



**Dharma Academy of North America  
(DANAM)**

**8<sup>th</sup> DANAM Conference 2010**

**AGENDA**

**29 – 30 Oct 2010  
Atlanta, Georgia**

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**DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY**

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# 8<sup>th</sup> DANAM Conference 2010

*Sponsored by*

**Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)**

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*CONFERENCE THEME:*

**THE FEMININE, FEMALENESS, AND FEMINISM IN  
DHARMA TRADITIONS**

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29 – 30 Oct 2010

Marriott Marquis Hotel  
International 2  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Held in conjunction with the  
2010 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

*8th DANAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:*

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.**

Chairman, Taksha University  
President, DANAM

**Rita D. Sherma, Ph.D.**

Director, ITBB, Casa Grande, AZ & Vice President, DANAM  
Visiting Associate Professor, Binghamton University  
Professor & Executive Director, SPRS, Taksha University

## *PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE*

To provide a Dedicated Forum where scholars of Dharma Traditions (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh Dharma-s) can engage in the examination of, and constructive approaches to, contemporary issues in Dharma Studies. While there are multiple scholarly arenas for presentation of new textual, sociological, anthropological, and historic approaches to the study of cultural and religious traditions that originated in South Asia, there are few dedicated venues for discourse on, and the presentation of, constructive theological and philosophical approaches to pedagogy, epistemology, theology, or philosophy in these systems. It is hoped that this meeting can explore the possibility that the academic study of these traditions is now mature enough to include and move beyond the limitations of phenomenological methodologies in order to engage the conceptual depth and intellectual applicability of these traditions in an inclusive forum.

## *DANAM Summary*

DANAM (Dharma Academy of North America) is an independent, non-political, donation-based, non-profit organization of Virginia, with a focus on constructive presentation of Dharma traditions in the North American context. Its mission and objectives are described at its web site at [www.danam-web.org](http://www.danam-web.org), which lists the advisory committee of reputable scholars under Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS) drawn from various disciplines. DANAM is a sponsor of the peer-reviewed Journal of Vaishnava Studies, now in its seventeenth year, and the peer-reviewed Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma volumes, now in their sixth year. DANAM holds its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the yearly conference of the American Academy of Religion.

## *Proceedings of DANAM Conference Sessions*

The proceedings of the DANAM Conference sessions are available at Deepak Heritage Books (DHB), [www.deepakheritage.com](http://www.deepakheritage.com), unless otherwise stated. They are listed as follows: *Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma Volume I* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma and Adarsh Deepak, 2003). *Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma Volume II: Epistemology and Hermeneutics* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma and Adarsh Deepak, 2004). *Asceticism Identity and Pedagogy in Dharma Traditions* (Eds. Graham M. Schweig, Jeffery D. Long, Ramdas Lamb and Adarsh Deepak, 2006). *Dying Death and Afterlife in Dharma Traditions and Western Religions* (Eds. Adarsh Deepak and Rita D. Sherma, 2006). *Authority and Its Challenges in Hindu Texts, Translations, and Transnational Communities* (Ed. Deepak Sarma). *Yoga and Ecology: Dharma for the Earth* (Ed. Christopher K. Chapple); and in preparation for publication: *Prayer and Worship in Dharma Traditions* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma, Arindam Chakrabarti, and Adarsh Deepak).

## **AGENDA**

**8th DANAM Conference 2010 (DANAM10)  
Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia  
Meeting Hall: International 2**

**29 Oct (9:00 am) – 30 Oct (1:00 pm), 2010**

### **DANAM 2010 THEME**

**THE FEMININE, FEMALENESS, AND FEMINISM IN DHARMA TRADITIONS**

### **TOPICAL THEMES & SESSIONS**

Gynocentric Matrix of Indic Traditions: Dharma, Culture and the Feminine  
Feminism in Dharma Traditions  
Representations of the Feminine in the Modern Period  
The Feminine in Jainism  
Panel Discussion of *Interpreting Ramakrishna*, by Swami Tyagananda and  
Pravrajika Vrajaprana (Motilal Banarsidas, 2010)  
Selves and Experience: *Shankara and The Self Possessed*

### **LOCATION OF ALL ACADEMIC SESSIONS**

**Marriott Marquis Hotel  
International 2**

#### **Friday, 29 Oct 2010**

**8:30 a.m.** DANAM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK opens. To receive the complimentary Conference Package, including the Abstract Digest, please register ahead with contact information, online at:

**[http://www.danam-web.org/registration\\_1.html](http://www.danam-web.org/registration_1.html)**

Participation at DANAM sessions at the AAR Annual Meetings is complimentary; there is **NO FEE** involved. However, please register online. Your registration will help us utilize our resources more efficiently to ensure conference sessions run smoothly. The first 108 registrants will receive the Conference package. This information is strictly meant for planning purposes and to facilitate communications.

**For Latest Updates of the Agenda, please continue to check the web site at:  
[www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm)**

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### FRIDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2010

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.            **Opening Remarks**

9:10 – 11:00 a.m.            **SESSION 1 (M29-5)**            **International 2**  
*Theme: Gynocentric Matrix of Indic Traditions: Dharma, Culture and the Feminine*  
*Convener: Neela Bhattacharya Saxena, Nassau Community College, New York*  
*Presider: Phyllis Herman, California State University – Northridge*

*Presenters:*

**Pankaj Jain**, University of North Texas  
Ecofeminism and the Bishnois of Rajasthan

**Ramdas Lamb**, University of Hawaii – Manoa  
Dharma, Females, and the Challenge of Education in Rural Chhattisgarh

**Kathleen Erndl**, Florida State University – Tallahassee  
“When a Woman Becomes Chandika”: Justice, Violence, and the  
Feminine in Popular Hindi Film

**Frederique Apffel-Marglin**, Smith College (Emerita)  
Enacting the World with the Goddesses of Orissa

**Neela Bhattacharya Saxena**, Nassau Community College  
Dance of Light at the Feet of a Dark Girl: Kali in Kazi Nazrul Islam’s Songs

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.    **SESSION 2 (M29-105)**    **International 2**  
*Theme: Feminism in Dharma Traditions*  
*Convener: Rita Sherma, Taksha University and ITBB*  
*Presider: Kathleen Erndl, Florida State University*

*Presenters:*

**Phil Goldberg**, Taksha University  
The Feminization of Guru Teachings and Transmissions in the West

**Veena Howard**, University of Oregon – Eugene  
Gandhi’s Understanding of the Feminine

**Nikky Singh**, Colby College  
Feminist Perspectives from Sikh Dharma

**Sherry Fohr**, Converse College  
Inadvertent Feminism in Shvetambar Jainism

**Rita Gross**, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire  
New Perspectives on Models of Female Empowerment in Buddhist History

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.            **SESSION 3 (M29-205)**    **International 2**  
*Theme: Representations of the Feminine in the Modern Period*  
*Convener:* Kusumita P. Pedersen, St. Francis College  
*Presider:* Purushottama Bilimoria, University of Melbourne

*Presenters:*

**Carl Olson**, Allegheny College  
The Feminine Thread in Two Novels of Bankimcandra Chatterji

**Elisabeth Benard**, University of Puget Sound  
The Jetsunma Phenomena in Tibetan Buddhism

**Harshita Mruthinti Kamath**, Emory University  
The Enactment and Aesthetics of Female Impersonation: Performing Satyabhama in  
Telegu South India

**Pramila Venkateswaran**, Nassau Community College  
A Face of the Feminine in Tamil Nadu: Reading Kannaki in “Cilappatikaram”

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.            **SESSION 4 (M29-301)**    **International 2**  
*Theme: The Feminine in Jainism*  
*Convener and Presider:* Anne Vallely, University of Ottawa

*Presenters:*

**Nika Kuchuk**, University of Ottawa  
From Icon to Temple: The Embodied Presence of the Goddess Padmavati

**Christian Haskett**, Washington & Lee University  
The Visual Vocabulary of Possession Performance and the Categories of Jain and  
Woman

**Bradley Boileau**, University of Ottawa  
Between the Veil and the Vow: Ascetic Wifhood, Jain Sati, and the Devotional Cult of  
Rajulmata at Mount Girnar

**Sherry Fohr**, Converse College  
Indigenous Feminism in Shvetambar Jainism

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.      **SESSION 5** (M30-102)      **International 2**  
**Theme: Panel Discussion of *Interpreting Ramakrishna*, by Swami Tyagananda and Pravrajika Vrajaprana (Motilal Banarsidas, 2010)**

*Convener:* Kusumita P. Pedersen, St. Francis College

*Presider:* Jeffery Long, Elizabethtown College

*Presenters:*

**Francis X. Clooney**, Harvard Divinity School

**Gerald James Larson**, Indiana University, Bloomington (Emeritus)  
University of California, Santa Barbara (Emeritus)

**June McDaniel**, College of Charleston

**Joseph Prabhu**, California State University, Los Angeles

**Anantanand Rambachan**, St. Olaf College

*Respondents:*

**Swami Tyagananda**, Hindu Chaplain, Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, Boston

**Pravrajika Vrajaprana**, Sarada Convent, Vedanta Society of Southern California

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.      **SESSION 6** (M30-118)      **International 2**  
**Theme: Selves and Experience: *Shankara and The Self Possessed***

*Convener:* Jack Llewellyn, Missouri State University

*Presider:* Brian Black, University of Lancaster

*Presenters:*

**Andrew Fort**, Texas Christian University  
Shankara, Smith, and ‘Experience’

**Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad**, Lancaster University  
The Self That Cannot Be Possessed: Sankara on the Self and Sankara’s Self

**Sthaneshwar Timalsina**, San Diego State University  
Embodiment and the Altered Ego: Interface between Shankara and a Shaman

**J. E. Llewellyn**, Missouri State University  
Knowing *Kamashastra* in the Biblical Sense: Shankara’s Possession of King Amaru

**Neil Dalal**, University of Alberta  
Clouding Self-Knowledge: The Ambiguity of Samskaras in Shankara's Theory  
of Liberation

*Respondent:* **Frederick Smith**, University of Iowa

1:00 p.m. **DANAM 2010 Adjourns**

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### **Contacts For Further Information**

#### **For Conference Administration & Logistics:**

**Diana McQuestion**, Conference Manager: d.mcquestion@taksha.org Tel: 757-897-3745

#### **For Conference Program:**

**Dr. Adarsh Deepak**, President, DANAM: a.deepak@taksha.org Tel: 757-272-3066 cell

### **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Kusumita Pedersen**, St. Francis College, NYC, **Chair**  
**Rita D. Sherma**, ITBB and Taksha University  
**Arindam Chakrabarti**, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
**Christopher K. Chapple**, Loyola Marymount University, CA  
**Jeffery D. Long**, Elizabethtown College, PA  
**Ramdas Lamb**, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
**Anne Vallely**, University of Ottawa  
**Sthaneshwar Timalsina**, San Diego State University  
**David Gray**, Santa Clara University

#### **DANAM ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD**

The Academic Advisory Board of **DANAM** includes **Professors Rita D. Sherma**, Chair, (Institute for Theology Beyond Boundaries, AZ, Binghamton University & Taksha University), **Arvind Sharma** (McGill University), **Arindam Chakrabarti**, (University of Hawaii at Manoa), **Christopher K. Chapple** (Loyola Marymount University, CA), **Kusumita Pedersen** (St. Francis College, NYC), **Anantanand Rambachan** (St. Olaf College, MN), **T. S. Rukmani** (Concordia University, Canada), **Graham M. Schweig** (Christopher Newport University, VA), **Shrinivas Tilak** (Montreal, Canada), **Ian Whicher** (University of Manitoba, Canada), **Rita Gross, Lopon** (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire); **Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad** (Lancaster University, UK); **Vesna Wallace** (University of California, Santa Barbara).



**DANAM VICE-PRESIDENT and  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIRECTOR  
Rita Dasgupta Sherma, Ph.D.**

Chair, DANAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS);  
Executive Director, School of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Taksha University;  
Visiting Associate Professor, DP-AAS, Binghamton University, NY;  
Director, Institute for Theology Beyond Boundaries (ITBB), AZ

**CONFERENCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Diana McQuestion, Conference Manager**

**Pat Deepak  
Jyoti Gandhi  
Meera Rao  
Anjalee Sinha**

**DANAM PRESIDENT**

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.**

Chairman, Taksha University;  
Publisher of *Journal for Vaishnava Studies (JVS)*,  
and academic volumes in Dharma Studies.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*General Co-Chairs:*

**Dr. Rajinder Gandhi, Chairman, DANAM**  
**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D., President, DANAM, & Chairman, Taksha University**

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

The following information web sites are for the convenience of the attendees of DANAM10  
Conference and/or 2010 AAR Annual Meeting.

From AAR web site:  
<http://www.aarweb.org/>