

DANAM CONFERENCE 2005

SESSION 5

**Theme: Challenges in Teaching "Sensitive" Topics in Hindu Traditions in the Western
Diaspora Context**

Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida, Presiding

SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

Here, the "sensitive" and difficult topics in teaching Hindu Traditions in the Western context include, but are not limited to: Divinity and divinities (The One and the Many), devas and devis (gods and goddesses), lila, imaging the divine, "graven" image, linga, Kali, holy cow, Sanskrit Dharma terms and concepts without western counterparts, worshipful arts, misappropriations of yoga, TM, sacred rivers such as Ganga (not "Ganges"), etc.

Panelists:

Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida

Graham Schweig, Christopher Newport University
The Sacred Image: Inscrutable Multiplicity and Affability

Guy Beck, Tulane University
Introducing Aryan

Mekhala Devi Natavar, Princeton University
Presenting Sacred Narratives in Indian Dance

Lance Nelson, University of San Diego
Introducing Krishna

Summary of Abstracts:

The papers present the experience of teachers in successfully facing the challenges in teaching different "sensitive" and difficult topics in Hindu Traditions to students in the North American context. A list of such topics include, but are not limited to: Divinity and divinities (The One and the Many), devas and devis (gods and goddesses), lila, imaging the divine, "graven" image, linga, Kali, holy cow, Sanskrit Dharma terms and concepts without western counterparts, worshipful arts, misappropriations of yoga, TM, sacred rivers such as Ganga (not "Ganges"), etc. However, only some of these topics are covered by the panelists.