



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

18th Annual DANAM Conference 2021

**19-20 November 2021
San Antonio, Texas**

DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY

18th Annual DANAM Conference 2021

Sponsored by

Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

19-20 November 2021

ALL DANAM SESSIONS WILL BE VIRTUAL
Meeting dates and times in local San Antonio time (CST)

**Held in conjunction with the
2021 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting
San Antonio, Texas**

18th 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, 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, 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

18th Annual DANAM Conference

19-20 November 2021

ALL DANAM SESSION WILL BE ONLINE

*Meeting number and password required for log on
Must be registered for AAR Virtual Conference in order to attend
All times listed are in local San Antonio time (CST)*

Friday, 19 Nov 2021

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

Typically, participation at DANAM sessions at the AAR Annual Meetings is *complimentary*; with **NO FEE** involved. However, since we are presenting virtually this year utilizing the AAR platform all attendees must be registered for the AAR virtual conference. This will give you access to all the DANAM panels and hundreds of other panels that will be part of the AAR virtual conference.

To help us monitor attendance and keep our member database updated we would be pleased to receive a preregistration notice from you by email. Your DANAM registration will help us communicate with members more efficiently and utilize our resources more effectively to ensure conference sessions run smoothly. 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

All DANAM sessions to be held online

FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

Session times in local San Antonio time (CST)

SESSION 1: 9:00 – 10:45 am (MV19-109)

Round Table Discussion: Dharma Traditions and Religious Equity in US Higher Education

Convener: Sachi Edwards, Soka University, Tokyo

President: Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College

Panelists:

- Sachi Edwards, Soka University, Tokyo
- Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa-Baker, Loyola Marymount University
- Asha Shipman, Yale University
- Simran Kaur Colbert, Miami University, Ohio

SESSION 2: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm (MV19-118)

DANAM Annual Book Launch- *Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age*. Christopher Patrick Miller, Michael Reading, and Jeffery D. Long, eds., Lexington Books, 2019.

Convener: Christopher P. Miller, Loyola Marymount University

President: Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside

Panelists:

- Patrick Beldio, Marymount University
- Stephanie Corigliano, Humboldt State University
- Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

Respondents: Christopher P. Miller, Loyola Marymount University and Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College

SESSION 3: 2:00 – 3:45 pm (MV19-227)**Book Review: *Rabbi on the Ganges: A Jewish-Hindu Encounter*****Convener/Presider:** Yudit Greenberg, Rollins College**Panelists:**

- Ithamar Theodor, Zefat Academic College
- Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Elijah Fellowship International
- Raj Balkaran, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
- Yudit Greenberg, Rollins College

Respondent: Alan Brill, Seton Hall University**SESSION 4: 4:00 – 5:45 pm (MV19-302)****Concepts of God/Divinity, Including Divine Grace vs. Self-Effort****Conveners:** Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i, at Manoa**Presider:** Rita Sherma, Graduate Theological Union**Panelists:**

- Loriliai Biernacki, University of Colorado, Boulder
God as the Wall of the World: Panentheist Cosmopsychism
- David Lawrence, University of North Dakota
Abhinavagupta and Others on the Convergence of Divine Grace and Nondual Self-Luminosity
- Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida
The Being of God Ripples Through the Ages: *Bhagavatapurana* 1.2.11 and Commentaries
- Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
The Theology of Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas*
- Nikky Singh, Colby College
Guru Nanak's Concept of the Divine

SATURDAY, 20 NOVEMBER**All sessions online, held in local San Antonio time (CST)****SESSION 5: 9:00 – 10:45 am (MV20-105)****“Religious” vs “Spiritual” and the Concept of SBNR****Convener/Presider:** Christopher K. Chapple, Loyola Marymount University**Panelists:**

- Hillary Rodrigues, University of Lethbridge
J. Krishnamurti: An Implicit Current in the Contemporary Nondual Spirituality Movement (NSM)
- Kusumita Pedersen, St. Francis College
Reasons to Be “Spiritual but not Religious” in a World of Plurality
- Anna Lannstrom, Stonehill College
Contemporary Western Yoga as Spiritual Practice for the SBNR Generation: Will it Help or Hurt?
- Jeffrey S. Lidke, Berry College
Knowledge above Dogma: Being a Tantric Yogi in the Age of SBNR
- Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno
Questions of Mahatma Gandhi to Srimad Rajchandra: Rethinking the Dialectics of the Spiritual and the Religious

SESSION 6: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm (MV20-114)**On Spiritual Citizenship****Conveners:** Stephanie Corigliano, Humboldt State University, Embodied Philosophy**Presider:** Ross O’Brien, Assistant Editor, *Tarka*, Journal of Embodied Philosophy**Panelists:**

- Stephanie Corigliano, PhD., Humboldt State University, Embodied Philosophy
On Spiritual Activism
- Neil Dalal, University of Alberta
On Globalization and Cultural Appropriation
- Oneika Mays, Independent Yoga and Meditation Teacher
On Race and Racism

- Alka Arora, PhD., California Institute of Integral Studies
On Ecospirituality and Environmental Activism
- Jacob Kyle, Embodied Philosophy, Founder
On Queer Dharma

DANAM 2021 Adjourns

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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Buddhist Praxis

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

Hindu Theology

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

Dharma and Peace Studies

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno

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

Board Representative

Kusumita Pedersen, St Francis College

Graduate Student Representative

Laaura Dunn, Graduate Theological Union

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 (Univ. of San Diego, 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

Susan Lamb, *Conference Manager*
Diana McQuestion
Pat Deepak **Jyoti Gandhi**
Sudha Natarajan **Ravi Deepak**

Contacts For Further Information**For Conference Administration & Logistics:**

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