



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

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual DANAM Conference 2016**

**AGENDA**

**18–19 November 2016  
San Antonio, Texas**

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**DHARMA SUSTAINS DIVERSITY**

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# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual DANAM Conference 2016

*Sponsored by*

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

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18–19 November 2016

Location: Marriott Riverwalk Hotel  
San Antonio, Texas

**Held in conjunction with the  
2016 American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting**

14th 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

**14th Annual DANAM Conference 2016 (DANAM16)**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**18 November (10:30 am) – 19 November 2016**

### LOCATION OF ACADEMIC SESSIONS

Marriott Riverwalk Hotel

#### **Friday, 18 Nov 2016**

**10:00 a.m.** DANAM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK opens. To receive the complimentary Conference Package, including the Abstract Digest, please register ahead with contact information.

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](http://www.danam-web.org/events.htm)

## SESSION SCHEDULE

*All sessions will be held in the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel,  
Alamo Ballroom, Salon F.*

### FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

#### **SESSION 1: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (M18-107)**

##### **Interrogating Rebirth: Hindu-Christian Debates and their Contemporary Relevance**

**Convener and Presider:** Jonathan Edelman, University of Florida

Gerald J. Larson, Indiana University, Bloomington, emeritus; and UC Santa Barbara, emeritus:  
Classical Yoga's Eccentric "Theism" of "Many-lives" and its Critique of Theism?

Brad Malkovsky, University of Notre Dame  
Reincarnation, Purgatory, and Unsolved Questions in Catholic Eschatology

Nalini Bhushan, Smith College  
Missionary Teachers and their Hindu Students in Colonial India: Debating the Relevance of  
Rebirth for a Global and Cosmopolitan Audience

Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College  
One Life/Many Lives: An Internal Hindu-Christian Dialogue

**Respondent:** Francis X. Clooney, SJ, Harvard University

#### **SESSION 2: 2:00 – 4:00 pm (M18-205)**

##### **The Self and I in Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain Thought**

**Convener:** Purushottama Bilimoria, Graduate Theological Union

**Presider:** Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific  
Revisiting Chinese Buddhist debates on "shen bu mie," or "indestructability of soul."

Ithamar Theodor, University of Haifa  
Constructing the Aesthetic Self of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa

Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College  
Self, Not Self, and the Reasonableness of Rebirth

Joseph Prabhu, Cal. State, Los Angeles  
The Self in Aurobindo, Hegel, and Panikkar

Christopher K. Chapple, Loyola Marymount University  
The Self of the Jñānārṇava: Jain Reflective Luminosity

**Respondent:** Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union

### **SESSION 3: 4:00 – 6:00 pm (M18-300)**

#### **Sādhana, Self, and I: Conceptualizing Hindu Contemplative Practices**

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

Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawai'i  
The Interplay of Personality and Practice in the Rāmānanda Sampradaya

Michael Allen, University of Virginia  
Eighteen Means to Knowing the Self: Nischaldas and the Unification of Hinduism

Meera Kachroo, McGill University  
His Own Visionary Authority: Manifesting Maṇidvīpā at Devīpuram

Gopal Gupta, Florida Gulf Coast University  
Contemplating the Song of Krishna's Flute: Self and Sound in the *Bhagavata Purana*

**Respondent:** Rita D. Sherma, The Graduate Theological Union

**SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER****SESSION 4: 9:00 – 11:00 am (M19-100)****DANAM Annual Book Review: Gandhi's Ascetic Activism: Renunciation and Social Action, by Veena R. Howard**

**Convener and President:** Joseph Prabhu, Cal. State University

**Panel Members:**

Parameshwaram Ramakrishnan, Harvard Divinity School

Pankaj Jain, University of North Texas

Christopher Miller, University of California, Davis

Leah Kalmanson, Drake University

Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union

**Respondent:** Veena R. Howard

**SESSION 5: 11:15 am – 1:15 pm (M19-104)****Dharma in Southeast Asia: Transmissions and Responses**

**Convener:** Verena Meyer, Columbia University

**Presiders:** Verena Meyer, Columbia University, and Andrea Acri, Nalanda University

Andrea Acri, Nalanda University

The (Trans)formation of the Textual Canon of Balinese Hinduism

Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida

Krishna Narratives in Angkorian Sculpture

June McDaniel, College of Charleston

Hindu Adaptation in Indonesia: Popular, Priestly and Institutional Styles

Verena Meyer, Columbia University

The Limits of Dharma: South Asian Religions in Southeast Asia

**Respondent:** Morny Joy, University of Calgary

DANAM 2016 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**

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#### **Buddhist Studies:**

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, San Diego State University, CA

#### **DANAM-L:**

Pankaj Jain, North Texas University

#### **Theology and Ethics:**

Jonathan Edelmann, University of Florida

#### **Past Chair:**

Kusumita P. Pedersen, St. Francis College, NYC, Emerita

#### **DANAM International Journal of Dharma Studies Representative:**

Purushottama Bilimoria, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

### **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); **Anantanand Rambachan**, Ph.D. (St. Olaf College, MN); **Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad**, Ph.D. (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**, Ph.D. (University of Manitoba, Canada).



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**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, PhD.**  
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 DANAM16 Conference and/or 2016 AAR Annual Meeting.

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