James A. Toronto received a BA in English and minors in history and Italian from Brigham Young University and an MA and PhD in Islamic and Arabic studies from Harvard University. Toronto lived for two years in Italy and worked and studied for ten years in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan. He served as assistant director of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU for four years and filled a three-year assignment as director of BYU's Center for Cultural and Educational Affairs in Amman, Jordan. After being a faculty member in the Department of Church History and Doctrine for eight years, teaching courses in comparative world religions, Toronto is now in the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages teaching courses in Arabic language and Islamic religion and humanities. His research and publications are in Islamic education, immigration and integration of Muslim minorities, and the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Italy and the Middle East.