



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

**6<sup>th</sup> DĀNAM Conference 2008**

**AGENDA**

**31 Oct (11:00am) – 1 Nov (3:00pm), 2008**

**Lake Ontario Room  
Chicago Hilton Towers  
720 S. Michigan Avenue,  
Chicago, IL**

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**DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY**

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# 6<sup>th</sup> DĀNAM Conference 2008

*Sponsored by*

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

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*CONFERENCE THEME:*

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CONSTRUCTIVE DHARMA

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31 Oct (11:00am) – 1 Nov (3:00pm), 2008

Lake Ontario Room  
Chicago Hilton Towers  
720 S. Michigan Avenue,  
Chicago, IL

Held in conjunction with the 2008 AAR Annual Meeting

*6th DĀNAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:*

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph. D.,** *Chairman, Taksha Institute & President, DĀNAM*  
**Rita D. Sherma, Ph. D.,** *Visiting Associate Professor, Binghamton University;*  
*Academic Programs Director, DĀNAM; President, ITBB*

## *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 few 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.

### *DĀNAM Summary*

DĀNAM (Dharma Association 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 distinguished scholars as Patron and Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS) drawn from various disciplines. DĀNAM is a sponsor of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, now in its sixteenth year, and the peer-reviewed *Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma* volumes, now in their fifth year.

### *Proceedings of DĀNAM Conference Sessions*

The proceedings of the DĀNAM 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 Vol.I* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma and Adarsh Deepak, 2003). *Vol.II: Epistemology and Hermeneutics* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma and Adarsh Deepak, 2004). *Vol.III: Asceticism Identity and Pedagogy in Dharma Traditions* (Eds. Graham M. Schweig, Jeffrey D. Long, Ramdas Lamb and Adarsh Deepak, 2006). *Vol.IV: Dying Death and Afterlife in Dharma Traditions and Western Religions* (Eds. Adarsh Deepak and Rita D. Sherma, 2006). Volumes of the Proceedings of the DANAM06 and DANAM07 Conferences will be published in 2008 and 2009.

## **AGENDA**

**6th DĀNAM Conference 2008 (DĀNAM08)  
Chicago Hilton Towers, Chicago, IL  
Lake Ontario Room**

**31 OCT (11:00am) - 1 NOV (3:00pm), 2008**

### **THE SESSIONS**

**OPENING SESSION 11:00am – 11:10am**

**Welcoming and Administrative Remarks**

- I. M31-108 11:10 am - 1:00 pm 31 Oct  
**Conversion Issues in Christian and Dharma Traditions**
- II. M31-209 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm 31 Oct  
**Book Review: Review of Yoga Books**
- III. M31-309 4:30am - 6:30 pm 31 Oct  
**The "H-Word": Non-Indian Practitioners and the Question of Hindu Identity**
- IV. M1-6 8:30am - 10:15 am 1 Nov  
**Revisiting the Feminine in Dharma Traditions**
- V. M1-119 10:30 am - 12:30 pm 1 Nov  
**Hindu and Psychodynamic Self Psychologies: Revisioning Merger, Narcissism, and Psychospiritual Development**
- VI. M1-123 12:30pm - 1:30 pm 1 Nov  
**DĀNAM Business Meeting and Call for Papers**
- VII. M1-205 1:30pm - 3:00 pm 1 Nov  
**The Intersection of Religion & Culture in the Lived Tradition of Jainism**

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

**The Chicago Hilton Towers  
Lake Ontario Room**

### **Program Agenda**

**31 Oct 2008**

**10:30am:** OPENS - DĀNAM08 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK. Participation at DĀNAM sessions at the AAR Annual Meetings is complimentary; there is NO FEE involved. To help us ensure conference sessions run smoothly, please register online, with contact information, at:

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

This information is strictly meant for planning purposes and to facilitate communications, especially in the unlikely event of any last minute changes in the agenda or schedule.

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**11:00am-11:10am**

**OPENING SESSION- Welcoming and Administrative Remarks**

*Co-Chairs:* **Adarsh Deepak**, Taksha Institute

**Rita D. Sherma**, Binghamton University

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**M31-108**      **11:10am – 1:00pm**      **31 October 2008**  
**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session ICCDT**  
Theme: **Issues of Conversion in Christian and Dharma Traditions**  
*Organizer:* **Chad Bauman**, Butler University  
*Presiding:* **Kusumita Pedersen**, St. Francis College, NYC

*Presenters:*

**Chad Bauman**, Butler University

*Does the Divine Physician Have an Unfair Advantage?*

**Francis X. Clooney**, Harvard University

*Theologizing Conversion: the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century Jesuit Example*

**Rita Sherma**, ITBB & Taksha Institute

*A Hindu Missiology?*

*Respondent:* **T. S. Rukmani**, Concordia University, Canada

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M31-209**      **2:00pm – 4:00pm**      **31 October 2008**  
**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session BR**  
Theme: **Book Review: Review of Yoga Books**  
*Organizer:* **Purushottama Billimoria**, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, and **Jeff Long**,  
Elizabethtown College  
*Presiding:* **Purushottama Billimoria**, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

*Presenters:*

**Christopher K. Chapple**, Loyola Marymount University

**Edwin Bryant**, Rutgers University

**Andrew J. Nicholson**, Stonybrook University

**Mark Singleton**, Doctoral Candidate, University of Cambridge

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M31-309**      **4:30pm – 6:30pm**      **31 October 2008**  
**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session THW**  
Theme: **The ‘H-Word’: Non-Indian Practitioners and the Question of Hindu Identity**  
*Organizer:* **Jeffery D. Long**, Elizabethtown College  
*Presiding:* **Christopher Key Chapple**, Loyola Marymount University

*Presenters:*

**Lola Williamson**, Millsaps University

***When is a Hindu Not a Hindu? Why Followers of Three Hindu-Inspired Movements Do Not Identify as Hindu***

**Pankaj Jain**, North Carolina State University

***'The H-Word and the D-Word': Hinduism and Dharma***

**Pravrajika Vrajaprana**, Vedanta Society

***"Sorting It Out: Hindu Culture/Hindu Religion/ Hindu Identity or True Confessions of a (basically White) Hindu Nun"***

**Jeffery D. Long**, Elizabethtown College

***Hindu-To Be or Not To Be: Three Possible Reasons for Aversion to the Term 'Hindu' among Western Practitioners***

**Suzanne Newcombe**, INFORM, based at London School of Economics and Political Science  
***Identification with Hinduism and the Politics of a Plural World***

*Respondent:* **Rita D. Sherma**, ITBB & Taksha Institute

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M1-6            8:30 am - 10:15 am            1 November 2008**

**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session RFDT**

Theme: **Revisiting the Feminine in Dharma Traditions**

*Organizer:* **Phyllis Herman**, CalState University Northridge

*Presiding:* **Phyllis Herman**, CalState University Northridge

*Presenters:*

**Deepak Shimkhada**, Claremont Mckenna College

***Goma: the Girl Born of Cow Dung***

**David B. Gray**, Santa Clara University

***Dākinīs and Yoginīs: On the Origin and Development of an Early Medieval Indian Buddhist Goddess Tradition***

**Veena Howard**, Lone College, University of Oregon

***Gandhi's Construction of Femininity: Negotiating Traditional Values for Modern Goals***

**Christopher K. Chapple**, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

***The Goddess and Ecological Sensitivity: The Cultivation of Earth Knowledge***

**Sthaneshwar Timalsina**, San Diego State University

***The Body of the Goddess: Eco-Awareness and Embodiment in Hindu Myth and Romance***

**Phyllis Herman**, California State University, Northridge

***Sita Masala: From the Vedas to the Kitchen***

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M1-119      10:30 am - 12:30 pm      1 November 2008**

**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session HPSP**

Theme: **Hindu and Psychodynamic Self Psychologies: Revisioning Merger, Narcissism, and Psychospiritual Development**

*Organizer:* **Alfred Collins**, Independent Scholar, Fairbanks, Alaska

*Presiding:* **Sthaneswar Timalasina**, San Diego State University

*Presenters:*

**David P. Lawrence**, University of North Dakota

*The Psychology of the Tantric Self: Religious Metaphysics and the Transformations of Narcissism*

**Alfred Collins**, Independent Scholar, Fairbanks, Alaska

*Death and Transfiguration: Integrating Freud's Thanatos and Oceanic Narcissism through Samkhya-Yoga*

**Thomas B. Ellis**, Appalachian State University

*Merged in or Separated by Oceans: Object Relations Theory and the Hindu God Image*

**Travis Chilcott**, University of California, Santa Barbara

*Transitional Objects and Gaudiya Vaishnavism*

**Elaine Molchanov**, North Pacific Institute of Analytical Psychology

*Snake symbolism in Jungian psychoanalysis and Kundalini shakti in Siddha Yoga: Comparing the imaginal and transformative levels of a symbol*

*Respondent:* **Daniel Jonathan Meckel**, St. Mary's College of Maryland

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M1-123      12:30 - 1:30 pm      1 November 2008**

**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session (BMCP)**

Theme: **DĀNAM Business Meeting and Call for Papers (BMCP)**

*Organizer:* **Rita D. Sherma**, Binghamton University and ITBB

*Presiding:* **Jeffrey D. Long**, Elizabethtown College

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**M1-205      1:30 pm – 3:00 pm      1 November 2008**

**Dharma Association of North America (DĀNAM) – Session JDP**

Theme: **The Intersection of Religion & Culture in the Lived Tradition of Jainism**

*Organizer:* **Anne Valley**, University of Ottawa

*Presiding:* **Stephen Quinlan**, University of Ottawa

*Presenters:*

**Kyle Green**, University of Ottawa

*Mahavira's Unveiling: Inaccessibility and Schwartz' God's Phallus in Digambara Jain Iconography*

**Ellen Gough**, Yale University

*Jain Understandings of the Power of the Word: Interpretations of the **R̥ṣi Maṇḍala Yantra***

**Smita Kothari**, University of Toronto

*Revival and Reform of Jaina Yoga – The Preksha Dhyana Movement*

**Tom Pokinko**, McGill University

*Some Contemporary Views on Jaina Values and Conduct Among Indian Lay Jaina-s from Jaipur and Delhi*

**Andrea Jain**, Rice University

*Health, Well-Being, and the Ascetic Ideal: Terapanthi Jainism in the Context of Late Capitalism*

**Victoria Gibb**, University of Ottawa

*'The Coldest of all Religions': Late British Colonial Interpretations of Jaina Dharma*

(For updates, continue to check at: [www.danam-web.org/events.htm](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm))

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**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)

## **Contacts For Further Information**

**For Conference Administration & Logistics:**

**Ms. Diana McQuestion**, Conference Manager: [d.mcquestion@taksha.org](mailto:d.mcquestion@taksha.org)  
Tel: 757-897-3745 cell

**For Conference Program:**

**Dr. Adarsh Deepak**, President, DĀNAM: [a.deepak@taksha.org](mailto:a.deepak@taksha.org), 757-272-3066 cell

## **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Jeffery D. Long**, Elizabethtown College, PA, **Chair**

**Rita D. Sherma**, Binghamton University

**Arindam Chakrabarti**, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Christopher K. Chapple**, Loyola Mount University

**Ramdas Lamb**, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Graham M. Schweig**, Christopher Newport University

**Kusumita Pedersen**, St. Francis College, NYC

**Anne Vallely**, University of Ottawa, Canada



## ***DĀNAM ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD***

The Academic Advisory Board of **DĀNAM** includes **Professors Rita D. Sherma**, Chair, (Binghamton University, NY, & Institute for Theology Beyond Boundaries, AZ), **Arvind Sharma** (McGill University), **Arindam Chakrabarti**, (University of Hawaii at Manoa), **Christopher K. Chapple** (Loyola Mount University, CA), **Rita M. Gross** (Eau Claire, Wisconsin), **Bina Gupta** (University of Missouri, Columbia), **Subhash Kak** (Oklahoma State University), **Ramdas Lamb** (University of Hawaii at Manoa), **Jeffery D. Long** (Elizabethtown College, PA), **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)

## ***CONFERENCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE***

**Diana McQuestion**, *Conference Manager*

**Dr. Pankaj Jain**

**Meera Rao**

**Anjalee Sinha**

## ***DĀNAM PRESIDENT***

**Dr. Adarsh Deepak, Ph. D.**

Chairman, Taksha Institute;

Publisher of Deepak Heritage Books,

*Journal for Vaishnava Studies (JVS)*,

and Academic Volumes in Dharma Studies

## ***DĀNAM ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIRECTOR***

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

Chair, DĀNAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS);

Visiting Associate Professor, DP-AAS, Binghamton University, NY;

President, Institute for Theology Beyond Boundaries (ITBB), AZ

Executive Director, School of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Taksha Institute

## ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

**General Co-Chairs:**

**Dr. Adarsh Deepak**, *President, DĀNAM and Chairman, Taksha Institute*

**Dr. Rajinder P. Gandhi**, *Chairman, DĀNAM*

## **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

**From AAR web site:**

<http://www.aarweb.org>