James Faulconer: "The History of the Mormon Belief in the Eternality of Personality"

The abstract would pretty much be a repeat of the title:

"Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of Mormonism, denied creation ex nihilo and the creation of persons. He said "Man was also in the beginning with God," and he called that which was uncreated "intelligence." Smith did not teach a clear doctrine of intelligence, however, and his followers expanded his idea in a variety of ways, from a light that infuses all things, including God, to individual, uncreated human personalities. The latter is now the most common belief among Mormons, but has only been so since the turn of the 20th century. This paper will give an overview of the ways in which the original teaching has been understood and how the most common contemporary belief came to be."