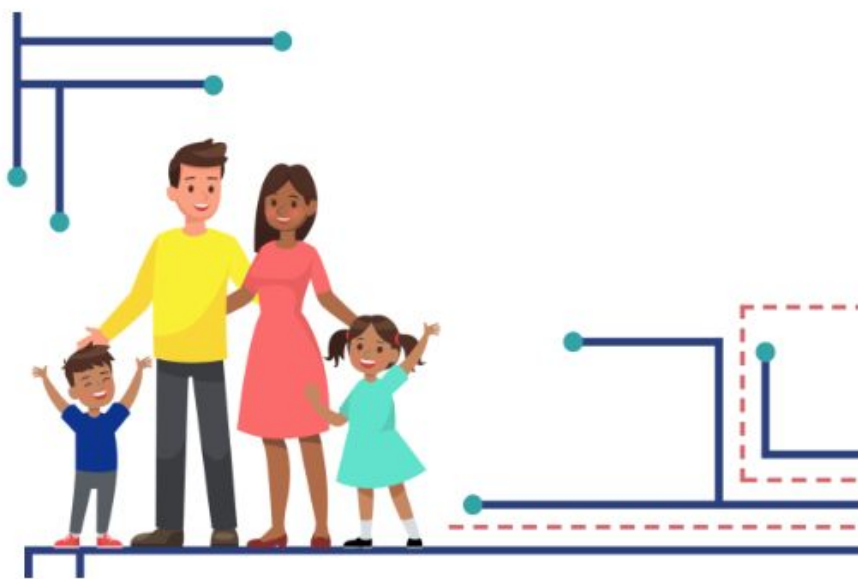
ENSIGN August 2020

Although many parents want to restrict all media, Sarah Coyne and Laura Stockdale remind us of the positive uses of media. They teach families how to safely manage media in the home, while also taking advantage of its many valuable and productive uses.

# Six Strategies for Family Media Safety

By Sarah M. Coyne and Laura A. Stockdale, Professors of Family Life at Brigham Young University

Ideas for helping our children safely navigate this digital world.



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## “Giving Children Love, Limits, and Latitude”

ENSIGN August 2020

# Giving Children Love, Limits, and Latitude

By Larry Nelson

*Professor, School of Family Life at Brigham Young University*

These three L's apply to parenting children of any age.



Sometimes parents find it difficult to treat each child with fairness when their children vary in age and needs. Scholar Larry Nelson explains that it is not so much about fairness as it is about consistency. He shows how focusing on love, limits, and latitude can help achieve greater consistency and support in the home.

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## **“How, When, and Why: Talking to Your Children about Sexuality”**

ENSIGN August 2020

Laura Padilla-Walker and BYU student, Meg Jankovich discuss the beauties and blessings of the law of chastity to help parents recognize the importance of talking to children about sexuality. They give helpful tips on how, when, and why parents need to discuss healthy sexuality with their kids, while also incorporating teachings of the Savior.

## **How, When, and Why: Talking to Your Children about Sexuality**

By Laura M. Padilla-Walker  
*Professor, School of Family Life, Brigham Young University*  
and Meg O. Jankovich

*Student in BYU Marriage, Family, and Human Development master's program*

To help our children prepare for and enjoy sexuality in its beauty and wonder within marriage, we need to guide them as they work toward controlling their God-given feelings.



Photograph from Getty Images, posed by models

## **“Masks Make Us All Social Conservatives”**

DESERET NEWS

August 6, 2020

Hal Boyd discusses how social conservatives have long made the case for greater personal responsibility. The pandemic demands us all to exercise personal responsibility, but, ironically, some social conservatives have too often resisted that call. Ideologically, however, they have strong reasons to embrace that call.

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## **“Reporting Rape Is Scary; New Laws Make It Harder.”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

August 14, 2020

Jason Whiting discusses why it is so difficult for many rape victims to report rape.

Victims may not report for many reasons including “skeptical outsiders, an intimidating legal system, and the trauma of having to talk about the abuse again with investigators.”

### **ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION**

#### **“What Hinders Reports of Sexual Assault and Harassment on Campus—and Why New Federal Title IX Rules May Be a Step Back”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

August 14, 2020

#### **“Tennessee Suffrage, Title IX, Copyright Pitfalls of Online Teaching”**

**BYU RADIO-TOP OF MIND WITH JULIE ROSE**

August 18, 2020

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## “Poly-Parenting: Is This The Brave New World We Want?”

THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE

August 20, 2020

Hal Boyd and Alan Hawkins expand upon the complexities and ethical challenges presented by *in vitro* gametogenesis (IVG), what some have celebrated as the future of reproduction.

## *The* American Conservative



### ADDITIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION

## “Poly-Parenting: Is This The Brave New World We Want?”

INTELLECTUAL TAKEOUT

August 20, 2020

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## C. FACULTY-STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Thanks to the concerted efforts of BYU School of Family Life faculty, particularly Julie Haupt, Stephen Duncan, Chelom Leavitt, Jeffrey Dew, and many others, students are increasingly a part of public scholarship efforts. This engagement serves as a powerful pedagogical tool for experiential learning. Below are public scholarship contributions from both students and faculty working and publishing together.

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## **“Changing Marriage Attitudes and Mental Health Among Youth”**

**THE RELATIONSHIP EDUCATOR**

May 8, 2019

BYU student Hailey Palmer and Professor Alan Hawkins discuss new research that indicates a decrease in the amount of teenagers that deem marriage as extremely important. They also share research on the increase of serious mental health problems among teenagers. Given these findings, Palmer and Hawkins provide questions and discussions to help stimulate a constructive response to these trends.

## **“Don’t Believe What You Hear, Money Isn’t the Leading Cause of Divorce”**

**DESERET NEWS**

August 4, 2019

Jenet Erickson, BYU student Sammi Trujillo, and Jeff Dew use data from the new “iFidelity Survey” to discuss why it is not always money itself that causes divorce, but rather the disagreements and deception that often attends financial challenges.

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## **“Does Financial Deception in Marriage Affect Relationship Quality?”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

August 6, 2019

According to a recent study, financial deception—whether minor or more serious—can affect marital relationship quality and/or happiness. BYU student Sammi Trujillo, along with Jenet Erickson and Jeffrey Dew, further explain the reasons that marriages may encounter challenges due to financial deception.

## **“National Survey Reveals Generational Differences in Consensual Non-monogamy”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

September 11, 2019

Alan Hawkins and BYU student, Heather Smith analyze reasons why it seems consensual non-monogamous relationships are rising, even though a recent study shows that the majority of Americans continue to prefer marital monogamy.

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## **“What We Can Learn from Ritual and Tradition in American Jewish Families”**

**MERIDIAN MAGAZINE**

September 23, 2019

Loren Marks and David Dollahite team up with Heather Kelley and Ashley LeBaron to highlight what Latter-day Saints and others can learn from Jewish family traditions and rituals.

## **“Is There a Battle of the Sexes in “Consensual” Non-Monogamy?”**

**PUBLIC DISCOURSE**

November 3, 2019

BYU student Heather Smith and Alan Hawkins present data from a recent study suggesting that males and females differ in their willingness to participate in non-monogamous relationships, indicating that perhaps power and leverage within a couple may sometimes influence an individuals’ willingness to participate in non-monogamy.

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### Public Discourse

THE JOURNAL OF THE WITHERSPOON INSTITUTE

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#### **Is There a Battle of the Sexes in “Consensual” Non-Monogamy?**

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NOVEMBER 3, 2019 | BY [HEATHER SMITH](#) AND [ALAN J. HAWKINS](#)

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The data suggest that we should be more skeptical about the term “consensual” in consensual non-monogamy, the umbrella term for various kinds of sexually open relationships. Perhaps we need to challenge the idea that these kinds of relationships lead to greater gender equality rather than less.



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## **“Can Faith Fortify Fidelity?”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

December 9, 2019

Using data from the Wheatley Institution’s 2018 iFidelity survey, BYU student, Mariah Sanders and Professors Julie Haupt and Jeffrey Dew define the current trends of infidelity. Further, they provide evidence from the study that religious involvement can help to fortify fidelity in marriages.

## **“What is Online Porn Teaching Our Children?”**

**MERCATORNET**

January 3, 2020

Students Jacob Gossner and Daniel Hilton teamed up with faculty members, Mark Butler, Julie Haupt, and Hal Boyd to discuss research emphasizing the harms of pornography, particularly for children.

## **“5 Ways to Get Your Teen to Talk to You”**

**FAMILY TODAY**

January 21, 2020

Though many parents recognize the need to be involved in their teenager’s life, getting their teenager to open up can be quite a challenge. BYU student Bethany Martinsen and Professor Julie Haupt give five specific suggestions on how parents may provide an environment where their teens feel comfortable sharing experiences.

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## “Hollywood Needs a Better ‘Marriage Story’”

DESERET NEWS

January 24, 2020

Marriage is often unrealistically portrayed in the media as either a perfect love story or, in contrast, a painful and unnecessary life choice. In an effort to neutralize these common perceptions, BYU student, Isadora Ferreira De Melo and Professor Hal Boyd make the case for more realistic depictions of marriage.



## “Cohabitation: Safety Net or Stability Threat?”

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

February 3, 2020

Student Mariah Sanders with Professors Julie Haupt, Jeffrey Dew, and Timothy Smith together use research to disprove the “safety net” that so many believe cohabitation provides.



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## **“Why the World Still Needs Princesses”**

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

March 4, 2020

Sarah Coyne and student Kaelie Crockett navigate both the research-based “pros” and “cons” of princess culture among children.

## **“Sexism and School: Addressing Barriers to Girls’ STEM Participation”**

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

April 16, 2020

Student Emma Allen and

Professor Adam Rogers

discuss the negative effects

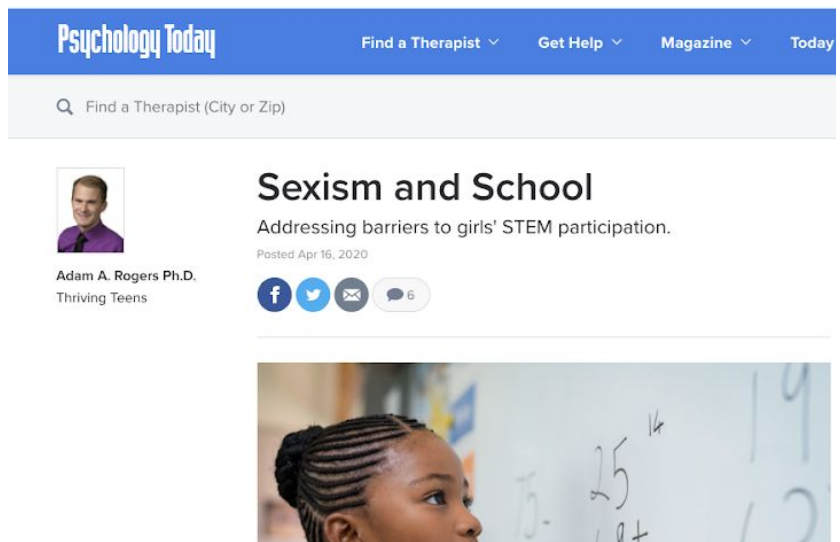
of academic sexism towards

girls and women. They give

suggestions on how teachers,

parents, and friends can help

girls and women feel confident and capable in academic settings—especially with regard to STEM-related subjects.



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## **“Why Sharing Your Sexual Preferences May Improve Your Marriage”**

**STRONGER MARRIAGE**

April 29, 2020

The Stronger Marriage Blog

Professor Chelom Leavitt and BYU

student McKenna Thorup share

insights on the importance of sexual disclosure for healthy marriages. When couples—especially women—share their sexual likes and dislikes, overall intimacy is likely to improve.

## **“Parents, Get Your Game On!”**

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**

June 29, 2020

Despite the negative stereotype associated with videogames, BYU student Pamela Love and Professor Sarah Coyne show that playing non-violent video games as a family can in fact have positive effects. With proper boundaries, playing video games as a family can even enhance relationships.

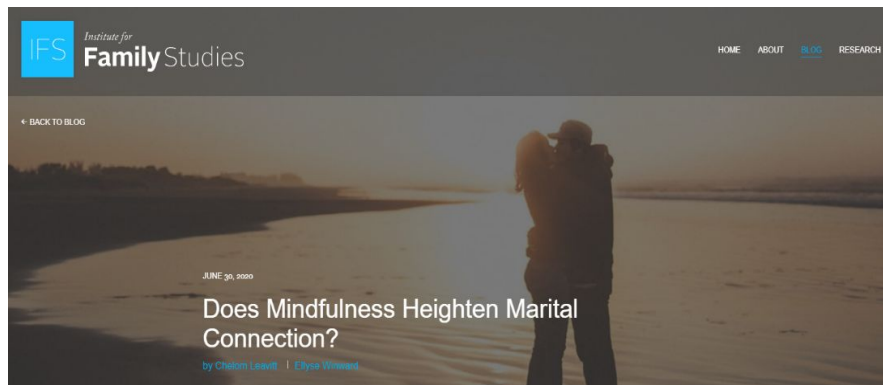
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## “Does Mindfulness Heighten Marital Connection?”

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES

June 30, 2020

Can practicing  
mindfulness help improve  
marriage? Chelom Leavitt  
and student Ellyse  
Winward explore the



ways that practicing mindfulness—slowing down, being still, focusing on the present—can improve relational interactions, lessen conflict, and lead to greater sexual satisfaction.

## “The Essence of Being: Using Mindfulness to Enhance Romantic Relationships”

HEALTHY HUMANS PROJECT

July 4, 2020

Student Ellyse Winward and Chelom Leavitt define mindfulness and how it can help couples slow down, be present, and enjoy simply *being* with one another. Practicing mindfulness in romantic relationships can fortify couple connections, as well as make room for less judgment and greater acceptance.

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## **“Can Mindful Sex Help You Navigate the Pandemic?”**

**PUBLIC SQUARE MAGAZINE**

July 30, 2020

During heightened times of stress—especially during a pandemic—relational intimacy can suffer. Chelom Leavitt and BYU student Janessa McQuivey discuss how mindful sex is one thing that couples can do to scaffold the challenges of stress. Sexual mindfulness can help improve marital relationships and individual self-esteem.

## **“How Effective Are Programs Supporting Unmarried, Nonresidential Fathers?”**

**INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY STUDIES**

August 3, 2020

BYU student Matthew Saxey, along with Erin Holmes and Alan Hawkins review results from a study on effectiveness of governmental programs for unmarried and nonresidential fathers. While summarizing both the importance of involved fathers and the study at hand, they also give suggestions for how to improve future research in order to find accurate and enduring results.

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## D. 2020 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned, with help of dedicated faculty members dozens of students have published their writing in a variety of venues. Students have felt empowered and excited to contribute to the public discourse and have improved their communication and critical thinking skills while augmenting their knowledge of important research related to marriage and family life. Below is a list of only a small portion of the student publications from this last year. A full list is featured at the end of this report. The School of Family Life is continually looking at ways to expand these efforts to enhance student-oriented, experiential learning opportunities.

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## **“How Creating a “Secret Space” for Your Family Can Help Balance Social Media Use”**

LDS LIVING

August 28, 2019

Mckell Wall

## **“How Supportive and Maladaptive Parental Responses toward Adolescent Emotions May Affect Adolescent Depressive Symptoms”**

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

December 9, 2019

Kaylin Cash

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

January 2020

McKell Jorgensen

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February 5, 2020

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February 11, 2020

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