



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

15th Annual DANAM Conference 2017

AGENDA

**17–18 November 2017
Boston, Massachusetts**

DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY

15th Annual DANAM Conference 2017

Sponsored by

Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

17–18 November 2017

Location: Marriott Copley Place
Boston, Massachusetts

**Held in conjunction with the
2017 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

15th DANAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

President, DANAM

Chairman, Taksha Institute

Rita D. Sherma, Ph.D.

Vice President, DANAM

Director, Center for Dharma Studies, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley CA

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 holds its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the yearly conference of the American Academy of Religion. DANAM was a sponsor during 2001-2011 of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, and since 2003 is the sponsor of the peer-reviewed *Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma* edited volumes.

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

15th Annual DANAM Conference 2017 (DANAM17)

17 November (9:00 am) – 18 November 2017 (12:30 pm)

LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS

**Marriott Copley Place
110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116**

Friday, 17 Nov 2017

8:00 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

Locations:

Friday: Marriott Copley Place – Brandeis (Third Level)

Saturday: Marriott Copley Place – Tufts (Third Level)

FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

SESSION 1: 9:00 – 11:00 am (M17-100)

Charitable Actions and Dharma: Giving and Compassion

Convener: Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

President: Rita Sherma, Graduate Theological Union

Ithamar Theodor, Haifa University, Israel

Charitable Actions by the Ideal Person in the Hindu and Chinese Traditions

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

Bridging Generosity and Economic Ethics: The Maya of Virtue and Responsibility

Amod Lele, Boston University

Disengaged Buddhism: South Asian Buddhist Rejection of Systemic Change

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

Ahiṃsā at Every Moment: Traditional and Modern Understanding

Peter Ryan, The Lotus School of Liberal Arts

The Egg, the Chick, the Hen: A Moment of Presence for Student and Teacher— *Ahiṃsā* and Anti-Hierarchy

Respondent: Karen Enriquez, Loyola Marymount University

SESSION 2: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (M17-106)**Renunciation, Climate Change, and Modernity**

Convener: Christopher Miller, UC Davis

President: Mark Schmanko, Rice University

Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
Jainism and Solar Energy

Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology
Sri Acharya Tulsi, The Anuvrat Movement, and Climate Change

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i Manoa
Hindu Sadhus and the Joys of Limited Consumption

Frédérique Apffel-Marglin, Smith College, (Emerita)
Integral Ecology and Climate Change: Shakta Hinduism, Renunciation and Western
Modernity Contrasted

Rodney Sebastian, University of Florida
Vaiṣṇava Concepts for Ecological Sustainability: Case Study of the Govardhan Ecovillage
Project

Respondent: Rita Sherma, Graduate Theological Union

SESSION 3: 2:00 – 4:00 pm (M17-201)***Ahimsā* as Strategic Resistance to Structural Injustice**

Convener: Purushottama Bilimoria, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

President: Gisele Lemos, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno
"Love in Action": James Lawson's Radical Interpretation of *Ahimsā* in the Civil Rights
Movement

Purushottama Bilimoria, GTU/UCB
Rev Pauli Murray: Black Gay Gandhian Feminist's Strategy of Radical *Ahimsā* for Civil Rights
and Social Justice

Varun Khanna, Chinmaya University, ERNAKULM

Dhārmic Resistance: Building Bridges between Advaita Vedānta and Social Justice for the 21st Century.

Respondent: Andrew Fiala, California State University, Fresno

SESSION 4: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (M17-300)

Secrecy in Sahajiyā and Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Bhakti theologies

Convener: Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida, and David Buchta, Brown University

President: Graham Schweig, Christopher Newport University

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

Secrets to Conceal and Secrets to Obscure in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism

David Buchta, Brown University

Is Sanskrit a Language of Secrecy in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism?

Glen Hayes, Bloomfield College

Hidden Textuality: Strategies of Concealment and Appropriation in 17th-century Vaiṣṇava Sahajiyā Traditions

Abhishek Ghosh, Grand Valley State University

The Meaning of *Sahaja*: From a secret *sāadhanā*, to Innate Intuition

Respondent: Hugh Urban, Ohio State University

SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

SESSION 5: 8:30 – 10:30 am (M18-100)

Reconsidering the Origins of *Bhakti*

Convener: Joydeep Bagchee, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

President: Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College

Bhakti and *Avatāra* in the Nārāyaṇīya

Edward P. Butler, Independent Scholar
Bhakti and Henadology

Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Oregon State University
Svādhyāya and *Bhakti*: Saguṇa Devatā and Nirguṇa Īśvara in Aṣṭāṅgayoga

Caley Charles Smith, Harvard University
Indra as Time: Reconsidering Devotion in Ṛgveda X.27

Sudhakshina Rangaswami, Independent Scholar
Bhakti as the Fruition of *Jñāna* - Revisiting Rāmānuja's Legacy

Respondent: Joydeep Bagchee, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

SESSION 6: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm (M18-108)

Yoga Sutra and *Bhakti*

Convener: Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i, Manoa

President: Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Graham Schweig, Christopher Newport University
Divine Grace in the Highest Samādhi: A *Bhakti* Hermeneutic for Greater Understanding of the *Yoga Sūtra*

Stephanie Corigliano, Boston College
Pluralism, Religious Devotion, and T. Krishnamacharya: Or, How the *Yoga Sūtra* Assumed Scripture-status for Modern Yoga

Edwin Bryant, Rutgers University
Mokṣa is Equivalent to Hell: the Minimization of the Goal of the *Yoga Sūtra* in the *Bhagavata Purana*

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i, Manoa
The Union of Yoga, *Tapasya*, and *Bhakti* in the Ramananda Sampraday

Respondent: Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

DANAM 2017 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

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

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Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College

Constructive Theology–Vedanta

James Madaio, New Europe College

Buddhist Dharma

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

Philosophy and Theory

Joydeep Bagchee, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

Graduate Student Rep.

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University of Hawai'i, Manoa

CONFERENCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Diana McQuestion, *Conference Manager*

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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The following information website can be viewed for the convenience of the attendees of DANAM17 Conference and/or 2017 AAR Annual Meeting.

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