



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

**17th Annual DANAM Conference 2019**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**22–23 November 2019  
San Diego, California**

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**DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY**

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# 17th Annual DANAM Conference 2019

*Sponsored by*

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

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22–23 November 2019

Location: San Diego, California

**Held in conjunction with the  
2019 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

17th DANAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

**Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.**

President, DANAM

Chairman, Taksha Institute

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

Vice President, DANAM

Director & Associate Professor, Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies  
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

## *PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE*

To provide a Dedicated Forum where scholars of Dharma Studies (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and other dharmic traditions and lineages) can engage in the examination of, and constructive approaches to lived experience and contemporary concerns in the global expressions of these traditions. While there are multiple scholarly arenas for presentation of new 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 constructive approaches to philosophy, theology, ethics, epistemology, hermeneutics, pedagogy, praxis, theory, and constructive studies in these systems of thought and practice. It is hoped that these meetings can explore the conceptual complexity of, and critical transdisciplinary research on 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 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 earlier 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).

***PRELIMINARY AGENDA***  
**17th Annual DANAM Conference**

**22 – 23 November 2019**

**LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS**

**San Diego, California**

**Friday, 22 Nov 2019**

**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: TBD*  
*All Times listed below are Tentative*

### **FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER**

Registration desk opens at 8:00 am

#### **SESSION 1: 9:00 – 10:45 am**

##### **Transregional Bhakti Traditions**

**Convener and Presider:** Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

**Panelists:**

- Shivani Bothra, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Terapanth Prabodha: A ‘short-cut method’ to Develop Piety in the Shvetambar Terapanth Tradition
- Rodney Sebastian, University of Florida  
Transregional transmission of Gaudīya Vaiṣṇavism: Building the Sacred Body in Manipuri Vaiṣṇava Dance Dramas
- Brita Heimarck, Boston University  
Global Bhakti: A Complex Network of Devotional Music, Meditation, and Communitas
- Pranati Parikh, Harvard University  
Transregional Theologies of Grace for Comparative Theology
- Nalini Rao, Soka University  
Guru Bhakti as understood in the Dvaita Sampradāya

#### **SESSION 2: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm**

##### **Hindu-Jewish Studies: Tantra and Kabbalah**

**Convener:** Yudit Greenberg, Rollins College

**Presider:** Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder

**Panelists:**

- Pravina Rodrigues, Graduate Theological Union  
The Semiotics of Sefirot and Śrīcakra: A reflection on Sacred Geometry

- Ithamar Theodor, University of Haifa  
Modification, Emanation and Parināma-Vāda in Medieval Theistic Vedānta and Kabbalah
- Yudit Greenberg, Rollins College  
Shakti and Shekhinah: Reflections on Embodiments of the Divine Feminine
- Alan Brill, Seton Hall University  
Can Tantra help us understand Kabbalistic Prayer Kavvanot?

### **SESSION 3: 2:00 – 5:00 pm**

#### **Dharma and Artificial Intelligence**

**Convener:** Ravi Deepak, Taksha Institute

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

#### **Panelists:**

- Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder  
Artificial Intelligence and Indian Tantra
- Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College  
On Jiva-s, Artificial Life Forms, and Inanimate Objects:  
Commander Data, Marie Kondo, and the Dharma Traditions
- Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Oregon State University  
Minds and the Philosophy and Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles  
Interbeing: Humanity in an Ecological Age
- Judith Carlisle, Loyola Marymount University  
Pockets of Place and the Right to Space: Transcendence through Hatha-Yoga and AI
- Gopal K. Gupta, University of Evansville  
Hindu Perspectives on Artificial Life and the Self
- Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology  
Jainism and the Technological Singularity Hypothesis: Defeating the Wrath of AI  
through Cautious and Nonviolent Intent

**SESSION 4: 5:00 – 6:30 pm****Subjectivity, Emotions, and Feelings**

**Conveners:** James Madaio, Czech Academy of Sciences, and Agnieszka Rostalska, Ghent University

**Presider:** Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder

**Panelists:**

- Ana Bajželj, University of California, Riverside  
Passions and Intention in Jainism
- Brian Black, Lancaster University  
Emotions and Ethics in the Mahābhārata
- James Madaio, Czech Academy of Sciences  
A Hermeneutics of Happiness in Medieval Advaita Vedānta
- Agnieszka Rostalska, Ghent University  
Epistemic Faults and Signs of Understanding: An Account of Emotions in Early Nyāya
- Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College  
Rāmānuja's Celebratory Panentheism: The Case for a Nondual Theological Epistemology

**SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER****Session 5: 9:00 – 10:30 am – in Conjunction with the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies**

**Book Review Panel:** *Hindu Approaches to Spiritual Care: Chaplaincy in Theory and Practice*, editors: Vineet Chander, Princeton University and New York University, and Lucinda Mosher, Hartford Seminary

**Convener:** Rita D. Sherma, GTU

**Presider:** Asha Shipman, Yale University

**Panelists:**

- Varun Khanna, University of Pennsylvania
- Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
- Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii
- Kerry San Chirico, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

**Respondents:** Vineet Chander, Princeton University and Lucinda Mosher, Virginia Theological Seminary

**SESSION 6: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm****Mahatma Gandhi's Global Legacy**

**Convener and Presider:** Veena R. Howard, California State University, Fresno

**Panelists:**

- Sungjin Im, Duke University  
(Un)dressing the Mahatma: The Visual Presence of Gandhi in Colonial Korea, 1921-33
- Samani Pratibha Pragma, SOAS, University of London  
Ahimsā Yātrā: Gandhi, Jainism, and a Socio-religious Initiative
- Pankaj Jain, University of North Texas  
Gandhi, Jainism, and the Making of Indic Environmental Ethics in the Late 19th Century
- K. Gopinathan Pillai, Santhigiri Research Foundation, Santhigiri, Trivandrum, India  
Global Nonviolent Awakening and Sustainable Future

**Respondents:** Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i, Manoa and Veena R. Howard, Cal State University, Fresno

DANAM 2019 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*

### *STEERING COMMITTEE*

#### **Chair**

Christopher K. Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, CA

#### **Director of Programs**

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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James Madaio, Czech Academy of Sciences

#### **Buddhist Praxis**

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, San Diego State University, CA

#### **Theology**

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

#### **Tantra, Gender, Women's Studies**

Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder

#### **Member At Large and Journal of Dharma Studies Book Reviews Editor**

David P. Lawrence, University of North Dakota

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

Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College

#### **Buddhist Dharma**

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

#### **Graduate Student Representative**

Michael Reading, Claremont Graduate University

### *ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD*

The Academic Advisory Board of **DANAM** includes Professors **Rita D. Sherma**, PhD (Chair, DANAM Vice President; Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley); **Christopher K. Chapple**, PhD (Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles); **Jeffery D. Long**, PhD (Elizabethtown College, PA); Ramdas Lamb PhD (Univ. of Hawai'i, Manoa); **Ravi M. Gupta** (Utah State Univ.); **Anantanand Rambachan**, PhD (St. Olaf College, MN); **Graham M. Schweig**, PhD (Christopher Newport Univ., VA); **Kusumita P. Pedersen**, PhD (St. Francis College, NYC, Emerita); **Karma Lekshe Tsomo**, PhD (San Diego State Univ., CA).

***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***

**Rita D. Sherma, Ph.D.**  
Chair, DANAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS)  
The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

***DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS***

**Ramdas Lamb, Ph.D.**  
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 DANAM19 Conference and/or 2019 AAR Annual Meeting.

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