

Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

13th Annual DANAM Conference 2015 AGENDA

20–21 November 2015 Atlanta, Georgia

DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY

13th Annual DANAM Conference 2015

Sponsored by

Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

20-21 November 2015

Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel Atlanta, Georgia

Held in conjunction with the 2015 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting

13th DANAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

President, DANAM

Chairman, Taksha Institute

Rita D. Sherma, Ph.D. Vice President, DANAM The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE

To provide a Dedicated Forum where scholars of Dharma Traditions (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and other Guru-Shishya 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, 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, and the peer-reviewed Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma volumes. 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, 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).

AGENDA

12th Annual DANAM Conference 2015 (DANAM15) Atlanta, Georgia 20 November (8:30 am) – 21 November 2015

LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Marriott Marquis Hotel

Friday, 20 Nov 2015

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.

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

SESSION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2015 Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel – International 2

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

9:00 - 11:00 am Session 1 (M20-100)

Session 1: Jain Contemplative Praxis: Meditation, Mantra, & Mindfulness

Convener: Kamini Gogri, University of Mumbai

Presider: Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Tillo Detige, Ghent University

"Calling upon the (Un)responsive? Ritual Veneration as Contemplative Praxis in Digambara Jainism"

Ellen Gough, Emory University.

"Integrating Meditation on Mandalas with the Jain Path to Liberation in the 10th-12th Centuries"

Christopher Miller, University of California, Davis

"Contemplating Jivas: The Ecological Implications of Jainism's Elemental Meditations"

Sherry Fohr, Converse College

"Jain Narratives and Contemplative Praxis"

Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College

"Reflections on Jain Yoga from Yaśovijaya to Ācārya Tulsi"

Respondent: Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

<u>11:00 am - 1:00 pm</u> <u>Session 2 (M20-105)</u>

Session 2: Sadhana: Hindu Contemplative Practice Across Traditions

Convener and Presider: Rita Sherma, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

James Madaio, Oxford University

"The Samnyāsin's Path to Liberation: Sādhanā in Medieval Advaita Vedānta".

Gopal K. Gupta, University of North Carolina

"Kṛṣṇa-smaraṇa: Canon, Charisma and Contemplative Spiritual Practice in the Gaudiya Vaisnava Tradition"

Kusumita Pedersen, St. Francis College

"Sri Chinmoy's Teachings on the Methods of Goals of Spiritual Practice"

Neelima Shukal-Bhatt, Wellesley College

"Musical Maps to Samādhi: Sādhanā Steps in the Songs of Mahāpanth Satīs of Gujarat"

Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Contemplative Studies and Hindu Sādhanā"

2:00 - 4:00 pm Session 3 (M20-204)

Session 3: Icons, Imagery, Imagination

Convener: Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i, Manoa **Presider:** Neelima Shukla-Bhatt, Wellesley College

Nalini Rao, Soka Gakkai Univ.

"Krishna's Vrindavana: Transformation of Imagery in Vaisnava Literature and Art" Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

"Imagining Enlightenment: Icons and Ideology in Tibetan Buddhist Practice"

Kamini Gogri, University of Mumbai

"Samvasaran, The Congregation of the Tirthamkaras"

Ramdas Lamb, Univ. of Hawai'i, Manoa

"Icons: Limiting, Representing, or Presenting the Divine?"

Responder: Dana Sawyer, Maine College of Art

7:00 – 9:00 pm Session 4 (Joint Session with Hindu Christian Studies) (P20-405)

Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel – M101 (Marquis Level) Session 4: Rebirth: Hindu and Christian Perspectives

Presider: Stephanie Corigliano, Boston College

Bradley Malkovsky, University of Notre Dame

"Reincarnation and Christianity: An Historical and Theological Overview"

Francis X Clooney, SJ

"The Early Jesuit Critique of Rebirth: What Can We Learn from History?"

Ankur Barua, University of Cambridge

"Revisiting the Rationality of Reincarnation"

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

"One-life and Many-life Theisms: a philosophical discussion"

Respondent: Ram-Prasad Chakravarthi, Lancaster University

SATURDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2015 Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel – A704 (Atrium Level)

8:00 - 9:30 am Session 5 (M21-9)

Session 5: Buddhism & Mindfulness: Meditation, Integrative Medicine, and Contemplative Studies

Convener and Presider: Phyllis K. Herman, California State University, Northridge

Ramakrishnan Parameshwaran, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University "Towards Reconciliation of Hindu and Buddhist Doctrines of Ātman and Anātman Using Intertextual Studies, Neuro-Psychological Principles of Mindfulness and its Trans-Personal Application"

Rajinder Gandhi, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (Ret.) "Mindfulness: MBSR and Integrative Medicine."

Andrew O. Fort, Texas Christian University

"Creating Contemplative Studies in the Southwest: Theory and Practice"

Christopher D. Zefting, Harvard Divinity School

"Practice for a Holistic Life:

How Mindfulness Can Affect the Brain, Body, and Sensory Experiences."

Respondent: Robin Rinehart, Lafayette College

9:30 - 11:30 am Session 6 (M21-100)

Session 6: Book Review: The Nay Science: A History of German Indology, by Vishwa Adluri and Joydeep Bagchee

Convener:

Presider: Rita Sherma, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Presenters:

- 1. Anant Rambachan, St. Olaf College
- 2. Robert Yelle, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- 3. Robert M. Seltzer, Hunter College and the Graduate School of CUNY
- 4. David Cerequas, Hunter College
- 5. Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno
- 6. Douglas T. McGetchin, Florida Atlantic University
- 7. Jeffery Long, Elizabethtown College,
- 8. James Madaio, Oxford University
- 9. Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Respondents:

Joydeep Bagchee, Freie Universität Berlin Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College

11:30 am - 1:00 pm Session 7 (M21-105)

Session 7: Methods in Indian Discourse: Comparative Perspectives on Reason, Theology and Tradition

Convener: Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

Presider: Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

Presenters:

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

"Unfolding Experience: Texts in Psychological Contexts"

Gerald James Larson, Indiana University, Emeritus

"The Pātañjala Yoga-System: An Interesting Chapter in the History of Indian Theism"

Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, Lancaster University

"God without otherness: 'non-dual theology' in Gītā 14.27 "

Anand Venkatkrishnan, Columbia University

"Love in the Time of Scholarship: Theists, Non-Theists, and Intellectual Historians"

Nalini Bhushan, Smith College

"Līlā vs Māyā: The Hermeneutics of Neo-Vedānta in 20th Century India"

Respondent: Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

DANAM 2015 Adjourns

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

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The Academic Advisory Board of **DANAM** includes **Professors Rita D. Sherma**, Ph.D., **Chair**, (DANAM Vice President, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley); **Christopher K. Chapple**, Ph.D. (Loyola Marymount University, CA); **Rita M. Gross**, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, WI); **Jeffery D. Long**, Ph.D. (Elizabethtown College, PA); **Kusumita P. Pedersen**, Ph.D. (St. Francis College, NYC); **Anantanand Rambachan**, Ph.D. (St. Olaf College, MN); **Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad** (Lancaster University, UK), **T. S. Rukmani**, Ph.D. (Concordia University, Canada); **Graham M. Schweig**, Ph.D. (Christopher Newport University, VA); **Arvind Sharma**, Ph.D. (McGill University, Canada); **Vesna Wallace**, Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Barbara, CA); **Ian Whicher** (University of Manitoba, Canada).

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Chair, DANAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS)
The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

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Jyoti Gandhi Meera Rao
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Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.
Chairman, Taksha Institute
Publisher of academic volumes in Dharma Studies

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Dr. Rajinder Gandhi, Chairman, DANAM

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D., President, DANAM, & Chairman, Taksha Institute

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The following information website can be viewed for the convenience of the attendees of DANAM15 Conference and/or 2015 AAR Annual Meeting.

From AAR web site: http://www.aarweb.org/node/245