



## **2<sup>nd</sup> DANAM Conference 2004**

### **PROGRAM**

**19-21 November 2004  
San Antonio, Texas**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> DANAM Conference 2004

*Sponsored by*

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

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*THEME:*

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CONSTRUCTIVE  
DHARMA

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19-21 November 2004  
San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter  
San Antonio, Texas

Held in conjunction with the 2004 AAR Annual Meeting

*CO-CHAIRS:*

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph. D.,** *President, DANAM*  
**Rita D. Sherma, Ph. D.,** *Binghamton University, NY*  
& *Berghoffer Institute, N*

## *PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE*

To provide a Forum where scholars of Dharma Traditions and interested members of Dharma communities can engage in the examination of, and constructive approaches to, contemporary issues in the study of Dharma Traditions. While there are multiple scholarly arenas for presentation of new textual, sociological, anthropological and historic approaches to the study of Indian cultural and religious traditions, there are no dedicated venues for discourse on, and the presentation of, constructive new 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 Association of North American) is an independent, non-political, membership-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 distinguished scholars as Patron and 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 thirteenth year.

## *Proceedings of 1<sup>st</sup> DANAM Conference 2003*

The proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> DANAM Conference 2003, entitled *Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma: Volume I*, Eds. Rita D. Sherma and Adarsh Deepak (2004), is available at Deepak Heritage Books (DHB), [www.deepakheritage.com](http://www.deepakheritage.com).

# **PROGRAM**

## Location of Sessions

- 19 November 2004 (1:00 pm-6:30 pm): Marriott Rivercenter,  
**Salon L**
- 20 November 2004 (9:00 am-4:30 pm): Marriott Rivercenter  
**Salon L**
- 21 November 2004 (1:00 pm-3:30 pm): Marriott Rivercenter  
**Salon H**

## **19 NOVEMBER 2004**

**12:00 noon:** DANAM REGISTRATION DESK opens. Registration is Complimentary

### AAR Session AM19-50

### Dharma Association of North America (DANAM) – Session 1

**1:00 – 3:30 pm** Marriott Rivercenter (MRC)-Salon L

## **OPENING SESSION**

*Theme:* **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

- S0.0 **Adarsh Deepak**, President, DANAM President & Co-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> DANAM Conference, Presiding
- S0.1 **Rajinder Gandhi**, Chair, DANAM & President, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (USA)  
*Welcome Remarks*
- S0.2 **Adarsh Deepak**, President, DANAM & Co-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> DANAM Conference  
*Welcome Remarks and Mission of DANAM*
- S0.3 **Rita DasGupta Sherma**, Binghamton Univ., & Berghoffer Institute, Chair, DANAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars, & Co-Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> DANAM Conference  
*Welcome Remarks and Conference Introduction*

## **SESSION 1: Panel**

*Theme:* **Scholarship on Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrits: Debate about Native Exegetical Traditions**

*Convener:* **B. V. K. Sastry**, Hindu University of America

S1.0. **T. S. Rukmani**, Concordia University, Canada, Presiding

### **Panelists:**

S1.1. **Sridhar Melukote**, Hindu University of America

*Traditional Methodologies in the Writings of the Epics*

S1.2. **Veena Howard**, University of Oregon, Lane Community College

*Problem of Choosing and Changing Methodologies in the Study of Hindu Texts*

S1.3. **Frederick M. Smith**, University of Iowa

S1.4. **Srinivasan Kalyanaraman**, Sarasvati Nadi Shodh Prakalp, Chennai, India

*Prakrit Languages and Jaati*

S1.5. **B. V. K. Sastry**, Hindu University of America

*Scholarship on Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrits*

S1.6. **Laurie Patton**, Emory University  
Respondent

Discussions

**3:40 - 4:00 pm: BREAK**

**AAR Session AM19-106**

**Dharma Association of North America (DANAM) – Session 2**

**4:00 - 6:30 pm:** Marriott Rivercenter (MRC)-Salon L

**SESSION 2**

*Theme:* **New Approaches to Methodological Concerns in Hindu Studies**

- S2.0 **Rita DasGupta Sherma**, Binghamton University & Berghoffer Institute, Presiding
- S2.1 **Andrew O. Fort**, Texas Christian University  
*Teaching Texas Christians About Hinduism*
- S2.2 **Rajiv Malhotra**, Infinity Foundation  
*Geopolitics and Hinduism Studies*
- S2.3 **Cynthia Humes**, Claremont McKenna College  
*"Fair and Balanced": An Inquiry into New Directions Emerging in the Study of Geopolitics and Hinduism*
- S2.4 **Sthaneshwar Timalsina**, Washington University in St. Louis  
*The Identification and Application of an Abhinavaguptian Hermeneutics : Towards Methodology in the Study of Tantra – Part 1: Tantric and Western Hermeneutics.*
- S2.5 **Jeffrey Lidke**, Berry College  
*The Identification and Application of an Abhinavaguptian Hermeneutics : Towards Methodology in the Study of Tantra- Part 2: Methodologies for Examining Tantra*

Discussions

**6:30 pm:** Adjourn for the day.

**20 NOVEMBER 2004**

**AAR Session AM20-15**

**Dharma Association of North America (DANAM) – Session 3**

**8:30 -11:30am** Marriott Rivercenter (MRC)-Salon L

**8:30 am:** DANAM Registration Desk Re-Opens

**9:00 - 9:05 am: Introductory Remarks**

*Rita DasGupta Sherma*, DANAM Conference Co-Chair

**SESSION 3**

*Theme: 'Nationalisms' and 'Hinduisms'*

*Convener: Kay Jordan*, Radford University

- S3.0 *E. H. Rick Jarow*, Vassar College, Presiding
- S3.1 *Kay Jordan*, Radford University  
*The Hinduism of Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Reddy*
- S3.2. *Gerald T. Carney*, Hampden Sydney College  
*A Patriot of the Old School: Baba Premananda Bharati and Indian Nationalism*
- S3.3 *Phyllis Herman*, California State University-Northridge  
*Ram Darshan: Picturing a Nationalism for the Twenty-first Century*
- S3.4 *Diana Dimitrova*, Michigan State University  
*Religion, Nationalism and Film*
- S3.5 *E. H. Rick Jarow*, Vassar College  
Respondent
- Discussions

**11:35-1:00pm: LUNCH BREAK**

**AAR Session AM20-51**

**Dharma Association of North America (DANAM) – Session 4**

**1:00 - 3:30 pm**, Marriott Rivercenter (MRC) - Salon L

**SESSION 4**

*Theme:* **Constructive Theology and Philosophy in Dharma Studies**

- S4.0 ***Rita DasGupta Sherma***, Binghamton University & Berghoffer Institute, Presiding
- S4.1 ***Neela Bhattacharya Saxena***, Nassau Community College  
*Kali's 'Pregnant Nothingness': A Gynocentric Idea of Liberation*
- S4.2 ***Amod Lele***, Harvard University  
*The Various Forms of Constructive Buddhist Studies*
- S4.3 ***Ramdas Lamb***, University of Hawaii  
*Beyond Anthropology: Towards a Global, Pluralist Perspective in Hindu Studies.*
- S4.4 ***Nicholas F. Gier***, University of Idaho  
*Toward a Hindu Virtue Ethics*
- S4.5 ***Jeffery Long***, Elizabethtown College  
*Constructive Philosophy in Hindu Studies*

Discussions

**3:30pm: Business Meeting**

***Rita DasGupta Sherma***, Binghamton University, Presiding

Discuss topics for the 3<sup>rd</sup> DANAM Conference 2005 to be held at the AAR2005, November 2005, Philadelphia, PA.



**AAR Session AM21-53\* (\*Not listed in 2004 AAR Program Book)**  
**Dharma Association of North America (DANAM) – Session 5**  
12:45 - 3:30 pm, Marriott Rivercenter (MRC) - Salon H

**12:45pm: DANAM Registration Desk Opens**

**1:00-1:05: Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

**SESSION 5**

*Theme:* **Interpretation and Means of Knowledge in Dharma Traditions**

- S5.0 ***Phyllis Herman***, California State University-Northridge,  
Presiding
- S5.1 ***T. S. Rukmani***, Concordia University, Canada  
*The Epistemology of Knowing Oneself in the Six Astika Darsanas*
- S5.2 ***Brian Nichols***, Rice University  
*Pratyaksha in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Tradition*
- S5.3 ***Vimal P. Jain***, Ghogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology,  
Delhi, India  
*Means of Knowledge and Interpretation in Jaina Dharma Tradition*
- S5.4 ***Nikky G. Kaur Singh***, Colby College  
*Dharam Khand: The Heart of Sikh Tradition*
- S5.5 ***Dorothy Figueira***, University of Georgia  
*Swami Dayananda's Hermeneutic Strategy for Reconstruction of the Arya Self*
- S5.6 ***S.S. Rama Rao Pappu***, University of Miami Ohio  
*Dharma, Li and Natural Law*
- Discussions
- 3:30 Adjourn

# **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Rita D. Sherma**, *Chair, Binghamton University*  
**Jeffrey Long**, *Elizabethtown College, PA*  
**Graham Schweig**, *Christopher Newport University*  
(additional names to be added)

## **DANAM ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD**

The Academic Advisory Board of **DANAM** includes **Professors** **Graham Schweig** (Christopher Newport Univ.), **Arvind Sharma** (McGill Univ.), **Ian Whicher** (Univ. of Manitoba), **Arindam Chakrabarty** (Univ. of Hawaii), **Anant Rambachan** (St. Olaf College), **T. S. Rukmani** (Concordia Univ.) and **Rita D. Sherma, Chair**, (Binghamton University & Berghoffer Inst.).

## **DANAM PRESIDENT**

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.**, (publisher of the *Journal for Vaishnava Studies*, and academic volumes in Hindu Studies).

## **COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**Diana McQuestion**, *Conference Coordinator*  
**Meera Rao**  
**Jyoti Gandhi**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*General Co-Chairs:*  
**Adarsh Deepak**, *President, DANAM*  
**Rajinder Gandhi**, *Chairman, DANAM*

## **COSPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Chair:* **Braham Aggarwal**, *Chairman, Hindu Univ. of America*



