



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

9th Annual DANAM Conference 2011

DRAFT AGENDA

**18–19 November 2011
San Francisco, California**

DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY

9th Annual DANAM Conference 2011

Sponsored by

Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

CONFERENCE THEME:

***THE IDEALS AND PRACTICALITIES OF NONVIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE
IN DHARMA TRADITIONS***

18–19 November 2011

Location: Intercontinental Hotel
San Francisco, California

**Held in conjunction with the
2011 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

9th DANAM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

Chairman, Taksha University

President, DANAM

Rita D. Sherma, Ph.D.

Vice President, DANAM

Professor & Executive Director, SPRS, Taksha University

PURPOSE of the CONFERENCE

To provide a Dedicated Forum where scholars of Dharma Traditions (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh 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 is a sponsor of the peer-reviewed Journal of Vaishnava Studies, now in its seventeenth year, and the peer-reviewed Contemporary Issues in Constructive Dharma volumes, now in their sixth year. DANAM holds its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the yearly conference of the American Academy of Religion.

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); and in preparation for publication: *Prayer and Worship in Dharma Traditions* (Eds. Rita D. Sherma, Arindam Chakrabarti, and Adarsh Deepak).

AGENDA

**9th Annual DANAM Conference 2011 (DANAM11)
Intercontinental Hotel , San Francisco, CA
Meeting Hall: Grand Ballroom C and Sutter Room**

18 November (8:30 am) – 19 November (1:00 pm) 2011

DANAM 2011 THEME

***THE IDEALS AND PRACTICALITIES OF NONVIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE
IN DHARMA TRADITIONS***

TOPICAL THEMES & SESSIONS

JAINISM – NONVIOLENCE, VIOLENCE AND THE FATE OF ANIMALS
HINDUISM – HINDU CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY: ENGAGEMENT WITH VIOLENCE AND NONVIOLENCE
SIKHISM – THE PARADOX OF NONVIOLENCE AND THE PRACTICALITIES OF VIOLENCE
BUDDHISM – BUDDHIST APPROACHES TO NONVIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE IN HISTORICAL AND
CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS
BOOK REVIEW

LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Intercontinental Hotel: Grand Ballroom C (Friday) and Sutter Room (Saturday)

Friday, 18 Nov 2011

8:30 a.m. DANAM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK opens. To receive the complimentary Conference Package, including the Abstract Digest, please register ahead with contact information, online at:

http://www.danam-web.org/registration_1.html

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

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2011

9:00 – 9:05 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

9:05 – 11:00 am **Session 1: Non-Violence and Violence in Dharma Traditions: Warriors, Ascetics, Animals, and Farmers**

Convener and Presider: Kusumita Pedersen, St. Francis College, NYC

Koenraad Elst, Independent Scholar

“From the Indo-European Warrior Bands to Modern Buddhist Involvement in War: the Martial Origins and Involvements of Shramanism”

Carl Olson, Allegheny College

“The Conflicting Themes of Nonviolence and Violence in Ancient Indian Asceticism as Evident in the Practice of Fasting”

Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

“Imitation, Reincarnation, and Compassion: Animals in Indic Traditions”

Whitney Sanford, University of Florida

“Practicing Non-Violence through Food: Gandhi's Agrarian Legacy in Contemporary Intentional Communities”

11:00 am – 1:00 pm **Session 2: Violence and Non-Violence in Hindu Traditions**

Convener and Presider: Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College, PA

T.S. Rukmani, Concordia University

“From Violence to Non-Violence as Evidenced in the *Mahabharata*”

Veena Howard, University of Oregon

“Animals’ Own Voices in Hindu Narratives: The Ideal of Nonviolence towards Living Beings”

Neela Bhattacharya Saxena, Nassau Community College

“Are the fierce forms of the Mahadevi ‘Violent’? A Reading of the *Chandi*”

Purushottama Bilimoria, Deakin University and Melbourne University, Australia

“The Threads of Gandhian Nonviolence in the African American Civil Rights Movement, 1893-1968”

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii

“Non-violence and Environmentalism in the Dharma Traditions”

2:00 – 4:00 pm **Session 3: Animals, Non-Violence & the Jain Tradition**

Convener and Presider: Anne Vallely, University of Ottawa, Canada

Smita Kothari, University of Toronto

“The Terāpantha Doctrine of Non-interference – an Ethical and moral dilemma?”

Nika Kuchuk, University of Ottawa

“Serpents in the Iconography of the Goddess Padmāvati: A Comparative Study”

Bradley Boileau, University of Ottawa

“‘Telling’ Animal Encounters: Defining Jaina Heroism through Human-Animal Interaction in Jaina Puranic Narrative”

Anne Vallely, University of Ottawa

“Jainism’s Ontology of Kinship”

4:00 – 6:00 pm Session 4: Sovereignty, Sacrifice, and the Sacred: Non-Violence and Violence in Sikh Dharma

Convener: Arvind Mandair, University of Michigan

Presider: Geetanjali Singh Chanda, Yale University

Arvind Mandair, University of Michigan

“Mourning Sovereignty: Finitude and Sacred Violence in the Khalsa Narrative”

Navdeep Singh Mandair, University of Birmingham, UK

“Squandered Souls: Rethinking the Sacrificial Idiom in Sikhism”

Prabhsharandeep Singh, Independent Scholar

“(Non)violent (Wo)manhood in Sri Guru Granth Sahib”

Balbinder S. Bhogal, Hofstra University

“To Be or Not To Be Violent – Modernity and Sikh Reticence”

Michael Hawley, Mount Royal University, Canada

“Gandhi and the Sikhs”

SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

8:30 – 10:30 am Session 5: Book Review of: *Religion and the Specter of the West: Sikhism, India, Postcoloniality, and the Politics of Translation*, by Arvind Mandair

Convener: Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Presider: Rita Sherma, Taksha University and ITBB

Panelists:

Purushottama Bilimoria, UC Berkeley

Gerry Larson, UC Santa Barbara

Joseph Prabhu, California State Univ., Long Beach

Michael McLaughlin, St. Leo University

Respondent: **Arvind Mandair**, University of Michigan

10:30 am – 1:00 pm Session 6: *Bhakti and Yoga*

Convener: Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

Presider: Brian Black, Lancaster University, UK

Brian Black, Lancaster University, UK

“Yoga in the Upanishads”

Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

“Yoga and Bhakti: Married or Divorced?”

Barbara A. Holdrege, University of California, Santa Barbara

“**Krsna** Bhakti and Classical Yoga: The **Gaudiya** Challenge to **Patañjali**”

David L. Haberman, Indiana University

“The Place of Emotions in Yoga: Suppression or Expression?”

Jonathan Edelmann, Mississippi State University

“By the Grace of God: Bhakti-Yoga as Unobtainable by Personal Effort”

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai’i

“Yoga . . . for God’s Sake”

Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

“California Dreaming: Bhakti Fest in Joshua Tree, 2011”

1:00 p.m. **DANAM 2011 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 cell

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

STEERING COMMITTEE

Kusumita Pedersen, St. Francis College, NYC, **Chair**
Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College, PA
Christopher K. Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, CA
Rita D. Sherma, Taksha University; **DANAM Vice President**
Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Anne Vallely, University of Ottawa, Canada
Karma Lekshe Tsomo, San Diego State University
Ballbinder Bhogal, Hofstra University, NY
Sthaneshwar Timalisina, San Diego State University
Purushottama Bilimoria, UC Berkeley, Deakin University

DANAM ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Academic Advisory Board of **DANAM** includes **Professors Rita D. Sherma**, Ph.D., **Chair**, (DANAM Vice President, Taksha University); **Christopher K. Chapple**, Ph.D. (Loyola Marymount University, CA); **Rita M. Gross**, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, WI); **Jeffery D. Long**, Ph.D. (Elizabethtown College, PA); **Arvind Pal Mandair**, Ph.D. (University of Michigan); **Kusumita P. Pedersen**, Ph.D. (DANAM SC Chair, St. Francis College, NYC); **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).

DANAM VICE-PRESIDENT and ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Rita Dasgupta Sherma, Ph.D.

Chair, DANAM Board of Distinguished Visiting Scholars (BDVS);
Executive Director, School of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Taksha University;
Director, Institute for Theology Beyond Boundaries (ITBB), AZ

CONFERENCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Diana McQuestion, *Conference Manager*

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

DANAM PRESIDENT

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D.

Chairman, Taksha University;
Publisher of *Journal for Vaishnava Studies (JVS)*,
and academic volumes in Dharma Studies.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

General Co-Chairs:

Dr. Rajinder Gandhi, Chairman, DANAM

Adarsh Deepak, Ph.D., President, DANAM, & Chairman, Taksha University

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The following information web sites are for the convenience of the attendees of DANAM11 Conference and/or 2011 AAR Annual Meeting.

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