



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

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual DANAM Conference 2018**

**AGENDA**

**16–17 November 2018  
Denver, Colorado**

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**DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY**

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# 16th Annual DANAM Conference 2018

*Sponsored by*

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

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16–17 November 2018

Location: Embassy Suites Downtown  
Denver, Colorado

**Held in conjunction with the  
2018 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

16th 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](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 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](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).

## AGENDA

### 16th Annual DANAM Conference

16 November (9:00 am) – 17 November 2018 (3:30 pm)

#### LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Embassy Suites Downtown  
1420 Stout St., Denver, CO 80202

#### Friday, 16 Nov 2018

**8:00 a.m.** DANAM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK opens.

Participation at DANAM sessions at the AAR Annual Meetings is *complimentary*; there is **NO FEE** involved. However, we would be pleased to receive a preregistration notice from you by email. 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 SCHEDULE**

*Location for all Sessions:  
Embassy Suites Downtown, Crystal Ballroom, Salon C*

**FRIDAY, 16 NOVEMBER**

**Registration desk opens at 8:00 am**

**SESSION 1: 9:00 – 10:45 am (M16-100)****Love and Compassion: Insights from Dharma Traditions**

**Convener and Presider:** Kusumita P. Pedersen, St. Francis College (*Emerita*)

Samani Pratibha Pragya, University of London

**A Comparative Study of Jaina Mitti-bhāvanā and Buddhist Mettā-bhāvana**

Vineet Chander, Princeton University

**Mā Śucah: Śri Kṛṣṇa's Expression of Love and Compassion in the Bhagavad Gītā**

Patrick Beldio, Catholic University of America

**The Transformative Power of Love in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram**

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno

**'Love-Force' and its Variations across Nonviolent Movements**

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

**Love and Compassion in Conflict Zones: Reimagining Two Tarnished Buddhist Principles**

**SESSION 2: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm (M16-105)****Pāñcarātra: Sources and Continuities**

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

**Presider:** Bruce M. Sullivan, Northern Arizona University

Jahnvi Bidnur, Independent Scholar

**The Nārāyaṇa Aspect of the Mahābhārata: Insights from Its Earliest Known Commentary**

Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College

**The Nārāyaṇīya and Later Pāñcarātra**

Joydeep Bagchee, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität  
**Pāñcarātra “Interpolations” in the Mahābhārata**

Arvind Jamkhedkar, Indian Council of Historical Research  
**New Epigraphical and Art-Historical Evidence from the Gupta-Vakataka Period for Sattvatadharma**

**Respondent:** Bruce M. Sullivan, Northern Arizona University

**SESSION 3: 2:00 – 3:45 pm (M16-203)**

**Dharma and Anticolonial Solidarity with the Other**

**Convener and President:** David P. Lawrence, University of North Dakota

Ayon Maharaj, Ramakrishna Mission and Vivekananda Educational Research Institute, West Bengal, India

***Śiva jñāne jīva sevā: Reexamining Swami Vivekananda’s Practical Vedānta in the Light of Sri Ramakrishna***

K. Gopinathan Pillai, Santhigiri Research Foundation, Santhigiri Ashram, Trivandrum, India  
**Paradigm Shift in Spiritual Discourse on Dharma: Santhigiri Model in The Emerging Context of Postcolonial – Post Modern Enquiry for Human Sustainability**

David Peter Lawrence, University of North Dakota, and Eddah Mutua, St. Cloud State  
**Dialogues and Solidarity among the Sages: Bimal Krishna Matilal and Henry Odera Oruka’s Advocacy for the Philosophical Rationality of Nonwestern Cultures**

Emili Choge, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya  
**The Making of a Kenyan Man and Woman: Comparative Studies of Rites of Passage across Kenya Communities**

Li Chenyang, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
**Revisiting Harmony: A Confucian Perspective**

**Respondent:** Rita Sherma, GTU

**SESSION 4: 4:00 – 5:30 pm (M16-302)****Theme: Dharma and Animals**

**Convener:** Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

**President:** Tracy Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii

**Animals and Ahimsa in Hindu Traditions and Culture**

Nawaraj Chaulagain, Illinois Wesleyan University

**The Sacred and the Sacrificial: The Status of Animals in Hindu Religious Life**

Michael S. Reading, Claremont School of Theology

**Jain Perspectives Toward Animals: An Ethological Cross-Examination**

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

**Sinitic Mahayana and Preaching Dharma to Animals**

Cogen Bohanec, GTU

**Mediation Between Animal Rights and Environmental Ethics from a Constructive Hindu Eco-Theology**

**Respondent:** Phyllis K. Herman, California State University, Northridge

**Session 5: 5:45 – 7:15 pm (M16-400)****Theme: Regional Bhakti Traditions**

**Convener and President:** Ravi M. Gupta, Utah State University

Michael S. Allen, University of Virginia

**Bhakti for Kings: Keśavdās's *Vijñān-gītā***

Kirtan Patel, University of Texas at Austin

**Bhakti through Letters: Mediating Caste and Ashram Politics in Nineteenth-Century Gujarat**

Rodney Sebastian, University of Florida

**Mapping the Manipuri Rāsālīlā: Theme, Ritual and Structure**

**SATURDAY, 17 NOVEMBER****Session 6: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (M17-105)****Book Review Panel: *Dharma and Halacha: Comparative Studies in Hindu-Jewish Philosophy and Religion*, co-edited by I. Theodor and Y. Greenberg (Lexington)**

**Conveners:** Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, Rollins College, and Ithamar Theodor, Zefat Academic College

**President:** Rita D. Sherma, Graduate Theological Union

**Panel:**

Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College

Francis X. Clooney, SJ, Harvard University

Joydeep Bagchee, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Karen Pechilis, Drew University

**Respondents:**

Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College

Ithamar Theodor, Zefat Academic College

**SESSION 7: 1:30 – 3:30 pm (M17-201)****Methodologies for the Study of Modern Yoga: New Perspectives**

**Convener:** Christopher P. Miller, Loyola Marymount University

**President:** Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

Amanda Lucia, University of California, Riverside

**The Ephemeral Field: Ethnographic Research on Transient Spirituality**

Christa Schwind, University of Denver

**Locating Contemporary Yoga: Theory, Method and Rhizomatic Genealogy**

Brita Heimarck, Boston University

**Genealogies of the Present: Sacred Sound Practices in Yogic Traditions and the Underlying Philosophies**

Anya Foxen, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**In Modern Yoga a Magic Dwells**

Christopher P. Miller, Loyola Marymount University

**Transnational Yoga and the Mobility of Embodied Alchemy**

**Respondent:** Christopher Key Chapple, LMU



## 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**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

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David P. Lawrence, University of North Dakota

#### **Dharma and Interreligious Dialogue**

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.**

Christopher P. Miller, University of California, Davis

### **DANAM ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD**

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); **Jeffery D. Long**, Ph.D. (Elizabethtown College, PA); **Kusumita P. Pedersen**, Ph.D. (St. Francis College, NYC, Emerita); **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); **Vesna Wallace**, Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Barbara, CA); **Ian Whicher** (University of Manitoba, Canada).

### ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

*General Co-Chairs:*

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

### ***DANAM PRESIDENT***

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.**  
Chairman, Taksha Institute  
Publisher of academic volumes in Dharma Studies

### ***DANAM VICE-PRESIDENT***

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

### ***DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS***

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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 DANAM18 Conference and/or 2018 AAR Annual Meeting.

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