

A group of approximately 15 people, including staff and students, are posed for a group photo on the stone steps of a grand, classical building entrance. The building features large, fluted columns and a central doorway with a decorative pediment. A red semi-transparent banner is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing the report's title and anniversary information. The group is diverse in age and attire, with some individuals wearing Oxford University-branded clothing.

Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
Annual Report

2022-2023

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Annual Report 2023

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Message from the Director



Dear Friends,

In this, our 25th anniversary year, we have reached a major milestone—securing a permanent home for Hindu Studies in Oxford!

After years of searching in a difficult property market we have found a property that has more potential than any we have seen before.

Let's take a moment to reflect on this achievement and the impact it will have on our future.

I am proud of our Friends, Benefactors, and staff, who have worked together to make this happen. You will know what a journey it has been and some may wonder how we got here at all. I do.

It has been a team effort, exemplifying sacrifice, generosity, volunteer spirit, and broadminded vision.

We plan to complement the pre-existing houses on the site by building the first purpose-built academy for Hindu Studies in the world. We aim to house 100,000 books, and provide facilities for teaching, lecturing, dining, and chaplaincy. All part of our long term plan to set down permanent roots in Oxford—establishing a model that others can replicate and setting a benchmark for others to follow.

We are an intellectual hot-house, bringing students and scholars together from all over the world, and allowing them to freely explore all things Hindu. This is what makes us the world's leading centre for Hindu Studies.

Our new home will enable us to expand our impact in classrooms, homes, and temples internationally, through research, publishing, teaching, online education—all fuelled by good thinking, and now, the space we need. A new environment means more innovation, more creativity, and more accessibility.

Our next phase is turning words into bricks and securing an endowment. To do this we need to expand our team of helpers and ambassadors. All offers of support gratefully accepted. As we say in Ireland, 'Giorraíonn beirt bóthar, Two people shorten the road.'

Thank you for all you have done to help and every good wish and blessing for the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Handwritten signature of Shaunaka Rishi Das in blue ink.

Shaunaka Rishi Das
Director



Graham Broughton handing over the keys for the new property to Shaunaka Rishi Das.

'We are making the first purpose-built campus for Hindu Studies in the world.'



Aerial view of the property.



The front of the new OCHS campus.

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The Academic Year 2022-23

Message from the Academic Director

Teaching

Research

Publications

Fellows' Publications

Exhibitions by Fellows

Conference Papers and Lectures by Fellows

Visiting Fellows' Reports

Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops

Awards for Students

Bursaries

Thanks from Students



Message from the Academic Director

Over the past 25 years we have grown into a mature research institution and are now, I can say with confidence, leading the field of Hindu Studies. Since I joined the OCHS almost 15 years ago, I have seen impressive and constant growth in research, publications and teaching. Adding six new research projects to our portfolio this year we are now the home of 32 projects. We also hosted four international conferences and our Fellows published 62 books and articles adding significantly to the field of Hindu Studies.

Seeing a wider need for our engagement with universities around the world struggling to provide teaching in Hinduism beyond the introductory level, we have begun to develop an online undergraduate degree in Hindu Studies to extend our educational reach and provide a flexible learning environment for a broader audience. We already have a flourishing Continuing Education Department, providing first-class online courses, and we intend to use this platform as a model for the development of a new degree.

Last year, Dr Jessica Frazier initiated the Indian Philosophy Seminars, bringing together students from across years and degrees to discuss topics within Indian philosophy, which have been a resounding success. These Seminars, the first of their kind in Oxford, have attracted a diverse and engaged audience and vibrant discussion and intellectual exchange has stimulated new avenues of thought for all participants

This year, we have taken on one new DPhil student, Sharvi Maheshwari, making a total of seven DPhil students of Oxford University supervised at the OCHS. The number of undergraduate and graduate students has increased significantly in recent years reflecting our commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars and researchers. I am also pleased to report that we have a growing number of bursaries coming in as endowments, thus allowing us to financially support students of Hindu Studies.

Our Kathmandu office established by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen launched a new Summer University Course in Nepal in August 2022 and repeated the success in August 2023. The course seeks to engage students with lived religion accompanied by daily lectures and the feedback has been phenomenal.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I would like to express my deep gratitude to our esteemed faculty, dedicated staff, and enthusiastic students for their unwavering commitment to excellence.

It is especially in difficult times, as we are now in, that academic study needs to carry on providing reasoned debate along with the enhancement of knowledge for the future. At the OCHS we see ourselves standing within a long tradition of intellectual pursuit, that seeks to enhance our understanding of human life, our contemporary world, and the long history that is behind us. I invite you to delve into the pages of this annual report, which showcases our achievements, highlights our contributions to the academic landscape, and outlines our aspirations for the future. May it serve as a testament to our unwavering commitment to intellectual growth, collaboration, and the dissemination of knowledge in Hindu Studies.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin Flood". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Professor Gavin Flood FBA
Piramal Dean of Academic Affairs, OCHS

Teaching

Fellows of the Centre continued teaching students of the University, from undergraduates to doctorate students. Prof. Gavin Flood is currently supervising three DPhil students, Dr Jessica Frazier is supervising two DPhil students, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms each one DPhil student.

Dr Lutjeharms gave the lectures for the papers *Hinduism: Sources and Formations* and *Modern Hinduism*. Dr Frazier offered two lectures for the *Religion & Religions* paper, and both she and Dr Lutjeharms also lectured for the MST in Study of Religions core course. Dr Wernicke-Olesen continues to teach the Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims course for the Faculty of Theology & Religion, which had 8 students this year. Together, fellows from the OCHS tutored 11 students in classical Hinduism, 5 in modern Hinduism, 20 in the first-year paper *Religion & Religions*, 3 students for the paper *The Nature of Religion*, as well as 4 students for the MST in the Study of Religion. In addition, Dr Frazier taught 6 students Indian Philosophy for the Philosophy Faculty.

Especially encouraging has been the increase in students choosing to write their undergraduate dissertation on a Hinduism topic and the third-year students choosing the paper *Further Studies in Hinduism*, which allows them to research a topic of their choice. This year, fellows of the OCHS supervised 4 undergraduate dissertations and 4 students for the *Further Studies* paper.



Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen together with this years Pali and Sanskrit students.

Research

Below you can find an update on the developments on our research programmes and research projects.

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Māns Broo, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr Lucian Wong

This academic year saw the launch of two new research projects: *The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium*, led by Prof. Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong; and a new project on the development of the concept of

bhakti-rasa—central to Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava theology—led by Prof. Kiyokazu Okita. There were also two significant publications, with a third being in press. Details about the progress and output of individual projects in the research programme can be found below.

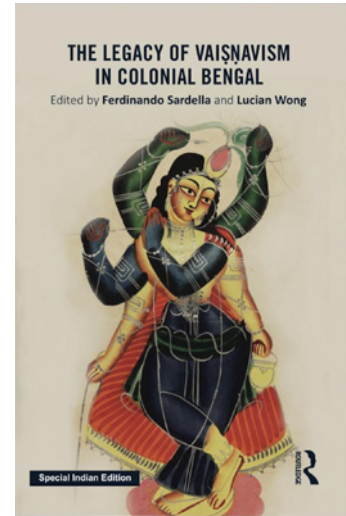
Prof. Kiyokazu Okita applied for and received a four-year research grant (4.68 million yen, approx £25,700) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The project explores the historical development of the concept of *rasa* and *bhakti-rasa* in medieval India (i.e. after Abhinavagupta). Together with Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari he has also been editing and translating Vopadeva's *Harilīlā*, with Hemādri's commentary. With Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari and Dr Tomohiro Manabe, he has been editing and translating Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's commentary on the first verse of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, and with Dr Naba Gopal Roy, Prof. Niwa Kyoko, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms he has been translating the *rāslīlā* section in Maladhar Basu's *Śrīkṛṣṇavijay*.

Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period

Project Leaders: Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Dr Lucian Wong

This project, which was launched in 2015, undertakes the mapping, collection, translation and investigation of literature and any other relevant material related to, or dealing with, the modern development of Bengali Vaiṣṇavism from the mid-18th century to the mid-twentieth century.

The project recently published the Indian edition of their 2020 publication *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by project co-directors Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Dr Lucian Wong.



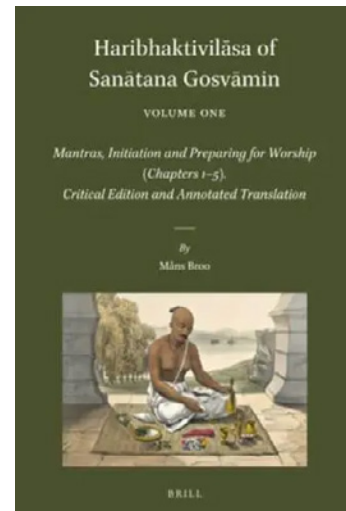
Gauḍīya Patrikā Digital Database

Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong and Dr Sumantra Rudra

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), Kolkata, holds one of the richest standalone Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodical collections in the world. Dr Lucian Wong, co-director of the OCHS's Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism Research Programme, and Dr Sumanta Rudra, Dean of Academic Affairs at the BRC, have been leading an initiative to build a state-of-the-art, fully text-searchable digital database of the BRC's periodical collection. Earlier this year, the project entered into an official collaboration with Jadavpur University's School of Cultural Text's and Records (SCTR). The SCTR team, led by former SCTR Director, Prof. Sukanta Chaudhuri, FBA, will oversee the technical work of building the database, which is already underway.

Haribhaktivilāsa

Sanātana Gosvāmin's *Haribhaktivilāsa* (ca. 1540) describes the normative ritual life of a Vaiṣṇava devotee. As it is one of the first Sanskrit texts of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition begun by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486-1533) it presents a fascinating meeting between this ecstatic new religious movement and older, Brahminical tradition. On the basis of eleven manuscripts, Dr Māns Broo has been working for some years on a critically edition of the text and its commentary, together with an annotated translation. This year, the first volume of this project has been published by Brill, under the title *Haribhaktivilāsa of Sanātana Gosvāmin, Volume 1: Mantras, Initiation and Preparing for Worship (Chapters 1-5). Critical Edition and Annotated Translation*. The entire book is available, through open access, as a free download from the publisher's website. Dr Broo is currently working on the next volume in the series.



The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium: Experiencing the Divine in Eastern India

Project Leaders: Dr Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong

This Working Group, led by Dr Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), brings together scholars from the fields of textual studies, literature, philosophy, anthropology, ritual studies, and art history, to share and inspire research that focuses specifically on the Vaiṣṇava sensorium. So far, some scholars have been directly working on the sensorium in the context of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, others have been working on it less consciously. This is an attempt to bring these scholars, working in various disciplines, into conversation with each other around the central focus of the Vaiṣṇava sensorium as it is understood in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy, poetry, drama, aesthetics, and practices of ritual and interiority. In this endeavor, we aim to bring together scholars who work on eastern India—erstwhile Mithila, Assam, greater Bengal, and Orissa, and scholars who work on the early modern, colonial, or the modern (and contemporary) periods. The aim is to look at both the roots of the Vaiṣṇava sensorium as it was understood in the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava canon but also to consider the ripple effects of this doctrine in the ways in which groups inspired by ideas seeded by the Gauḍīyas moved their understandings into new and fecund directions. A critical dimension of this project is to define the sensorial ontology of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. Ultimately, the aim is to chart a new poetics of perception and experience of the divine, among the Gauḍīyas and beyond.

The aim of the conveners of this Working Group is to eventually, and organically, pull together an edited volume on the Vaiṣṇava sensorium that would showcase the writings of these various scholars in a single volume. The project held a symposium at the Annual Conference of South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin, in October 2023.

The Building of Vṛndāvana

The Building of Vṛndāvana: This book brings together scholarship on the early modern history of Vṛndāvana, the temple town devoted to Kṛṣṇa, exploring in particular how the physical buildings were located in the theological, ritual, artistic, and literary worlds of its devotees.

Gauḍīya Study Programme

In June 2023, the tenth cohort of students completed the Gauḍīya Study Programme, an online tutorial programme in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies. The programme, launched in Trinity Term 2020, introduces current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students from the UK, North America, India, Australia, and Asia. The programme is led by Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and includes among its teachers Dr Māns Broo, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Anuradha Dooney, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Dr Kenneth Valpey, and Dr Lucian Wong. An in-person study retreat took place in September 2023.



Dr Rembert Lutjeharms.

The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops, and seminars in Oxford as well as numerous volumes and articles.

Dr Wernicke-Olesen convened a *Netratantra Seminar* at Campion Hall and the OCHS on Tuesday, 28th February 2023, 10.00-15.30. Amongst the contributors were Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Rajan Khatiwoda, Dr Ulrik Lyngs, Mr Michael Elison, Dr Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder.

New projects include a translation project of the *Ṣaṭcakranirūpana* aiming at a full English translation and annotated edition of the text. The project is led by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and forms part of the newly established Scandinavian Indological Society.

In 2022 a high-profile research and publication project with Prof. Alexis Sanderson, Prof. Gavin Flood, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen was added to the Śākta Traditions research programme.



Dr Rajan Khatiwoda together with students at this year's Summer University course in Kathmandu.

Tantra in South Asia: Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. Alexis Sanderson, and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta and Śaiva tantric traditions are found in various places in India and Nepal. They form the ritual and philosophical core of many yogic and tantric traditions and movements that were exported to the rest of the world, and they have now become part and parcel of global religious history. Thus, an understanding of the Śākta Śaiva traditions, especially as they developed in Kashmir and beyond, is crucial for an understanding of the history of Indian religions as well as an understanding of modern yoga and tantra as it is practiced today in many places around the world.

These traditions can be traced back many centuries but until recently, tantric worship in Kashmir had been understood simply as ‘Kashmir Śaivism’, the worship of the god Śiva including all deities related to him. But it is now evident that this understanding does not suffice to describe the actual practices and forms of religion found in the texts and lived by people. At the core of Śaiva worship and Śaiva philosophy, we find that Śākta worship, or worship of the Goddess, plays a prominent role. This insight means that much in our understanding of Indian religions is about to change, and the publications included in this project will contribute to the rewriting of the history of Indian Religions that Prof. Sanderson’s work has precipitated. The Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond project will therefore establish the OCHS as a central institution for Tantric and Śākta studies in the UK. The project outputs are:



- » A fully annotated translation of the *Netratantra* with an introduction in three volumes by Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda to be published in the *Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions* series. The first volume is currently being edited and will be submitted for publication in 2024. *Consultants: Prof. Alexis Sanderson and Prof. Diwakar Acharya.*
- » The lecture series *Readings in the Tantrāloka* I-VIII by Prof. Alexis Sanderson recorded at the OCHS has been edited and published online in Michaelmas 2022.
- » A multi-volume critical edition and translation of Abhinavagupta’s *Tantrāloka* by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (forthcoming).
- » Weekly *Netroddyota* online reading sessions by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (July 2020-July 2021) are currently being edited.
- » Weekly *Netratantra* translation seminars at the OCHS in Michaelmas Term every year by Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen for the Theology and Religion Faculty.
- » An international conference in Oxford on Śākta and Śaiva religion from Kashmir in 2024.
- » A volume on *Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions* (ed. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen) in *The Oxford History of Hinduism* series (General Editor: Gavin Flood) based on the Śākta Traditions online lectures series (forthcoming).

OCHS Kathmandu Office and Summer University in Nepal

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen and other affiliates of the research programme established a study and research centre for the Śākta Traditions programme in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitisation and fieldwork. While the work in Nepal came to a halt in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facilities have been secured and manuscript and fieldwork in Nepal has resumed, including visiting DPhil students and interns from Oxford. Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

The highly successful OCHS Summer University in Kathmandu with a focus on Śākta Hinduism in the Kathmandu Valley (summeruni.co.uk) took place at the Hyatt Hotel from the 31st of July to 13th of August 2022. Around 20 international students went and many of the participants were Oxford students (including DPhils) who were or have been taught and supervised by Fellows of the OCHS. The course also took place in August 2023.

The OCHS Summer University combines lectures and workshops with excursions and fieldwork experiences in rituals, religious spaces, and traditional practices, i.e. understanding through participation. Lecturers and tutors include Prof. Gavin Flood (Oxford), Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen (Oxford), Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg), Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo), Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Oxford), Prema Goet (SOAS), Gitte Poulsen (Aarhus and Oxford), and Laura Anderson (Oxford) as well as local scholars including Prof. Kashinath Nyaupane from the Nepal Sanskrit University. The Summer University is ECTS accredited through a collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding with the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society facilitated by Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen. The Summer University is managed by Gitte Poulsen and Laura Anderson with Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen as consultants.



Staff and students at Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Kathmandu.

Student Experiences

‘The course was absolutely fantastic, bridging theory and practice; classroom study and “out there” experiences of religion and culture in the field. As an anthropologist-turned-theologian, my passion for ethnography and qualitative fieldwork has been reignited as I continue to study in Nepal. I am excited to be developing some of my findings into a forthcoming symposium paper, as well as my University of Cambridge Masters’ thesis due in December. Many thanks to the Spalding Trust Fund and Cambridge Divinity Faculty for supporting me in pursuing this learning experience.’

Florence Harry
Cambridge MPhil candidate



‘We chased after the sunrises at Pashupatinath, witnessed the sun sinking beneath the top of the Himalayan peaks; we learnt about tantra and yoga in the morning, participated in religious rituals in the afternoon; Tibetan Buddhist puja at dawn, Hindu aghori puja at night. The colourful, sentimental, scented memories of my month in Kathmandu will live in my memory vividly and forever. The testimonial should be called a love letter to Kathmandu: It is not just a summer university, it is a life changing experience. I will be back next year.’

Iona Hanqi Shen
Oxford University

‘The OCHS Summer University in Kathmandu was really an incredible experience. Being in the city accompanied by academics, from Oxford as well as from Nepal, and all of their nous and knowledge was unlike any trip that I could have had taken on my own. I came back having met yogis and priests and having been at late night Aghori practices and tantric rituals. I would recommend the trip to anyone who has an interest in witnessing Nepal and its religious culture in a way usually difficult to access for an outsider.’

Lucas Quinn
Oxford University



Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series

Conveners: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Ms Lena Molin, and Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen

The academic year further saw the continuation of the highly successful Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series supervised by Dr Wernicke-Olesen. The list of speakers in 2022-23 included renowned scholars in the field of Śākta Studies such as Prof. June McDaniel, Prof. Shaman Hatley, and Prof. Diwakar Acharya. Previous speakers include Prof. Alexis Sanderson, Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. David White, Prof. James Mallinson, Prof. Knut Jacobsen, Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, Dr Bihani Sarkar, Prof. Mandakranta Bose, and Prof. Harunaga Isaacson.

The Project aims to carve out space for Śāktism as an area of research in its own right. The project is a compilation of the most prominent research already done in the field of Śākta Traditions, which can serve as educational material as well as a point of departure for further research on the subject. The Series comprises four related online lecture series presented during the academic years of 2020-2023. The main goal of the project is to open up the academic field of Śākta Studies to a wider audience. Due to the online format of the lecture series, these contributions (including downloadable handouts) are preserved and archived for the future and serve as an important resource for the public as well as for researchers and students in the field of Śākta Studies.

Amṛtānanda's *Saubhāgyasudhodaya* and *Cidvilāsastava*

This research project, led by Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, focuses on the work of Amṛtānanda (ca. 1325-1375), a learned exponent of the Tantric Śākta tradition of Tripurā, also known as Śrīvidyā. His most important work is his commentary (*Dīpikā*, 'The Lamp') on the *Yoginīhṛdaya*, one of the Śrīvidyā seminal sources; he explains and interprets the speculative, esoteric teachings of this work in the light of the Śākta-Śaiva dynamic non-dualism of the Trika system. Amṛtānanda also authored a *paddhati*, the *Saubhāgyasudhodaya*, and a *stotra*, the *Cidvilāsastava*.

The aim of the project is to produce a monographic study with annotated translations of Amṛtānanda's *Saubhāgyasudhodaya* and *Cidvilāsastava*. Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder has already produced the first annotated translation of the *Cidvilāsastava* (*Eulogy of the Playful Manifestation of [the Supreme] Consciousness*, forthcoming, Vienna 2023) which, like Abhinavagupta's hymns, can be classified in the category of the speculative *stotras*. This text of forty verses appears to be a work written by an erudite initiate and was intended for his peers. Since its concise allusions to speculative and ritual elements are in several places difficult to interpret, the translation is a preliminary, tentative effort to unravel this rich and complex text. Given its relevance, it would therefore be worth studying the other extant work of this author, the *Saubhāgyasudhodaya* (*The Rising of the Nectar of Happiness*), a *paddhati* composed of 142 verses and divided into six 'developments' (*prapañca*). While the contents of this text may also shed light on some controversial passages of the *Cidvilāsastava*, an annotated translation would add to our knowledge of Amṛtānanda's contribution to the South Indian Śrīvidyā textual tradition.

The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology

Project Leader: Prof. Gavin Flood

The research project, Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology launched in September 2021 with an international online conference, and which resulted in a publication (see below), was followed up by a further colloquium on Theology and Contemplation funded by Campion Hall on 29 May 2023. This colloquium focused on the work of the poet and philosopher Prof. Kevin Hart. Responding to his work was Father Jean-Vyes Lacoste, an important philosopher in Phenomenology from Paris, along with two colleagues from Paris, Dr Stephanie Rupza and

Dr Murray Littlejohn. The colloquium also featured an excellent opening lecture by Prof. Mark Wrathall from the Philosophy Faculty. It was well attended by about thirty-five people, one of whom came from Australia for it and another from Leiden. Dr Philip Moller, who did the practical arrangements, co-organized the colloquium with Prof. Flood and organized an excellent colloquium dinner. Prof. Flood will formulate a follow up conference in a couple of years on theology and contemplations, broadening the scope of the enterprise while retaining its high standard and quality of participants.

This year, Prof. Flood also completed a book, entitled *Naming Invisible Light: A History and Phenomenology of Holiness*, which, at 200,000 words, will be a significant book with impact. This has been submitted to Chicago University Press.

The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

Project leaders: Prof. Ravi Gupta and Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

In the past year, the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project* has made progress in several areas:

- » Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar (Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute), working with a small research team, procured funding for, and successfully published, the first volume of the much-awaited *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* bibliography. Prof. Bahulkar will present his work at the 10th Dubrovnik International Conference on Sanskrit Epics and Puranas.
- » Prof. Daniel Ehnbohm, Dr Neeraja Poddar, and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta have been editing a volume on the art history of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, with contributions from scholars who work on illuminated manuscripts, textiles, scrolls, and film.
- » Dr Kenneth R. Valpey and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta have been developing an introductory course on the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, to be hosted by OCHS Continuing Education Department.
- » Dr Jivnesh Sandhan is beginning a project to digitize the *Bhāgavata*'s Sanskrit commentaries and enable word-search capabilities, using Krishnashankar Shastri's edition as a starting point. Dr Sandhan's PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur was focused on leveraging natural language technology to enhance the accessibility of Sanskrit literature.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

Project Leaders: Dr Arun Brahmbhatt, Dr Avni Chag, and Dr Lucian Wong

The *Rethinking Hinduism in Modern India* project is a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. The project aims to generate a critical mass of scholarship that deploys these oft-neglected communities as a vital entry point onto the colonial Hindu landscape. In doing so, it aims to establish a model for studying Hinduism in modern India that neither conflates this potentially rich subject area with an attenuated notion of 'Modern Hinduism', nor is predetermined from the outset to reproduce variations on a well-worn 'tradition-modernity' motif.

All recordings from the project's successful 2022 virtual lecture series, *New Direction in the Study of Modern Hinduism*, are now available on the project website: rethinkinghinduism.org/lecture_schedule/. Project leaders, Dr Brahmbhatt and Dr Wong are currently in the process of editing a volume based on research presented at its 2022 virtual conference, *Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India*.

Comparative Philosophy Projects

Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

This year saw the inauguration of a *Senior Seminar in Indian Philosophy* series, where scholars are invited to present work-in-progress. These seminars link graduate students across the Philosophy, AMES, Classics and Theology & Religion Faculties, with senior scholars. In 2022-2023 speakers included Prof. Jan Westerhoff, Prof. Szilvia Szanyi, and Prof. Gavin Flood. These followed the *Arguments in Indian Philosophy* seminars in 2022, and the *Against Infinite Nothingness* series in 2023. Meanwhile the Indian Philosophy course in the Philosophy Faculty has continued. In November, Dr Jessica Frazier will be a project supervisor for the Anatman conference planned and run by Alicehank Winham, Aamir Kaderbai, and Kassandra Dugi. We also welcomed Prof. Alex Watson and Prof. John Nemecek as visiting scholars in Autumn of 2023.

This academic year Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, a research fellow at the OCHS, also developed a new research project.



DPhil candidate Natasha Chawla and Dr Jessica Frazier.

From the Greek Art of Living to the Indian Liberation in This Life

Project Leader: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

This research project deals with certain ideals of human existence propounded in different cultural traditions, namely, the ancient Greek philosophical teachings about the art of living, and the Indian concepts of liberation while still alive (*jīvanmukti*).

The research takes its primary inspiration from the work of Pierre Hadot, who shows how for certain philosophical schools of the Greco-Roman late Antiquity—particularly Stoicism and Epicureanism—philosophy consisted not so much in the elaboration of theoretical systems or textual exegeses, as in a way of life itself; the aim of these ancient philosophers was to teach the art of leading a good and virtuous life, with the help of spiritual exercises envisaged as a therapy for the soul. Some scholars have discussed the possibility of applying Hadot's model of interpretation to certain Buddhist schools, and have highlighted—particularly the former—the limits and difficulties of adopting Hadot's perspective in these fields of Indian thought. In fact, unlike his Greek counterpart, the Buddhist philosopher is not concerned with the present life and the occurrence of death, his vision and final goal being projected beyond the circuit of mundane existence.

The working hypothesis of this research is that Hadot's interpretative method may have some bearing on the Tantric ideal of *jīvanmukti* propounded by the non-dualistic ŚāktaŚaiva traditions. The latter may provide a more appropriate touchstone for the relevant Greek philosophical schools: in fact, the *jīvanmukta*, who has recognized the ultimate identity between his own self/soul and the supreme Self/Soul, thereby attaining the liberating knowledge, is nonetheless an individual active in the real world, who continues to take part in ordinary life, while maintaining an attitude of detachment and equanimity. In particular, it will be highlighted how the combination of non-dualism and realistic idealism characterizing the Śākta-Śaiva traditions—unlike the illusionistic Advaita Vedānta which envisages *jīvanmukti* in a world devoid of ontological substance and value—enables the reconciliation and harmonization of the spiritual state of final emancipation with a fulfilled human life in this world.

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary

Project Leaders: Dr Robert Czyżkowski and Dr Lucian Wong

Although the Middle Bengali (or *madhyajuger bangla*) corpus is one of the most expansive premodern Indic vernacular spheres, it remains curiously neglected in Western scholarship. The corpus reflects a multiplex religious milieu that encompasses Śākta, Vaiṣṇava, Yogic, Tantric, and Sufi currents, among others. Texts within the corpus ubiquitously deploy body symbolism that, while evincing a diverse spectrum of attitudes toward embodied existence, invariably portrays the body as an indispensable site for human transformation.

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary, co-directed by Dr Robert Czyżkowski (Jagiellonian University) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), is a 2-year research project that aims to bring a varied team of specialists together to examine how ideas of body and embodiment take shape in premodern Bengal's rich and multi-religious corpus of vernacular literature, dating from c. 1400 CE to c. 1800 CE. This collaborative project, which was recently awarded a €50,000 grant by Jagiellonian University's Strategic Program Excellence Initiative, will collect, translate, and critically analyse a representative sample of this body discourse. The project will result in an international research network; a series of workshops; an international conference panel; and an Open Access volume of high-quality translations and critical essays.

The project held its inaugural workshop at Jagiellonian University's Institute for the Study of Religions in January 2023. Members of the project have since been meeting virtually on a monthly basis as a working group engaged in the close reading, translation, and discussion of Middle Bengali body-related literature. Project members travelled to the Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions, in September 2023, where they participated in a double-session panel on *Bodily Technologies in the Middle Bengali Religious Imaginary*.

For more info about the project, go to: ochs.org.uk/body-and-embodiment.



'Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary' inaugural workshop at Jagiellonian University, 2023.

Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen; Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr Ulrik Lyngs

The Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies / Śākta Database project is led by Dr Ulrik Lyngs and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) was a Visiting Fellow at the OCHS in 2022-23 and continues as a Research Fellow at the OCHS working together with Michael Elison (MPhil, Oxon) as a Digital Curator, and the researchers Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen on the Śākta dimension of the database. The Bengal database dimension is led by Dr Lucian Wong and is currently being developed with a number of digital curators, including PhD Fellow Siddharth Chhabra.

The project aims at establishing a state-of-the-art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies and makes large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. The database uses the advanced Mirador 3 viewer and a custom-made OCHS viewer. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts, and download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV), overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text), and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material.

The project has greatly expanded its manuscript and E-text volume (now counting appr. 8000 entries). Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts are being made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions including the ASA Archives specialising in Newar Hindu and Buddhist Śākta material. Manuscript digitalisation of unknown source material in Nepal continued in 2023 after the COVID-19 pandemic caused a long pause to our work at the OCHS Kathmandu Office. Dr Ulrik Lyngs continues as our Digital Humanities Consultant for the research programme and in collaboration with Michael Elison and other computer specialists and researchers, the project has entered a new phase producing:

- » New workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including a 'Book builder' with the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in language of choice).
- » A 'Text explorer' that makes it easy to perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages).
- » A 'Text analyser' that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, and more.

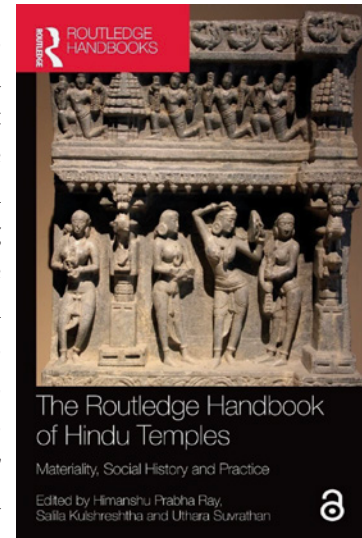


The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan

Project Leader: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

This academic year, the *Beginnings of the Hindu Temple* project produced two books.

The first, edited by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Dr Salila Kulshreshtha and Dr Uthara Suvrathan is the *Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice* (Routledge, 2023). This handbook is a comprehensive study of the archaeology, social history and the cultural landscape of the Hindu temple. Perhaps the most recognizable of the material forms of Hinduism, temples are lived, dynamic spaces. They are significant sites for the creation of cultural heritage, both in the past and in the present. Drawing on historiographical surveys and in-depth case studies, the volume centres the material form of the Hindu temple as an entry point to study its many adaptations and transformations from the early centuries CE to the 20th century. It highlights the vibrancy and dynamism of the shrine in different locales and studies the active participation of the community for its establishment, maintenance and survival. The illustrated handbook takes a unique approach by focusing on the social base of the temple rather than its aesthetics or chronological linear development. It fills a significant gap in the study of Hinduism and will be an indispensable resource for scholars of archaeology, Hinduism, Indian history, religious studies, museum studies, South Asian history and Southeast Asian history.



The second book, *The Hindu Temple and its Sacred Landscape*, has been written by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray (Mandala Publishing, 2023). The book illustrates how careful attention to the Hindu temple, its social history, and cultural landscape allows us to better appreciate how Hinduism has been practised and lived throughout history. The book provides a breadth of educational knowledge as a supplement to both academic coursework and the independent study of Hinduism. With the integration of discussion questions, suggested further reading, a glossary of key terms, and images throughout, this book offers an accessible introduction to studying the history and significance of Hindu temples.

Hinduism in Modern Secular Society

Project Leaders: Dr Ace Simpson, Dr Angela Burt, Dr Cecilia Bastos, and Dr Alan Herbert

The project's online lecture series, in which scholars discuss and share research related to the experiences of contemporary Hindu communities and adherents in their intersections with their host communities, hosted two more talks this academic year. On 2 March 2023, Prema Goet presented 'The Shakta Aghoris in Kamakhya', based on his experiences and ethnographic research with the Shakta Aghoris during the Ambubachi Mela at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam. On 6 July 2023, Jens Augspurger gave a talk entitled "'In Yoga, We are Connected!' Examining the Fabric that Makes Belonging', in which he explored how spiritual tourists often grappled with reflecting on their own impact and identity during their travels, and discussed the diverse ways in which such persons have sought to maintain their connections to India, or Yogaland, whether through the computer camera-lens, their personal yoga practice, or imaginative acts of connection.

The research team is also actively amassing a database of scholars interested in the field, to facilitate international collaboration in the future.

A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God

Project Leaders: Prof. Benedikt P. Göcke, Dr Alan C. Herbert, Prof. Ricardo Silvestre

The Hindu Vaiṣṇava tradition is often viewed as a monotheistic tradition. We find evidence for this in many of its scriptural sources (such as *Bhavaḡad-gītā*, *Bhāḡavata Purāṇa*, *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, some Upaniṣads and many Pāñcarātras and Āḡamas) as well in the teachings of its theologians. It might be argued, however, that this is too hasty a conclusion. Vaiṣṇavism addresses the concept of God within several contexts. First, it supports the idea that the Supreme Personal God Viṣṇu manifests himself in different divine forms (usually referred to as ‘*avatāras*’), such as Kṛṣṇa and Rāma, often with an ontological hierarchy existing between them. Second, Vaiṣṇavism traditionally accepts the existence of other deities in the Hindu pantheon, such as Brahmā, Śiva, Durgā, Indra, Varuṇa and the Goddess Lakṣmī. Third, the relation between Viṣṇu and some of these deities, notoriously Śiva and Lakṣmī, is ambiguous, sometimes being described as one of identity and sometimes as one of difference. And fourth, the relation between Viṣṇu and His potencies (*prakṛti*, in *sāṅkhya* terminology, and *śakti*, in Purāṇic terms)—these encompassing entities ranging across deities like Lakṣmī, individual souls and the world—is a major theme, which has brought about its own set of controversies. While Madhva (13th century) emphasizes a dualism whereby Viṣṇu differs from His potencies (although he is their source), others such as Rāmānuja (11th century), Nimbārka (12th century) and Jīva (16th century) argue, with slightly different implications, that in some sense Viṣṇu is both different (*bheda*) and non-different (*abheda*) from them.

Given all this, we might wonder: is Vaiṣṇavism really a monotheistic tradition? Or, to put it in conceptual terms, is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God a monotheistic one? More importantly, how can the Vaiṣṇava concept of God be philosophically characterized? What divine properties does the Vaiṣṇava God possess? Can it be described in a consistent way? Or is it a contradictory concept of God? If so, how would this affect its intelligibility? Does the Vaiṣṇava concept of God have some advantage over traditional philosophical accounts of God? How does it relate to more well-known accounts of God, such as classical theism, pantheism, panentheism, process theism, open theism, etc.? What are the difficulties peculiar to it? Is there a positive-conceptual basis for rationally accepting the Vaiṣṇava account of God, i.e., is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God fruitful?

The general goal of this project is to answer these questions and approach the Vaiṣṇava concept of God from a contemporary philosophical perspective. Although the project is plural in the sense of taking into account all Vaiṣṇava traditions, it has a specific goal, which is to philosophically reconstruct through a divine attribute approach the concepts of God found in two Vaiṣṇava texts: Jīva Gosvāmī’s *Ṣaṭ-sandarbhās* (sixteenth century) and *Bhavaḡad-gītā*. Whereas the latter text is central for all Vaiṣṇava traditions, the former belongs to one tradition, Caitanya Vaiṣṇavism, that is both unique and interdependent with the other Vaiṣṇava traditions due to its dialogical composition.

This John Templeton Foundation funded project was publicly launched last year, with a two-day online conference on *Indian Religions and the Concept of God*. Papers from that conference will be published by Routledge in 2024, under the title *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives*.

In February 2023, a second online conference on *God & Vaiṣṇavism* was held, with participants from the UK, Europe, Brazil, India, Australia, and the USA.

Publications

Journal of Hindu Studies

In the academic year 2022-23 there were three issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies*, published by Oxford University Press in collaboration with the OCHS: one issue containing open submissions, and two themed issues, 'The Buddha and the Banyan Tree', guest edited by Joel Bordeaux, and an issue on 'Vaiṣṇava Material Culture', guest edited by Elisa Freschi.

Routledge OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series

This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture and society of Hindus living in India and abroad.

The following new volume appeared in the last year:

- » *The Making of Contemporary Indian Philosophy Krishnachandra Bhattacharyya*, edited By Daniel Raveh, Elise Coquereau-Saouma.

Archaeology and Religion in South Asia

Two new volumes were published in the *Archaeology and Religion in South Asia Series*, edited by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray and published by Routledge India:

- » *The Archaeology of the Nātha Sampradāya in Western India, 12th to 15th century*, by Vijay Sarde.
- » *Religion, Landscape and Material Culture in pre-modern South Asia*, edited by Tilotama Mukherjee and Nupur Dasgupta.

Fellows' Publications

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar

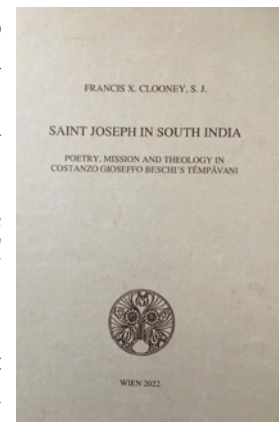
- » 'Modern Vedavyāsa: Pandit Satavalekar', in *Pañkajaśrīḥ: Dr Pankaj Chande Felicitation Volume*, edited by Shriniwas Varkhedi and Nanda Puri. Ramtek: Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, 2022, pp. 207-215.

Dr Māns Broo

- » *Haribhaktivilāsa of Sanātana Gosvāmin, Volume 1: Mantras, Initiation and Preparing for Worship (Chapters 1-5). Critical Edition and Annotated Translation*. Leiden: Brill, 2023.

Prof. Francis X. Clooney

- » *St. Joseph in South India: Poetry, Mission and Theology in Costanzo Gioseffo Beschi's Tēmpāvāṇi*. Publications of the de Nobili Research Library Series. Volume XXXIX. Wien: Verein, 2022.
- » 'On the Power of Imperfect Words: An Inquiry into the Revelatory Power of One Hindu Verse,' in *Sophia*, 2022.
- » 'Restoring Faith, Curing Doubt: Kṛṣṇa's Instruction in the Bhagavad Gītā', in *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Theological Virtues and Their Opposites. Boston Studies in Philosophy, Religion, and Public Life*, edited by M. David Eckel. Springer, 2022, pp. 27-46.
- » "'Tread softly! all the earth is holy ground": A Comparativist Responds Constructively to Terrence Merrigan's Sacramental Theology of Religions,' in *Answerable for Our Beliefs: Reflections on Theology and Contemporary Culture Offered to Terrence Merrigan*, edited by Peter De Mey, Kristof Struys, and Viorel Coman. Peeters, 2022, pp. 489-508.



- » 'Teaching and Learning Interreligiously in a Time of Change: Beginning (But Not Ending) with Primary Texts,' in *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, edited by Lucinda Mosher. Georgetown University Press, 2022, pp. 281-290.
- » 'Mimamsa as Introspective Literature and as Philosophy,' in *Hinduism and Tribal Religions*, by edited by Pankaj Jain, Madhu Khanna, Jeffery Long, and Rita Sherma. Springer Publishing, 2022, pp. 939-948.
- » 'God, God's Perfections, and the Good: Some Preliminary Insights from the Catholic-Hindu Encounter,' in *The Monist* 105, 2022, pp. 420-433.
- » 'Comparative Theology's Interesting Asymmetries with Receptive Ecumenism,' in *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning: Walking the Way to a Church Reformed*, edited by Paul Murray and Gregory A. Ryan. Oxford University Press, 2022.
- » 'Catholic Roots for the Discipline' and 'The Hindu-Catholic Encounter: A Natural Home for Comparative Theology,' in *The Brill Companion to Comparative Theology*, edited by Pim Valkenberg, Brill, 2022.
- » 'The World and the (Non)Transcendent: A Reflection on Some Abundant and Elusive Possibilities from the Brahminical Traditions,' in *God or the Divine? Religious Transcendence beyond Monism and Theism, between Personality and Impersonality*, edited by Bernhard Nitsche and Marcus Schmücker. De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 283-302.
- » 'On the Meeting of Wisdom and Religions: Reflections Marking the 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr Radha Burnier,' in *Brahmavidya*, 2023.
- » 'Intense Love of God, Tireless Service of the Neighbour,' in *Prabuddha Bharata* 128.1, 2023. 125th Anniversary of the Ramakrishna Math, Special Issue, pp. 248-251.

Dr Santanu Dey

- » *Sri Srimat Kedarnath Datta Bhaktivinod Thakurer Svalikhita Jivani (1245-1301): Ek Adhunik Vaishnava sadhaker Atmakathan*, Dey's publishing and Bhaktivedanta Research Center, Kolkata, 2023 (ISBN: 9788119033546).

Prof. Gavin Flood

- » (Editor) 'Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology' in *The Heythrop Journal*, vol. 64 (2), 2023.
- » 'Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology,' in *the Heythrop Journal* vol 64 (3), 2023, pp. 155-61.
- » 'Eastern Philosophy and Idealism,' in *The Routledge Handbook of Idealism and Immaterialism*, edited by Joshua Farris and Benedikt Paul Göcke. London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 13-23.

Dr Jessica Frazier

- » *Being and the Divine*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.
- » 'Solitude in Indian Philosophies,' in *Solitude* (Oxford Philosophical Concepts), edited by Aaron Kachuck Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- » 'Indian Philosophies of Being,' in *Philosophy Compass*, forthcoming.
- » 'The Metaphysics of Omnipresent Powers in Vedāntic Satkārya Philosophy,' in *Omnipresence*, edited by Anna Marmodoro, Ben Page, Damiano Migliorini. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- » 'A 'New Humanism': Hindus, Christians and Scholars in Rome,' in *Pro Dialogo: Journal of the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue*, forthcoming.
- » 'The Metaphysics of Creative Powers: Divine Play in Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Philosophy,' in *Divine Play*, edited by Daniel Soars, forthcoming.
- » 'A Little History of the Fierce Goddess' & 'The Vedic Canon,' in *Engelsberg Ideas*, June 2022 & April 2023.

- » 'Emotion as Indian Philosophy of Value: From Pleasure and Pain to Rasa in Hindu Ethics,' in *Global Dialogues in the Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Yujin Nagasawa and Mohammad Saleh Zarepour. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.
- » 'Pluralistic Epistemologies: Knowledge, Inference, and Virtue in the *Caraka Saṃhitā*,' in *Pluralism in South Asia*, edited by Brian Black and James Madaio. Routledge, 2023.
- » 'The Ground of All: Spinoza and Bhedābheda Vedānta on Substance, Aseity and Modes,' in *Panentheism in Indian and Western Thought*, edited by Swami Medhananda. Routledge, 2023.
- » 'The Destiny of Phenomenology,' in *The Heythrop Journal* 64.3, 2023.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- » 'The Makings of a Successful Sanskrit Commentary: Śrīdhara Svāmī's *Bhāvārtha-dīpikā* and the Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Tradition,' in *Bhakti in the Vaishnava Tradition*, edited by Shakuntala Gawde. Mumbai: Dev Publishers, 2023.

Dr Alan Herbert

- » 'The Art of Visualising Reality: Jīva Gosvāmī's Aesthetics and the Role of Ritual Imagination,' in *Journal of Hindu Studies* 16 (1), 2023, pp. 1-32.

Prof. Dermot Killingley

- » Review of *A Sanskrit Treasury: A Compendium of Literature from the Clay Sanskrit Library*, edited by Camillo A. Formigatti, Bodleian Library, 2019, *Religions of South Asia* 17, pp. 109-110.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

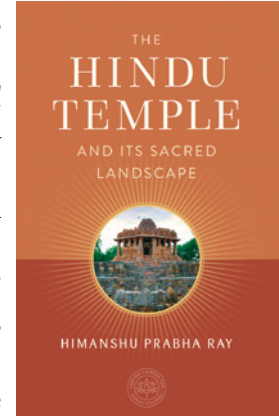
- » 'The Perfection of All Beauty and Joy: A Gauḍīya Vedāntic theology of devotional love,' in *ISKCON Communications Journal* 13, 2022, pp. 125-149.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- » 'A Response to (1) 'Entrapping the Elusive' by Sajjad Sharif (2) 'Bhāvanā theke kavītāya' by Srijato Bandyopadhyay,' *SASC International Conference Series Vol.1*, 2023, pp. 26-30.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- » *The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape*, Mandala Publishing, 2023.
- » *Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice*, edited by Himanshu Prabha Ray, Salila Kulshreshtha and Uthara Suvrathan, Routledge, 2023.
- » 'Colonial Archaeology in South Asia: Epigraphic Research,' in *Oxford Research Encyclopaedias, Anthropology*, 2022.
- » 'Sacred Landscapes and Spaces: Sacred Architecture Before Walls,' in *A History of Hindu Architecture in India*, edited by Cathleen A. Cummings, Ebverlag, Gottingen, 2022, pp. 243-254.
- » 'Where the Ganga Meets the Sea: Coastal Archaeology and the Fluvial Network of Bengal,' in *Down by the Water: Interdisciplinary Studies in Human-Environment Interactions in Watery Spaces*, edited by Veronica Walker Vadillo, Emilia Mataix Ferrándiz and Elisabeth Holmqvist, BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2022, pp. 67-76.



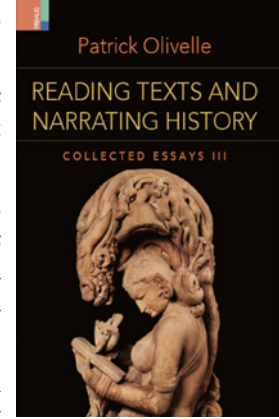
Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder

- » 'Amṛtānanda's *Cidvilāsastava*/An Annotated Translation,' in *To the Heart of Truth: A Felicitation Volume for Eli Franco on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday*, edited by Hiroko Matsuoka, Shinya Moriyama, & Tyler Neill, Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien Universität Wien, Vienna, 2023.

- » 'The Dynamic Non-Dualism of the Śrīvidyā,' in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Non-duality in Indian Thought*, edited by Jonathan Duquette and James Madaio, Bloomsbury, London, forthcoming.

Prof. Patrick Olivelle

- » *Collected Essays III: Reading Texts and Narrating History*, Delhi: Primus Books, 2022.
- » *Bālakrīḍāvyaḅhyā Vacanamālā: A Sub-Commentary on Viśvarūpa's Commentary Bālakrīḍā on the Yājñavalkya Dharmaśāstra*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publications, 2022.
- » 'The Pañcatantra as a Nītiśāstra and its Relationship to Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra,' in *Of Thieves and Therīs, Potters and Pativrātās: Essays on Early Indian Social History for Kumkum Roy*, edited by Uma Chakravarti, Naina Dayal, Bharati Jagannathan, and Snigdha Singh, pp. 65-80, Delhi: Primus books, 2023.
- » 'Mining the Past to Construct the Present: Some Methodological Considerations from India,' in *Bridging Two World: Comparing Classical Political Thought and Statecraft in India and China*, edited by Amitav Acharya, Daniel A. Bell, Rajeev Bhargava, and Yan Xuetong, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023, pp. 39-58.
- » 'To Kill or Not to Kill: The Hermeneutics of the Ethical Axion *ahiṃsā*,' in *Science and Society in the Sanskrit World*, edited by Christopher Fleming, Toke L. Knudsen, Anuj Misra, and Vishal Sharma, Leiden: Brill, 2023, pp. 263-275.
- » 'How to Change Law in Classical India: Hermeneutics in the Service of the Legal Profession,' in *Religion of South Asia* 17-1, 2023, pp. 6-22.



Dr Neeraja Poddar

- » 'Materiality and Narrative in an Early Mewar Bhāgavata,' in *The Long Arc of South Asian Art: Essays in Honour of Vidya Dehejia*, edited by Annapurna Garimella. New Delhi: Women Unlimited, in association with Mumbai: The Marg Foundation, 2022, pp. 50-61.

Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

- » 'Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī,' in *Oxford Bibliographies*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- » 'Vinode Vani Dasi (Daisy Cecilia Bowtell): A Little Known Gaudiya Pioneer in the West,' in *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2022.

Prof. Amiya P. Sen

- » (Editor) Special issue on 'Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism' for the journal *Religions*, 2023.
- » Review of *Hindu Nationalism in India*, by Tanika Sarkar (Hurst & Co. 2021), *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 22.1, 2022.
- » Review of *Tagore's University*, by Swati Ganguly (Permanent Black, 2022), *India Quarterly*, 2023.
- » Review of *The Widows of Colonial Bengal*, by Aishika Chakraborty (Primus Books, 2022), *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 2023.
- » Review of *Guru to the World: The Legacy of Swami Vivekananda*, by Ruth Harris (Harper Collins, 2022), *Biblio*, 2023.

Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

- » 'Whither Bovinity? Hindu Dharma, the Indian State, and Conflicting Moral Perspectives over Cow Protection,' in *Animal Ethics and Animal Law*, edited by Andrew Linzey and Clair Linzey, Lexington Books, 2023.

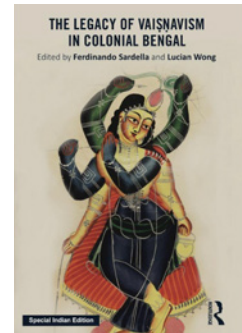
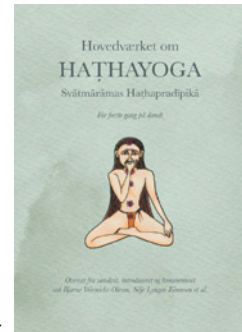
- » 'In the Service of All that Lives: Gandhi's Vision of Engaged Nonviolent Animal Care,' in *Animal Theologians*, edited by Andrew Lindzey and Clair Lindzey, Oxford University Press, 2023.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- » *Haṭhāpradīpikā* (extended edition), Højbjerg: Forlaget Univers, 2023.
- » *Tantra in Medieval India and Nepal: An annotated edition and translation of the Tantra of the Eye, the Netra Tantra*, Vol. 1, Oxford: Routledge, forthcoming.
- » *Classical Sanskrit Grammar and Reader*, 2 vols. (English translation of *Gudernes Sprog—Klassisk Sanskrit på Dansk*), forthcoming.

Dr Lucian Wong

- » *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong, New Delhi: Routledge, 2023.
- » 'Bengal Renaissance,' in *Oxford Bibliographies: Hinduism*, New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.



Conference Papers and Lectures by Fellows

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar

- » 'Rāmāyaṇa Beyond the Frontiers.' Valedictory Address at the International Conference on 'Reflections on the Ramayana,' K. J. Somaiya Institute of Dharma Studies, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, in Collaboration with Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Ayodhya Research Institute, Dept. of Culture, U. P. Govt., Lucknow & K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce, Mumbai, 2-4 February 2023.
- » 'Editing of Vedic Manuscripts,' Tattvabodha Lecture Series, National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi, 30 November 2022.
- » 'Indian Textual Criticism and Editing of Vedic Texts,' Prof. S. M. Katre Memorial Lecture, Deccan College Past Students' Association, at Deccan College, Pune., 21 October 2022.
- » 'Antecedents of Buddhism,' Lecture given for an online course on 'Introduction to Buddhism,' Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, 25 June 2022.

Prof. John and Mary Brockington

- » 'All things to all men — and women: Rāma transcreated,' Jain Practices of Literary Transcreation, Ghent University, 7-9 September 2022.

Dr Māns Broo

- » 'Conceptions of Spirituality: The Case of West Bengal,' Adamas University, Kolkata, 3 January 2023.
- » 'Rupture and Reform of Succession: The Case of the Gauḍīya Maṭha,' Spalding Seminar, London, 22 April 2023.

Prof. Francis X. Clooney

- » 'Hindu Poetry and Christian Particularity: Translation, Disruption, Revelation,' The Cole Lecture, Vanderbilt Divinity School, October 2022.
- » 'On the Edge: Reflections on Being a Christian Intellectual Amid Many Religions,' The Danforth Lecture, Hope College, November 2022.
- » The Candlemas Lecture, Boston College, February 2023.
- » The Inaugural Silber-Obrecht Lectures, Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies, Baltimore, April 2023.

- » 'Freedoms and Fears: The Musings of a Comparative Theologian on the Future of the CTSA,' The Presidential Lecture, Catholic Theological Society 77th Annual Convention, June 2023.

Dr Santanu Dey

- » 'Vaishnava Ritual Manuals and Reformist voices within Bengali Vaishnavism in colonial Bengal,' in the conference on Vaishnavism, organised by Indic Academy in collaboration with Srimad Andavan Arts and Sciences College, Srirangam, Tamil Nadu, 29-30 April 2023.

Dr Jessica Frazier

- » 'Against Infinite Nothingness: Foundationalism vs Nihilism in Indian Philosophy,' The Munich Lecture in Philosophy of Religion, Ludwigs-Maximillian University, Munich, June 2023.
- » 'The Mystery of Existence,' panel discussion event with Silvia Jonas, Richard Swinburne and Richard Dawkins, at the Royal Institution, London, for the Global Philosophy Project and Panpsycast, June 2023.
- » Participant in Consultation on 'Hindus and Christians in Europe: Towards a New Fraternity' at the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican, Rome, May 2023.
- » 'Brahman and the View from Above: The practice of cosmos-comprehension in the Upanisads,' Workshop on Spiritual Exercises, Self-Transformation and Liberation in Philosophy, Theology and Religion, Lunds University, May 2023.
- » 'The Ramayana,' In Our Time, BBC Radio, March 2023.
- » Seminar on Meaning and Modernity, Engelsberg Symposium, Halewell, Gloucestershire, March 2023.
- » Against Infinite Nothingness lecture series, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, May 2023.
- » 'India at Eranos,' Engelsberg Symposium, Sweden, February 2023.
- » 'God, Time and Change,' Keynote, European Society for Philosophy of Religion annual conference, Oxford, September 2022.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- » 'Recruitment Matters: From Prospects to Commits,' American Historical Association Chair's Workshop, October 2022.
- » 'Transcending Context and Contextual Transcendence: Initial Thoughts on C.G. Jung and Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati,' Complutense, University of Madrid, September 2022.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

- » 'A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of Early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas,' 39th Sanskrit Traditions Symposium, Trinity College, Oxford, 2 June 2023.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- » A Response to (1) 'Entrapping the Elusive' by Sajjad Sharif (2)
- » "'Bhāvanā theke kavitāya"' by Srijato Bandyopadhyay', International Workshop of South Asia: How Emotions Turn into Poetry? Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 21 September 2022.
- » 'When Kṛṣṇa is a Villain and Kaṁsa a Hero: Rādhā's Moral Discourse in Baṛu Caṇḍīdāsa's Śrīkṛṣṇakīrtana,' 14th International
- » Conference on Early Modern Literatures in North India (ICEMLNI), 21 July 2022.

Dr Neeraja Poddar

- » 'Painting, Map, Icon: Visualizing a Nepalese Sacred Journey,' Lecture, South Asian Arts Council, San Diego Museum of Art, 2023.
- » 'Gifting Practices at the Mewar Court,' Lecture, Techné, Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2023.
- » 'What's in a frame?' European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art Conference, Barcelona, 4-8 July 2022.
- » (with Jack Hawley) 'An "Amar Singh" Newcomer and Govardhans Gallore in Udaipur's Surdas Archive,' National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC, 2022.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- » 'The Discovery and Dispersal of Relics: The Modern History Of Buddhism,' Janki Devi Memorial College Distinguished Lecture Series, 11th April 2023.
- » 'Indian Maritime Historiography' and 'Coastal Shrines and their Audiences,' Jnanapravaha Mumbai, 11th March 2023.
- » 'Decolonising Maritime Heritage in Monsoon Asia,' New York University Abu Dhabi, 16th February 2023.
- » 'The early seafaring communities and their enduring legacy in South East Asia,' Friends of the Museum, Singapore, Monday 14th November 2022.
- » 'Heritage Routes and the Sailing World of the Indian Ocean,' Archaeological Survey of India, National Conference on Project Mausam: Jaladhipurayatra: Exploring Cross-Cultural Linkages among the Indian Ocean Rim Countries, 7th October 2022.
- » 'India's Maritime Heritage: Challenges and Prospects,' Locating Maritime Heritage in Asia, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore 20-22 February 2023.

Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

- » 'History of Religions in Sweden,' International Seminar on Indic Healing Systems: A Holistic Perspective on Mind, Body & Spiritual Culture, 9 December 2022.

Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

- » 'Pilgrimage Hagiography as Re-enchantment: the case of Śrī Chaitanya's journey to Vrindavan, India,' Sacred Journeys 9th Global Conference, University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism Studies, Turistica Piran and Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 July 2022.
- » 'Scriptural Reasoning on Language and Ultimate Reality in an Indian Religious Tradition,' The Logic and Religion Webinar, Logic and Religion Association (LARA), 15 September 2022.
- » 'Knowledge Application in a Shastric Universe,' OCHS Day School, How Do We Know What We Know? Transmitting Knowledge in Hinduism, 4 June 2023.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- » 'Readings in the Śaṭcakranirūpana: The System of the Six Cakras,' Scandinavian Indological Society, Møldrup, Denmark, 28 May 2023.

Dr Lucian Wong

- » 'Hinduism, Modernity, and the Vertical Self,' Religion and Globalization Cluster, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 4 April 2023.
- » 'Vaṃśī Sikṣā: Worshipping the King of Taste,' Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary Workshop, Institute for the Study of Religions, Jagiellonian University, 18 January 2023.

Exhibitions by Fellows

Dr Neeraja Poddar

» *Unbound: Islamic Arts of the Book*, Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Dr Ashwini Mokashi and Surabhi Acharya in conversation.

Visiting Fellows' Reports

Valters Negribs

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Michaelmas term 2022

I benefitted greatly from being the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow during Michaelmas term 2022. The fellowship allowed me to carry on with new research while I was waiting for my doctoral viva which I passed shortly afterwards.

My work focused on the Sanskrit epics, early history of yoga, and the links between early Hindu and Buddhist traditions. I received valuable feedback on my work in progress after delivering two lectures entitled 'The luminous ātman within: Beliefs about afterlife and voluntary death of sages in the Sanskrit epics' and 'The relationship between āsana (posture), sukha (bliss), and meditation in early yoga'.

I started drafting two research articles based on the two talks and will continue working on them in early 2023.

I also co-organised a Pali reading group with Shree Nahata from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. As my research seeks to demonstrate, reading the Sanskrit epics alongside early Buddhist texts in Pali and other languages can generate new insights. The reading group complemented the Pali teaching provided at the OCHS to further promote the study of this language.

The OCHS remains an invaluable resource for scholars of Hinduism. It is a place where one can meet and interact with a variety of people, including the permanent members of the OCHS, professors and students from other Oxford institutions, as well as other visiting fellows and religious practitioners.



Dr June McDaniel

Shivdasani Fellow, Michaelmas term 2022

I was the Shivdasani Visiting Research Fellow during the Michaelmas term of 2022 at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. My visit had a dramatic beginning. As I was about to leave for England, a hurricane hit Charleston, and the airport was closed down. I got to Oxford, but later than I had planned. This was one challenge—there was also illness, and then on the way back to the USA, there was a 'security situation' at Heathrow airport, with sirens and orders to evacuate. However, the plane left on time, and I returned safely.

I gave two lectures during my time at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

One was 'Visualization in Some Bengali Hindu Contemplative Traditions: Vaishnava Bhakti, Shakta Tantra, Baul Songs and Raja Yoga.' It illustrated techniques of meditative visualization used by these groups, with over one hundred images. It showed the ways that Hindu meditation techniques work with images and symbols, and it is part of my broader research on Hindu mysticism. The lecture had a good turnout, and the audience was enthusiastic and interested.

The second lecture was on a very different topic, my last book. It was on 'Lost Ecstasy: Its Decline and Transformation in Religion.' In this book, I examine the ways that ecstatic experience has been condemned in modern academia—in the fields of Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, and other areas. It discussed how this has narrowed our ability to understand some of the deepest and most powerful experiences that people can have.



The paper also included some suggestions for future directions for the OCHS. This lecture also had a large crowd, with many interesting questions.

I also gave two other lectures during my time at Oxford. One was an invited Zoom lecture for a conference in Kalimantan, Indonesia, on 'Ideals of Love and Wisdom in Some Major World Religions. The other was on Contemplative Psychedelic Psychology: Some Eastern, Western and Visionary Models of the Mind,' for the Oxford Psychedelic Society.

I was able to do research at the Bodleian library for several writing projects, including two papers on Hindu Shaktism (in modern and folk traditions) for journals, and a broader project on Hindu mysticism. I appreciate the invitation for the Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship, and for the opportunity to meet the OCHS scholars and learn how the study of Hinduism in the USA compares with this study in Britain. I look forward to a long intellectual and professional relationship with the OCHS community.

Dr Rajan Khatiwoda

Shivdasani Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

The Oxford Centre for Hinduism (OCHS) is a prestigious institution dedicated to the study and comprehension of Hindu traditions. Serving as a platform for academic research and knowledge dissemination, the centre encompasses various aspects of Hinduism. As a visiting fellow, my primary responsibilities focused on editing the *Netratantra* (a Śākta text that has been distinctly preserved in a Nepalese recension). Concurrently, I contributed to the development of an online manuscript database. The *Netratantra* offers profound insights into the mystical and spiritual practices of the Śākta path, encompassing topics such as deity worship, meditation techniques, and ritual observances. During the editing process, meticulous examination of the original manuscripts was undertaken, with close collaboration with esteemed experts Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen to ensure accuracy and consistency.



In addition to editing the *Netratantra*, I had the opportunity to review other significant Śākta texts, such as the *Niśvāsataṭṭvasaṃhitā*, which is one of the earliest lay Śaiva canons, and the *Svacchandatantra*. I was also actively involved in the development of the OCHS Online Manuscript Database, with a specific focus on tantric texts. This digital platform aimed to enhance accessibility and preservation of valuable tantric manuscripts. Serving as a repository of digitized manuscripts, the database aims at providing scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts with a user-friendly resource that facilitated easy searching and navigation.

I contributed to develop a comprehensive and scientifically grounded cataloguing scheme for the manuscripts, as well as sharing my expertise in the digitization process to ensure high-quality imaging, accurate metadata tagging, and appropriate measures for digital preservation. Collaborating with experts in the field of digital archiving, I helped in establishing standardized protocols for metadata management and to the development of a user-friendly interface that allowed users to explore manuscripts, access translations and commentaries, and engage in scholarly discussions and annotations.

The combined experience of editing tantric texts and contributing to the development of the manuscript database provided me with invaluable insights into the Śākta traditions and the broader field of tantric studies. I am deeply grateful to the Oxford Centre for Hinduism for granting me the opportunity to serve as a visiting fellow, which has significantly enriched my understanding and expertise in the field of Śākta traditions.

Prof. Chris Dorsett

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

It has been a privilege to hold the J.P. and Beena Khaitan visiting fellowship. The position allowed me to dedicate Hilary term 2023 to researching the work of the British authority on Indian art, Philip Rawson (1924-1995). As a result, the term was transformed into an extremely useful opportunity to test and extend my ideas about the approach Rawson took to curating the 1971 *Tantra* exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery. For museum and gallery audiences in the UK this show was a groundbreaking moment in the reception of Indian religious and philosophical thought. However, *Tantra's* impact is curiously under-researched and the process of preparing and presenting two lectures at the Centre for Hindu Studies consolidated a topic that has long influenced me both as an academic and as an artist-curator.



My lectures compared Rawson's exhibition-making to my own experiments at the interface between contemporary art and the museum world. The feedback I received was, as one would expect, deeply insightful and extremely stimulating. Indeed, the informal conversations that followed, often occurring during the weekly lunches at OCHS, encouraged me to take a further, more speculative step in which I set Rawson's ambitions as an art educator alongside his curatorial practices. Consequently, in my second lecture, I was able to link the life-long interest Rawson had in teaching drawing to his innovative use of exhibition design and, by extension, his practice-based engagement with the aesthetic theories of the tantric sage Abhinavagupta. I believe it is the first time anyone has brought these different dimensions of the *Tantra* exhibition together and I will now write-up my findings with a view to publication. I am very grateful to the Centre and the sponsors for providing the platform for this new work.

Dr Ulrik Lyngs

Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

It was a delight for me to be an OCHS visiting fellow in Hilary term 2023. The purpose of my visiting fellowship was to continue development of the OCHS Manuscript Database project, which will make tools from the digital humanities easily available for scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. The project vision is to make thousands of manuscripts available, drawn from the OCHS Kathmandu digitisation project, the National Archives of Nepal, the ASA archives, and more. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library, our database will offer a more advanced interface which, for example, allows users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts. The database will also include computational tools for easy textual analysis and concordance, and automatic generating of formatted PDFs or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts.



With assistance from digital curator Michael Elison, we made substantial progress on this project during my fellowship. On Tuesday 28th February, we presented our work-in-progress at Campion Hall in Oxford, using the Netra Tantra as an example. The database now includes more than 1700 manuscripts and includes functionality to view photos and text side-by-side. All photos are documented according to the International Image Interoperability Framework standards (iiif.io) and can be viewed with the open-source IIIF viewer Mirador (projectmirador.org) or our own OCHS Viewer. The website also includes a 'Book builder', which generates formatted books in PDF, Word, or HTML format; a 'Text

explorer’, which can search for sequences of text across our manuscripts; and a ‘Text analyser’ that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, and more.

The OCHS Manuscript Database has significant potential to augment traditional scholarly workflows, and I am excited to be part of its development.

Professor Indrani Chatterjee

Shivdasani Fellow, Trinity Term 2023

The Oxford Center of Hindu Studies provided me the most salubrious environment for my intellectual growth. First, it allowed me to completely draft and revise a paper that I had sketched out briefly at a seminar led by Dr. Lucian Wong on Modern Hinduism in 2021-22. The holdings of the library as well as the intellectual stimulation from colleagues and fellow visitors to the center provided the stimulation not merely to write the first draft, but also receive feedback from both Dr. Wong and Dr. Stewart, and revise the paper for final submission. Titled “‘Unseeing’ Monastic Subjects’, the essay uses inscriptions dated to the late seventeenth-early nineteenth century. The inscriptions speak of groups of villagers dedicated to serve the temples of the founders. I argue that the dates of these ‘gifts’ of people to the temples coincides with warfare that rippled through the region. The likelihood is great that these gifted villagers were either prisoners-of-war or refugees from war. However, when the English East India Company defeated the Burmese armies and annexed the Brahmaputra river valley to their Indian colony in 1826, the Company government imposed a regime of taxation that actually degraded the temple servants further. But the most important result was administrative and ideological: the very concept of ‘monastic subjects’ became illegible to the state.



In addition to submitting the paper above for review, I also delivered the Visiting Fellow’s lecture on May 11. My talk was titled ‘Gendering Jajmani, Re-Casteing Capital’ to the assembled audience of OCHS fellows. It was based on re-reading a collection of old Bengali language documents dated to the same period as the earlier essay: between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth century. But the terrain on which the events unfolded was that of western and plains Bengal, in the vicinity of the early colonial capital of Kolkata. The talk dilated on the relationships between non-brahman patrons and their poorer brahman clients. Though the former became increasingly enmeshed in colonial capitalist networks, they maintained their ritualized obligations towards their client brahmins. This persistence of vertical and unequal relationships also amplifies and refines a theory about caste propounded by Louis Dumont in 1971.

In the course of the eight weeks that I was at OCHS, I also advanced my research by working at the Bodleian Library, especially in the Weston Reading Room in manuscript materials, especially locating the files of one of Bengal’s earliest indigo merchants-cum-bankers, John Palmer. In the course of collecting this evidence, I also found sources that suggest another collaborative project in the future with other scholars of the OCHS—such as Dr. Prema Goet.

It is a measure of the success of the OCHS personnel and programming that a stranger to Oxford such as myself found herself at home within the first week. Apart from making me personally welcome at the Wednesday lunches held at the Center, the Directors and other Fellows went out of their way to include me in various other social occasions. Everyone—from Tanja Jacobsen the administrator to Professor Flood, the academic director—ensured that my needs were attended to quickly, and they went out of their way to involve me in ways that made me feel like an

'insider' very quickly. I am very grateful for the range and depth of the intellectual, financial and social support that the OCHS provided to me, and can never praise its work enough. I wish it a very long and happy future.

Professor Tony Stewart

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Trinity Term 2023

Lectures

1. 'Challenging Expectations: Interpreting the Bengali Satya Nārāyaṇ Puthi of Kavivallabh': In this exercise in interpreting a curious text that shows the main character Satya Pīr to be alternately a Sufi, Khodā, or Allah, Nārāyaṇ, Kṛṣṇa, and Śiva, participants read the translation that just six weeks ago appeared in my anthology of unabridged translations titled *Needle at the Bottom of the Sea: Bengali Tales from the Land of the Eighteen Tides* (University of California Press, 2023). In last year's Trinity Term—also as a Khaitan Visiting Fellow—I finished up the translation and dispatched it to the press, so it was only fitting that we examine one of those tales in a seminar setting at OCHS. I donated a copy of the anthology to the OCHS library.



2. 'Alternatives to the Gosvāmī Master Narrative: Vernacular Explorations in the Vaiṣṇav Imagination of the 16th-18th centuries': In this completely new work, I surveyed more than fifty unpublished Bangla manuscripts on various aspects of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava and related traditions of Bengal. The works were chosen from more than 150 manuscripts I had initially read in 1981-82 during dissertation research in Calcutta and only recently rediscovered after my retirement from teaching at Vanderbilt University. My goal was to look for 'fault lines' in the hegemonic narratives of the tradition established by Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj in his magisterial biography of Caitanya Caritāmṛta with the idea that there were theological and ritual issues detailed in these manuscripts that were not totally resolved by the mainstream tradition.

Research: Three closely related projects

As I had done last year, I continued to investigate the nature of the close associate of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486-1533) who is known in the early biographies as Jaban Haridās or Haridās Ṭhākur. In early modern Bangla, Jaban indicates a foreigner of indeterminate provenance, though usually designating a Musalmān. Haridās is famous in the tradition as the greatest exponent and teacher of chanting the names of god (kīrtan, jap), and the textual evidence suggests that Jaban Haridās was a Chishti Sufi who practised dhikr/zikir using Kṛṣṇa as his preferred name for god. Often referred to as a 'converted' Muslim, there is no evidence that was so, rather till his death he remained a Sufi who loved Kṛṣṇa. I retranslated one major tale and developed a complete outline of the monograph.

I translated passages from the first Bangla biography of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya by Vṛndāvan Dās, originally known as the Caitanya Maṅgal but now famous as Caitanya Bhāgavat. The exercise was to determine the viability of undertaking such a massive translation which would likely take the most of a decade. No final decision has been taken.

Relevant to both projects was the material that constituted the manuscript presentation noted above.

Publication

I completed and submitted an article titled 'Dancing in Shackles: On Translating the Caitanya Caritāmṛta of Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj.' The article will appear in a special issue of *The Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies*.

Student Advising

I worked with Utsa Bose, OCHS scholarship student, who was making his first professional presentation at the Annual American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Conference. He is investigating the ways epidemics and pandemics were presented in English and Bengali books, medical journals, and newspapers. The popular and scientific etiologies of various ailments, often with connections to Hindu mythology, provided a fruitful comparison with today's COVID-19 pandemic reporting. It should be noted that I have worked on Śitalā, goddess of smallpox, including translations of portions of the Śitalā Maṅgal of Kṛṣṇarām Dās, and translated the Olābibi Jagaraṇ Pālā of Ísvaracandra Sarkār that tells the story of the Musalmāni matron of Cholera, Śitalā's 'sister.

Other activities

I participated in a number of activities around James Fitzgerald's Radhakrishnan Lectures at All Souls (04, 11, 18 May); Fitzgerald was my first Sanskrit instructor with whom I have worked closely over the last forty-five years.

I attended the public lectures by Indrani Chatterjee, the Sivdasani Visiting Fellow (11 May) and reviewed one of her unpublished articles titled 'Satrubali and the Forgotten Past of Oblations to Temples.' I attended the OCHS lecture by visitor, Robert Czyżykowski (03 May), and met with him frequently to discuss his published and planned work on the sahayjā traditions.

I met several times each week with Lucian Wong, whose own work dovetails with mine. In addition to his work on the Vaṃśī Śikṣā of Premdās Mīśra and the Bāghnapāḍā school (I was able to give him an old print version of the text), we assessed at length the proposed contributions to The Oxford Handbook of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies. We also explored the possibility of including short translations in The Journal of Hindu Studies. I agreed to participate in his joint project with Robert Czyżykowski titled 'Bodily Technologies in the Middle Bengali Religious Imaginary,' with participation in the European Association for the Study of Religion in Vilnius, 04-08 September 2023.

On several occasions, I met to discuss current projects with Faisal Devji (St. Antony's College) and Mallica Landrus (Keeper of Asian Art, Ashmolean Museum), the latter of whom continues to generate exciting new exhibition ideas about South Asian art. At her request, I am slated to examine previously unpublished photographs of 19th-century religious and ethnic groups in South Asia as part of a planned exhibition.

And of course, I sojourned at the Bodleian. I think it important to add that the library at OCHS has an increasingly rich collection of materials, including many Bangla titles not found in the Bodleian but essential to my work. And in spite of cramped space, Rembert Lutjeharms has proved very resourceful in locating things for me. I will also be meeting Rembert to discuss his important paper, 'A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of the Early Gauḍīyas in Braj,' which he is presenting at the 39th Annual Sanskrit Traditions Symposium later today, but unfortunately which I will not be able to attend in person.



OCHS staff, fellows, and students.

Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops

Inaugural Workshop of the Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary

16-18 January 2023, Jagiellonian University, Poland

The *Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary* project held its inaugural workshop, funded by the OCHS, on 16-18 January 2023 at the Institute of Religious Studies at Jagiellonian University. Participants presented papers examining the theme of the body and embodiment in such diverse religious currents as Śūfism, Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, Śāktism, regional epic literature, Hāṭha-yoga, and Tantra. Over the next 2 years, this working group will continue to develop these papers through monthly virtual meetings, an EASR conference panel, and a second workshop in Krakow in June 2024. The project will culminate in an Open Access volume of critical essays and translations, which will make some of this fascinating premodern Bengali body-discourse available in the English language for the first time.

Workshop participants (in the order of presentation):

- » Joel Bordeaux (Leiden University)
- » Keith Cantu (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- » Rebecca Manring (Indiana University Bloomington)
- » Mriganka Mukhopadhyay (University of Amsterdam)
- » Naba Gopal Roy (Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University)
- » Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts)
- » Lucian Wong (Oxford Center for Hindu Studies)
- » Robert Czyżykowski (Jagiellonian University)
- » Ishan Chakrabarti (University of Chicago)



From the Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary workshop.

God & Vaiṣṇavism

13-14 February 2023, held online

This second workshop of the research project *A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God* was held online. The purpose of this workshop was to approach the concepts of God found in Vaiṣṇava traditions and texts in order to locate them within a global philosophical framework. The speakers of the workshop were invited to answer the following question: What is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God? Or more specifically: What attributes does God possess according to particular textual sources and traditions in Vaiṣṇavism? The workshop brought together scholars from around the globe. The following scholars presented papers:

- » Graham Oppy (Monash University)
- » Rebecca Chan (San José State University)
- » Benedikt Göcke (Ruhr-University Bochum)
- » Gavin Flood (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies & University of Oxford)

- » Edwin F. Bryant (Rutgers University)
- » Ricardo Sousa Silvestre (Federal University of Campina Grande)
- » Angelika Malinar (University of Zurich)
- » Suganya Anandakichenin (University of Hamburg)
- » Frederick M. Smith (University of Iowa)
- » Shrinivasa Varakhedi (Central Sanskrit University)
- » Swami Medhananda (Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education)
- » Alan Herbert (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)
- » Kenneth R. Valpey (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)
- » Vijay Ramnarace (Georgetown University)

Theology and Contemplation

29 May 2023, *Campion Hall*

This colloquium, part of Prof. Gavin Flood's *The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology* project, focused on the work of the poet and philosopher Kevin Hart. Responding to his work was Father Jean-Vyes Lacoste, an important philosopher in Phenomenology from Paris, along with two colleagues from Paris, Dr Stephanie Rupza and Dr. Murray Littlejohn. The colloquium also featured an excellent opening lecture by Prof. Mark Wrathall from the Philosophy Faculty. It was well attended by about thirty-five people, one of whom came from Australia for it and another from Leiden. Dr. Philip Moller, who did the practical arrangements, co-organized the colloquium with Prof. Flood and organized an excellent colloquium dinner.

The 39th Sanskrit Traditions Symposium

2 June 2022, *Trinity College, Oxford*

The 39th session of the Sanskrit Traditions Symposium took place on Friday 2 June, at Trinity College, Oxford—for the first time in person since the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Although coinciding with a rail strike, the symposium brought together scholars from Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and, from further afield, the Netherlands and India. The papers discussed covered ancient Indian asceticism, the development of the pilgrimage sites in Vārāṇasī as well as Vṛndāvana, and early modern Vedāntic debates. The speakers and respondents were and Dr Jessica Frazier, Olli-Pekka Littunen and Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Vinoth Murali and Dr Jonathan Duquette, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Christopher Fleming.

Graduate Seminars

Convenor: *Dr Jessica Frazier*

The *Senior Seminars in Indian Philosophy* have thrived this year; they bring together professional scholars and graduate students in shared discussion. Topics this academic year included the philosophy of idealism, consciousness, topography and perception, modal grounding and ultimate truths. Speakers included Jan Westerhoff, Gavin Flood, Szilvia Szanyi and a number of students across different Faculties sharing their research in a lively environment. The seminars were well attended, and will continue bringing together Oxford's Indian Philosophy community in the coming year.



DPhil candidate Aamir Kaderbhai presenting at the Senior Seminars in Indian Philosophy.

Netra Tantra Seminar

Tuesday 28th February, Campion Hall and Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Convenor: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- » Welcome by Professor Gavin Flood
- » The Netratatra: Its Vision and Themes by Professor Gavin Flood
- » Tradition of Manuscript Production: Nepalese Recension of the Netratatra in the National Archives of Nepal by Dr Rajan Khatiwoda
- » Readings in the Netratatra: Chapter 7 on Subtle Visualising Meditation (sūkṣmadhyāna) by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen
- » Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies: Building a Śākta Manuscript Database by Dr Ulrik Lyngs and Michael Elison
- » Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya (Routledge Hindu Studies Series) by Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder.



From Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder's presentation of her book 'Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya'.



Michael Elison.



Prof. Gavin Flood.

Bursaries

The Tagore Centre UK Bursary

Established in 1985, The Tagore Centre UK, a Cultural-Academic Institution, exists to promote and disseminate the prodigious creativity of Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), a myriad-minded literary colossus, an icon of Twentieth Century thinking and values, and the first non-Western recipient of Nobel Prize in Literature.

In 2022, The Tagore Centre UK established a bursary endowment at the OCHS to celebrate the work of Rabindranath Tagore and to nurture the field by supporting students.

Donations towards the bursary are welcome and can be made online via ochs.org.uk/tagore-bursary.



Visit to the OCHS by members of the Tagore Centre.

Friends of OCHS Leicester Bursary

The Leicester Friends and The Birmingham Friends of Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies group comprises an informed community of people united by a concern for Indian culture and its study at the highest level. They give of their time and money, they lend their reputation to the work of the Centre, and offer their valuable expertise. Our Friends and Benefactors ensure that the work of the Centre retains a global focus, serving the communities it engages with.

Every year they host a sponsored Tirth Yatra (a Pilgrimage) of Leicester Temples to raise funds for the bursary. This year's walk took place on Saturday 22 April 2023 and we visited 9 temples followed by a sponsored lunch. The walk raised £1400.

Everyone is welcome to join the walk and next year we plan to arrange transportation to Leicester for students who would like to experience the many beautiful temples that Leicester has to offer.



From the sponsored Tirth Yatra in Leicester, 2023.

Awards for Students



Narasimhacharya Bursary

Kassandra Dugi
Aamir Kaderbhai
Alicehank Winham

Prof. Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book prize
Utsa Bose



Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary
Michelle Abigan



Ramalah Alagappan Bursary
Priyesh Patel

Amit Mishra Bursary
Utsa Bose

Dr Sivaswami & Renuka Nagra Bursary
Sharvi Maheshwari



Gopal and Elizabeth Krishna Bursary
Sharvi Maheshwari



Swami Haridas Giri Scholarship

Simon Haas
Mohini Gupta
Sibylle Koch
Pasha Hanifa
Susanta Bhattacharya



Parvathi Foundation

Natasha Chawla
Visvapriya Desai



Tristan Elby Bursary
Laura Koscielska



Wernicke Olesen's Bursary for
Pali and Sanskrit Studies
Lucas Quinn



Leicester Friends of the OCHS Bursary
Sharvi Maheshwari

Hanuman Bursary
Andrew Jasko



Tagore Centre UK Bursary
Natasha Chawla

Thanks from Students



In the words of Rabindranath, ‘The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.’ I hope to embrace this lesson wholeheartedly and strive to advocate for a better understanding of the human relationship with nature through my research and academic endeavours.

Thank you once again for your generosity, and unwavering commitment to spreading the wisdom of Rabindranath and to supporting students of the OCHS.

Natasha Chawla

DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford

I had applied for a bursary to support a trip to attend an important Research Seminar taking place at Stockholm University during the first week of September. This is an excellent opportunity to expand my academic network and career prospects beyond the UK in the field of Hindu Studies. More importantly, it is an opportunity to hear directly from experts in my immediate field of study, ask questions, receive informal feedback on the direction of my own work and strengthen my understanding of a key figure in the development of British Hinduism. The calibre of scholars presenting is very high, and I look forward to networking with them at a crucial stage in my PhD. This is only possible now that I have received the necessary financial support, for which I am very grateful.



Priyesh Patel

PhD Candidate, University of Leeds (Former MPhil student, University of Oxford)

My MPhil research focused on a sociocultural and religious history of pandemics in east India during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular, I was looking at the plague pandemic in Calcutta. Over the course of the two years of my MPhil, I received OCHS bursaries in both years, which proved invaluable, allowing me to undertake fieldwork in different cities in India. The data that I collected from these fieldworks will also help me going forward, as I plan to expand my research further. I am really grateful to the OCHS bursaries for their continued support.



Utsa Bose

DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford

My research work explores language teaching in India and the attitudes of the Indian urban youth towards the languages they speak, especially their mother tongues. I see my academic project as a catalyst for a larger goal I wish to achieve in the future—that of enabling young people in India to lose the sense of ‘shame’ associated with their mother tongues, through early pedagogical interventions.

The bursary from OCHS will allow me to take my research forward without a significant financial burden. I cannot thank you enough for your confidence in my project, and hope to create an impact in my home country once I complete my studies. I look forward to meaningfully engaging with OCHS and contributing to its historic research in the field.



Mohini Gupta

DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford

2

Library

Library

Moving On, Moving With



Library

The OCHS Library has continued to serve the students and scholars of the Centre, both as a lending library as well as by offering them a quiet and welcoming space to pursue their research and studies.

Last summer, Elizabeth Krishna sadly passed away. Elizabeth, a retired librarian of the former Indian Institute Library, Oxford, had, some years ago, offered to help the OCHS Library with cataloguing. Initially, she would come in one day a week, but soon she was at the OCHS most days of the week, quietly cataloguing books from several of the very large collections we had received as donations in the last decade. She did this quietly, but with a remarkable speed, meticulousness, and indeed joy. She'd regularly come up to Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and would emphatically say, with a broad smile, 'I need more books!'. Although she had stopped working for the library some months before her passing, as her health prevented her from doing so, her unexpected passing was keenly felt not just in the OCHS Library but the entire Centre. Her serious yet cheerful presence has been missed by all.

Thanks to a generous donation of Rajen Joshi, we've been able to employ Utsa Bose to help with the cataloguing. He has been mostly working on Bengali language publications.

This year, the Library received the donation of a substantial collection of books on colonial Bengal from Anuradha Chaudhury.

Also, we received a donation of about 100 books being the collection of the late JJ Patel, by his daughter Mrs Anjana Kalaria of Norwich.



Students and staff in the OCHS library.

Moving On, Moving With

An essay by Utsa Bose

‘Where does such tenderness come from?’

— Marina Tsvetaeva

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is built like a secret. Nestled between the Odeon and a Five Guys on Magdalen Street, it is a small glass door with a bright red lotus, almost like a space living in twilight, a whisper of light that is easy to miss. The OCHS, in its quiet, calming way, promises solidity. My own place in the centre is one of self-imposed invisibility; I walk in and set up camp in the Reading Room. In my months of sitting in that same room, on that same chair, I have seen so, so many different people come in. Some of them are new, some of them are coming back. Returning as old friends, they walk through the corridors and whisper to one another: ‘Oh, this place is just as I remember it!’

In time, I came to, as so many others, perhaps, rely on the centre’s constancy; to believe, in other words, in its promise of sameness, in its invisible geometry of undisturbed symmetry. The world outside was a distant land; it was chaotic and protean. This was an island outside of the pocket of time; this was a sanctuary, a place you came to settle, where things *remained*.

When, then, I was told that the centre was shifting to a new location down the road, my first reaction was one of ambivalent disbelief. I was happy, of course—this was a new chapter, a new beginning. But there was something confusing about this statement—how could a place known for its sameness, suddenly move? It seemed strange to think of this place elsewhere; it was like trying to imagine a tree walking with its roots. I wanted to document its histories before we left; I want to write a history of each room before I leave, I had said to everyone, only to realise, that everyone had memories of each and every room.

It was only when I thought about this idea a little more that I realised the fallacy at the heart of it. I realised, suddenly, and much, much too subtly, that the still heart of the centre was built on change.

When I first came to the OCHS in 2021, I had seen Tanja, our Development Officer, set up her office in the small room tucked in next to the library. But she would sit at the reception at times too. The next term arrived, and I would see her moving around, and, by Trinity, she had shifted to a small room hidden inside the Reading Room. I had asked her then, with equal curiosity and concern, which room was her’s. Tanja had just smiled and said, ‘Whichever one is empty.’ The next term, I saw her in the room by the reception. And soon, I realised that it wasn’t just Tanja who was always plural; everything at the OCHS was also something else. Like a Cubist painting that revealed a different image from each angle, or a kaleidoscope of a thousand designs, everything here was also always shifting, moving, mixing, changing. The main lounge was where we would welcome people, but on Wednesdays, it would turn into the Dining Hall—the tables from the Reading Room would become dining tables, and, sometimes, the very next day, the same space would turn into the Lecture Room. But these changes would take place so routinely, that the amphibiousness did not seem out of the ordinary—it felt natural, as if it was the very nature of this place to be many. One way of looking at this, of course, was that we lacked space; this was true, this was a real concern, and this was also why we were moving— but there was also something else happening here—there was something reassuring about this promise of adjustment, a voice that said that space could always be found if one looked for it.

‘How can one place be so many?’ I asked Shaunaka. He laughed, his eyes lighting up playfully. ‘It’s a pop-up book’, he said, after a while. ‘You open it, and another world comes to life’. I found myself staying with that metaphor for a while. It had been so long since I had seen a pop-up book that the metaphor seemed alien, almost foreign. But the more I thought about it,

the more it fit.

A pop-up book was both illusion and possibility, it held the shape of other things but when closed, folded back into itself. It held so much but was also light.

To hold so much and also be light.

Soon, the OCHS will move to another place down the road. The little landing in front of its current door—what Jessica calls ‘The OCHS porch’—will become empty. But there will now be new rooms, a place to fill with new memories.

Movement and stillness; change and constancy—our lives oscillate between these dialectics. I could see what was changing, but there was something, I felt, that was unchanging. What was staying still? What did people find here, when they came back, over and over again? If the still heart of this place was built on movement, what were they coming back to?

I’m looking outside, waiting for an answer,

but nothing arrives. The rooms are quiet—there are people in almost all of them, but they are doing their jobs. The outside spills into here like breath. You can see a different world out there, just on the other side of the windows. You can hear its din, its claim on another life. But here, inside, it is quiet. Pressing my ear against the wall, I hear something. It is a smile. It is a dull roar, a hand folded in a mudra, a hearth, a heart. It is a promise of warmth, a habitation, a dwelling. It is the quiet sound of a heart beating, of life flowing through these rooms. It is us; perhaps not each one of us, or not only each one of us, but this thing we have made, together. This promise of home, wherever all of us go; this is our carrying— we are moving on from this place, but we are also moving with. Its heart is beating. Its heart will keep beating. Listen.



3

Continuing Education Department

Overview

Online enrolments

New courses

First post-pandemic Day School

Masterclass

Curriculum Development Board

New modes of course delivery

Mandala Publishing Series



Continuing Education Department

The Continuing Education Department (CED) delivers world-class Hindu studies through online courses, live courses, and publications. These are academically sound yet accessible and affordable. They suit a variety of audiences including diaspora Hindus, practitioners of yoga and other Indian teachings, and scholars. We have 15 years' experience in providing online courses and 25 years providing taught courses.

Online enrolments

Enrolments for online courses for the year have fallen to 1000 from a COVID-period high of over 2000. Discussions with other online course providers suggest that falling enrolments is a phenomenon following the rush of enthusiasm during the pandemic. At the same time, it is clear that online learning has a permanent place in education going forward and our key audiences are huge.

New courses

In the past year we have continued to create high quality courses. These deliver unbiased, credible, and rigorously created explanations of Hindu (and related) philosophies and practices to a wide audience.

Our new courses for this year are:

- » Colonial Hinduism by Prof. Amiya P. Sen
- » Vaishnavism by Dr Måns Broo
- » The Roots of Modern Yoga by Daniel Simpson
- » A Study of Dharma by Dr Nick Sutton

Each of these courses is tutored by its creator and contains video lectures and a specially written coursebook, also by the course creator.

Masterclass

Masterclass is a format we have been considering for sometime—an opportunity for students to study a text or texts online with their author. The first of these was with Prof. Flood and was a considerable success. We are currently organising another in May 2024 with Prof. Patrick Olivelle teaching on his seminal books on dharma.

First post-pandemic Day School

Prior to the pandemic we held regular Day and Weekend Schools. We returned to this format in June with a Day School on 'How We Know What We Know: Acquiring Knowledge in Hinduism'. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce CED students to some of our inhouse scholars: Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and Dr Kenneth Valpey.



Dr Jessica Frazier presenting at the Day School.

Curriculum Development Board

The Curriculum Development Board is responsible for identifying required courses and overseeing their development.

This year the CDB was reconstituted with the welcome addition of Prof. Gavin Flood, Natasha Chawla, and the return of Dr Lucian Wong. We were sorry to see the departure of Dr Cogen Bohanec, an early member of the Board whose other obligations made it difficult for him to continue.

The CDB continues to refine the course production process and identify the direction of course development.

New modes of course delivery

Until now, each course (with the exception of Sanskrit and two others) has involved the production of a coursebook. While we have a growing number of competitors, none of them match this unique feature.

However, some potential course producers already have excellent books which are ready to go. At the same time coursebook production is by far the most expensive and time-intensive part of course production.

Therefore, we are currently examining the possibility of licensing such texts for online distribution, with the author providing lectures and potentially tutoring.

We have two in early stages of the process and are trying to ensure that the user-experience for students is as good as or, preferably, better than our current offerings and that the process is efficient and reproduceable across a variety of titles.

Thoughts from a Student

'I first discovered the OCHS through its wide range of online courses which enabled me to deepen my understanding of the Hindu religion and its philosophical traditions. The classes were all online and recorded which meant that it was very convenient, and one had the opportunity to ask questions throughout and to complete a (voluntary) assignment at the end. I had pursued a career as a lawyer for a long time before engaging with the OCHS but the courses gave me the confidence to leave the law and apply to Oxford University to pursue postgraduate studies. I found to my delight that what I had learnt at the OCHS proved very useful in my university coursework and it also allowed me to meet with academics and students in person in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying excellent Indian food.'

Gonzalo Fernandez

DPhil Candidate, The University of Oxford

Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies Mandala Publishing Series

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies Mandala Publishing Series is a collaborative publishing initiative between the OCHS's Continuing Education Department and the trade publisher Mandala Publishing, an imprint of Insight Editions.

Initially launched in 2019, the series has been undergoing a major revamp, overseen by its new general editor, Dr. Lucian Wong and editorial board, on which Prof. John Brockington, Dr. Avni Chag, Dr. James Madaio, and Dr. Valters Negribs currently sit. There is now a robust editorial system in place for the series, which is working in close conjunction with the CED's Curriculum Development Board.

The objective of the series is to offer authoritative yet accessible introductions to a wide range of subjects in Hindu Studies. Each book in the series aims to present its subject matter in a form that is engaging and readily comprehensible to persons of all backgrounds—academic or otherwise—without compromising scholarly rigour. The series thereby bridges the divide between academic and popular writing by preserving and utilising the best elements of both.

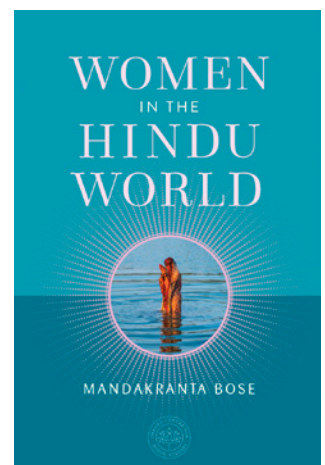
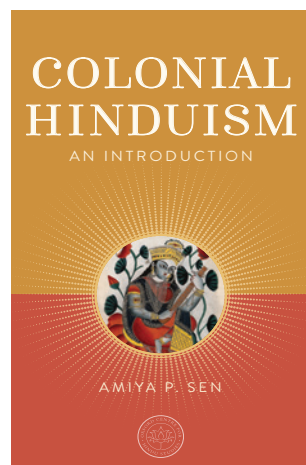
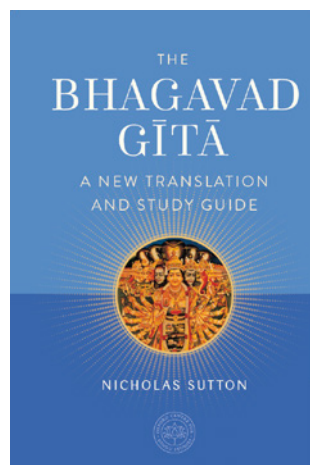
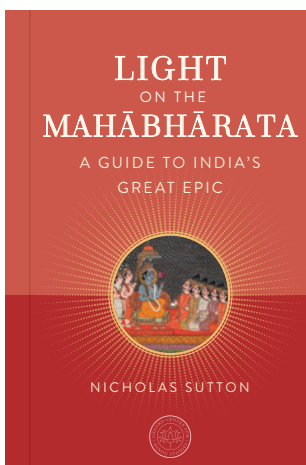
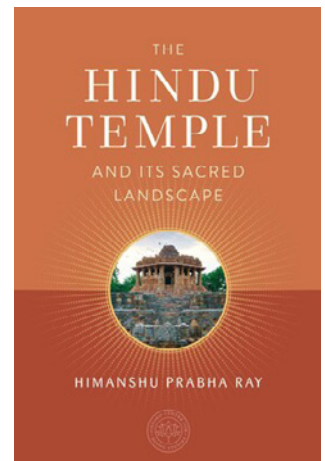
Distributed by Simon & Schuster, the series fills a glaring gap in the Hindu Studies book market, bringing cutting edge scholarship to a new, more general readership.

This year five books are due for publication:

- » *Women in the Hindu World* by Mandakranta Bose
- » *The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape* by Himanshu Prabha Ray
- » *The Bhāgavad-Gītā: A New Translation and Study Guide* by Nicholas Sutton
- » *Colonial Hinduism: An Introduction* by Amiya P. Sen
- » *Light on the Mahābhārata: A Guide to India's Great Epic* by Nicholas Sutton

Other upcoming titles set for release later in 2023-2024 include:

- » *Tantric Knowledge* by Gavin Flood
- » *Yoga, Hinduism, and Ecology* by Christopher Key Chapple
- » *Vaiṣṇavism: History, Teachings, and Practices* by Māns Broo
- » *Exploring the Yoga Sūtras* by Nicholas Sutton
- » *Beginning Sanskrit* by Dermot Killingley (a new, single volume edition)





4

Development

Chaplaincy

Outreach

Friends of OCHS Leicester Talks

Artist in Residence

Elizabeth and Gopal Krishna

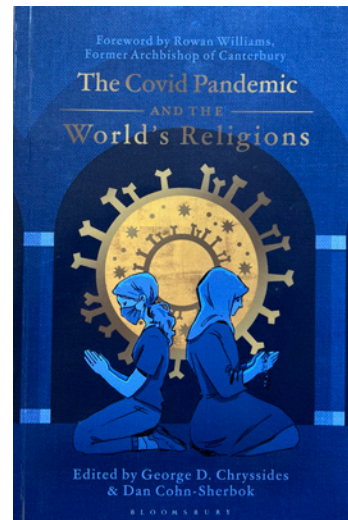
Hindu Climate Action

Chaplaincy

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oxford Chaplaincy was involved in various ways in dealing with the crisis. Earlier this year, the experiences and efforts of the Oxford Chaplaincy found mention as part of the chapter ‘Chanting, karma, love and Zoom: Hindu responses to a pandemic,’ written by Shaunaka Rishi Das and Utsa Bose, in *The Covid Pandemic and the World’s Religions: Challenges and Responses*, edited by George D. Chryssides and Dan Cohn-Sherbok and published by Bloomsbury Academic.

As mentioned in the chapter:

‘In our Oxford Chaplaincy, where we would get about ten participants in our weekly study group, we now had fifty students on Zoom, from Canada to Australia, and that without any advertisement. Swamis and gurus from different Hindu denominations reported that they were much busier, and in contact with many more people during the pandemic. These e-gatherings helped allay panic as well as recuperating a sense of lost community. In the absence of social interaction, group calls with devotees across the world created new solidarities and possibilities of sangha—the association of the holy.’



Diwali

We started the event with the Oxford Hindu Society (HumSoc) by decorating the reception area and the stairs with fairy lights and many candles. The Centre was filled with students and their friends and family. We enjoyed dance and musical performances. Everyone got a chance to perform puja and enjoyed some sweets afterwards.



Diwali celebration at the OCHS, 2022.

Ganesh Festival

Last year in June, we celebrated the Ganesh Festival with the Oxford Hindu Society (HumSoc) and students from Oxford Brookes University. We performed Puja, ate Modak and sweets, sang, and shared memories of the Ganesh festival back home. We had lunch together and paraded to the canal to immerse the idol. Joyful singing and chanting were oddly harmonising the Oxford scenery. We concluded the day by performing the evening Puja. Although the event started slowly, it was nice to see the students celebrating and enjoying their culture outside of their home country.

Outreach

Other outreach events and highlights

- » Dr Jessica Frazier discussed the Ramayana on BBC Sounds' 'In our time' with Melvyn Bragg, Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, and Naomi Appleton;
- » The KCL Hindu Society visited the OCHS and listened to a talk by Shuanak Rishi Das;
- » Dr Jessica Frazier discussed 'The Mystery of Existence' with Richard Swinburne, Richard Dawkins, and Silvia Jonas;
- » Prof. Gavin Flood gave a lecture at Nepal Sanskrit University titled 'The Tantric Body';
- » OCHS signed an MoU with The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda;
- » Tanja Jakobsen, Lal Krishna, and Shaunaka Rishi Das attended UK-India Week's Education and Innovation Conference hosted by EPG;
- » OCHS staff received students from the Krishna Avanti School;
- » Shaunaka Rishi Das continued his weekly Gita Readings at the OCHS;
- » Dr Rembert Lutjeharms hosted the tenth Gauḍīya Study Programme, introducing current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students from the UK;
- » Shaunaka Rishi Das was interviewed for a series of BBC local radio faith programmes.

Friends of OCHS Leicester Talks

After a long break due to COVID-19 our Leicester Friends group was once again able to organise in-person events at the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre in Leicester. This year four talks were presented by OCHS staff and one DPhil student. The talks this term were:

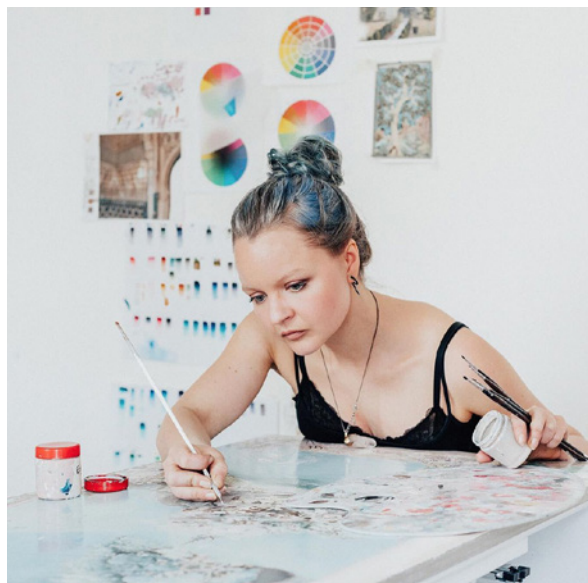
- » 'Vrindavan: The Land of Krishna' by Dr Rembert Lutjeharms;
- » 'Festivals: Cleverly designed to make us think and feel' by Shaunaka Rishi Das;
- » 'Are We the Divine Dancers?' by DPhil candidate Sharvi Maheshwari;
- » 'Hinduism in Kathmandu' by Prof. Gavin Flood.

The Leicester Friends talks are organised by Shobhaben Trivedi, Deepak Samani, Manish Thakrar, Rajen Joshi, and Ramila and Raj Chauhan, and the Birmingham Friends events are organised by Nitin and Meena Sodha, Jyoti Patel, Yogesh Patel, and Subrata Dey.

Artist in Residence

Prof. Chris Dorsett

I have been a research fellow at OCHS since June 2022. Whilst expanding my work on the museological legacy of Philip Rawson, the historian of Indian Art, I have also been exploring the potential benefits to the Centre of an artist-in-residence scheme. As a retired professor of fine art, the past year has given me a good sense of what the contemporary art world might offer those who study the global significance of Indian religious philosophies in Oxford. Before I arrived, creative practitioners have occasionally based themselves at the Centre. These were mostly writers. However, as I quickly found out, there is a real interest across the arts in a formal arrangement that would embed practice-based opportunities within



Rosanna Dean.

the Centre's research community.

We are some way off doing this, but we do now offer an annual affiliation that can be used by artists to envisage and debate future ideas and projects. Any further steps towards a fully-blown residency programme would require designated studio space in Oxford. Furthermore, even a loose affiliation needs resources. Our first appointment, the painter and performance artist Rosanna Dean (ochs.org.uk/rosanna-dean/), has struggled financially to fulfil her plans, even though they did not involve the production of artworks. Consequently, I am promoting appointments that would involve collaborations with other institutions. For example, the Australian sculptor Christian de Vietri, who trained as a traditional stone carver in India, plans to use a future affiliation with us as the first stage of a practice-based doctoral project at the Princes Trust School in London. The broader potential of arrangements like this is very clear and I will have more detailed recommendations for my OCHS colleagues to consider in the next academic year.

Hindu Climate Action

Hindu Climate Action (HCA) is a project of the OCHS. Started in 2020, we aim to:

1. Raise awareness about the ongoing climate emergency
2. Highlight the importance of revering nature in the Hindu tradition
3. Inspire the community to go green
4. Join interfaith initiatives on climate activism

We successfully engaged with a diverse audience through our Instagram page and our in person workshop which we delivered to Hindu youth groups and Mandirs.

I'd like to focus much of this report on the interfaith work we've done in promoting Loss & Damage to the UK government.

Responsibility for the climate crisis lies with the world's richest nations, which for hundreds of years have polluted more than their fair share. Major climate disasters are already happening and much worse will follow. These climate impacts such as sea-level rises and extreme weather events like heat waves, droughts and floods are known as loss and damage. This is expected to cost Global South countries between \$290 billion-\$580 billion every year by 2030.

People of faith have a powerful role to play in demanding justice for those who are bearing the brunt of loss and damage. The UK and other rich nations have built their wealth by burning vast quantities of fossil fuels and this global warming is affecting those who are least responsible. To address this



Representatives from five faiths (inc. Avnish Thakrar from HCA) handed in a petition for the Prime Minister at Number 10 Downing Street.

injustice, we've supported Faith for the Climate and other faith groups demanding the government to:

1. Urgently transition away from fossil fuels
2. Contribute to a fund supporting developing nations
3. Fund this pot of money by taxing those responsible such as fossil fuel companies

Hindu Climate Action helped organise an event for Loss and Damage Day on 22nd September 2022 which involved a protest outside Shell HQ in London followed by a peaceful walk to Parliament Square where we gathered outside Gandhiji's statue. Caroline Lucas MP delivered a powerful speech, followed by speeches from different faith groups. Hanuman Dass, founder of Go Dharmic spoke passionately on behalf the Hindu tradition; promoting values such as Ahimsa (non-harm) and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) in order to tackle climate change and to ensure that all living beings can flourish.

If you'd like to find out more about our work, please visit our website, www.hinduclimateaction.org or email us at namaste@hinduclimateaction.org

Elizabeth and Gopal Krishna

I first met Elizabeth in 1977 in Oxford, with her husband Gopal, whom she met here at the University, married in 1961 and accompanied through their many years in England and India. Though each of them was a strongly—one might say remarkably—individual personality sui generis, they also seemed something like the two differently designed sides of an attractive rare coin. That was their kind of inseparability, at least in my mind, and surely impressions reflect some kind of reality. And the rarity of the coin—it was of high denomination.

The two were regularly sitting in that little penthouse paradise we remember as the Indian Institute Library, when I arrived there as Librarian in 1977. Not long after that the Bodleian found extra funding for a part-time assistant

to help catalogue some of the more interesting Indian language books in our collections. Elizabeth presented herself, with great modesty, as being prepared to learn and exercise the relevant linguistic and clerical skills. In fact she of course already had some Hindi rapidly developed her knowledge, not only of the language but also of the fields of literature and authors that came her way. Forty years later my memories of her work are clear and very happy. She was extremely meticulous and conscientious, matching her beautiful but impressively clear and functional handwriting with a true scholar's eye for detail. Another admirer of Gopal and Elizabeth around that time was the historian Rudrangshu Mukherjee, then just starting his doctoral work, over which Gopal was a kindly and watchful adviser. My friend Rudrangshu, now Chancellor of Ashoka University, has written to tell me that when Elizabeth was working in the Delhi School of Economics, she was frequently said by her colleague, the legendary Andre Beteille, to be the best copy editor he had known. As long as she was in Delhi, Andre always had whatever he wrote checked and copy-edited by her. He missed her greatly when she went back to Oxford.

Despite her attractive reserve and personal understatement, she had been a highly talented student. Having started in Latin and Greek language and literature at Lady Margaret Hall, she changed



Elizabeth Krishna.

half way through to PPE, and it was in that course, I think especially in Economics, that she found her proper place, graduating with a 'First' in 1959. In 1959 that really meant something. I believe that her ten years, from 1963 to 1973, as a lecturer at the Delhi School were preceded by a brief period at Kurukshetra University. At the Delhi School, she conceived a most unusual approach to teacher-student relations. She had a consistent policy of 'believing' whatever a student told her, be it never so implausible. And her students knew Elizabeth would always take them at their word. The result? Delhi University held remembrance and memorial for her recently; although it's been fifty years since she taught, the building was filled with her former students paying their respects. Quite remarkable.

Thinking, or deciding, or acting 'on principle' can sometimes seem rather sanctimonious and trying. I believe Elizabeth didn't go in for that sort of thing. Yes, she had steady and wholly admirable standards of behaviour towards others, whether deep down she

approved of them or not. Gopal was naturally and rightly devoted to her. Still, without wanting to bias my choices or the Bodleian recruitment process he stayed, with characteristic discretion, in the background before her appointment; after, and only after, all was settled he told me—I took it as a matter of objective and verifiable truth—that she was 'perfect', and I hope it is clear that it was a great joy for me when Elizabeth came to work with me; years later her work is still in evidence, having triumphed over time and the traumas of computerisation. and I suppose that must also be the case in the other libraries where she worked.

Elizabeth listened carefully to other people and based her reasoning on sometimes disarmingly obvious premises which hadn't occurred to her interlocutors. And there was such a sense of humour there too. I think it would be fair to say Elizabeth had respectable feminist instincts, all a reasonable part of her sense of fairness and justice. There was a ritual moment at the Indian Institute Library when I would hold the door open for Elizabeth, but always said to her—'this is not because you are a woman'. The reply would come with a twinkle in the eye: 'that's all right then'. Behind this ritual exchange, though, lay a whole series of genuinely sincere and interesting arguments we had about politics, education, Indian affairs, English society, and the Labour Party, to which she devoted much energy.

Throughout her life she donated towards education, supporting Lady Margaret Hall as an alumni, as well as providing scholarships at Delhi University and at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies where she volunteered as a Librarian after her retirement.

Elizabeth a treasure in our midst and for her presence in our lives so many are ever grateful.

Except from Jonathan Katz

16.8.22



Gopal and Elizabeth Krishna.



5

Finances

Financial Results Year Ending 31st March 2023

Financial Results Year Ending 31st March 2023

The audited Financial Statements for 31 March 2023 have been prepared by Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Oxford.

Summary Results

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from:		
Donations	884,305	340,468
Charitable Activities	159,872	222,155
Investment Income	2,536	647
Endowment—Designated	-	-
Grants	-	40,022
Gain / (Loss) on Investment	(10,716)	8,076
Legacy Income	265,000	-
Total Income	1,300,997	611,368
Total Expenditure	630,974	570,722
Net Movement in Funds for the Year	670,023	40,646

The results for this year have been bolstered by two significant large donations as well as the Legacy income received from the estate of Elizabeth and Gopal Krishna. Overall, the Board are still conscious of the ongoing work the Management team are undertaking to continue to build endowed income of the Centre which has now gained a further impetus since the purchase of the permanent home for the Centre in September 2023. The Board and Management team are now implementing a long-term fund development campaign which over the coming years will consolidate and enhance the income of the Centre whilst also aligning its cost base to reflect the work of the staff and volunteers of the organisation.

Appendix One: Organisation

Board of Governors

Prof. Diwakar Acharya
Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford
Prof. Francis X. Clooney, SJ
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Prof. Mark Edwards
Prof. Richard Gombrich
Dr Pujan H. Patel
Ajay Piramal, CBE
Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray
Prof. Ulrike Roesler
Madhu Ruia
Azad Shivdasani
Prof. Mark Smith
Ramesh Venkataraman

Administration

Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director
Prof. Gavin Flood FBA, Academic Director
Tanja L. Jakobsen, Development Officer
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Librarian
Utsa Bose, Library Assistant
Surabhi Acharya, Secretary
Manish Thakrar, Finance Director

Fellows

Prof. John Brockington
Mary Brockington
Anuradha Dooney
Dr Gillian Evison
Dr Jessica Frazier
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Dr Ashwini Mokashi
Dr Nicholas Sutton
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen
Dr Lucian Wong

Research Fellows

Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria
Dr Måns Broo
Dr Santanu Dey
Prof. Chris Dorsett
Prof. Daniel J. Ehnbohm

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta
Dr Rajan Khatiwod
Dr Ionut Moise
Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder
Dr James Madaio
Dr Kiyokazu Okita
Dr Neeraja Poddar
Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray
Dr Ferdinando Sardella
Prof. Amiya P. Sen
Dr Kenneth Valpey

Senior Fellows

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar
Prof. Mandakranta Bose
Prof. Francis X. Clooney, SJ, FBA
Prof. Madhav M. Deshpande
Prof. Gavin Flood, FBA
Dr Sanjukta Gupta
Prof. Dermot Killingley
Prof. Julius Lipner, FBA
Peggy Morgan
Prof. Patrick Olivelle
Prof. Alexis Sanderson
Prof. Tony Stewart
Prof. Gaya Charan Tripathi

Kathmandu Office

Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen
Dr Rajan Khatiwoda
Gitte Poulsen
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Investment Committee

Martin Sanderson
Manish Thakrar
Ramesh Venkataraman, Chair

Continuing Education Department CED board

Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lal Krishna
Dr Nicholas Sutton
Manish Thakrar

Course Development Board

Dr Cogen Bohanec
Natasha Chawla
Prof. Gavin Flood, Chair
Lal Krishna
Dr Lucian Wong

Tutorial and Course Development

Dr Raj Balkaran: Tutor
Prof. Guy Beck: Tutor, Course Creator
Prof. Mandakranta Bose: Course Creator
Dr Måns Broo: Tutor, Course Creator
Prof. Christopher Chapple: Tutor, Course Creator
Richard Coldman: Video
Prof. Gavin Flood: Tutor, Course Creator
Dr Jessica Frazier: Course Creator
Lal Krishna: Operations Director
Dr Layne Little: Tutor, Course Creator
Danny MacGregor: Video
Gitte Poulsen: Tutor, Course Creator
Prof. Amiya P. Sen: Tutor, Course Creator
Daniel Simpson: Tutor, Course Creator
Dr Zoë Slatoff: Tutor, Course Creator
Mr David Smith: Technical Support
Dr Nick Sutton: Tutor, Course Creator

Patrons Council

Amitabh Bachchan
HE The Indian High Commissioner
Dr Karan Singh

Academic Council

Prof. Diwakar Acharya
Prof. John Brockington
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Dr Gillian Evison
Dr Jessica Frazier
Dr Ravi Gupta
Prof. Sondra Hausner
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Peggy Morgan
Prof. G.C. Tripathi
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Academic Planning Committee

Shaunaka Rishi Das

Prof. Gavin Flood
Dr Jessica Frazier
Tanja Louise Jakobsen
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen
Dr Lucian Wong

Development Planning Committee

Shaunaka Rishi Das
Tanja Louise Jakobsen
Lal Krishna
Manish Thakrar

Friends of OCHS Birmingham

Jyoti Patel
Raj Patel
Yogesh Patel
Subrata Roy
Meena Sodha
Nitin Sodha

Leicester

Alkaji Agarwal
Dr Virendra Agarwal
Raj Chauhan
Ramila Chauhan
Dr Ranjit Johri
Sumanji Johri
Bina Modi
Prafullaben Raja
Deepak Samani
Manishbhai Thakrar
Shobhaben Trivedi

USA

Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford
Mr Robert Cohen
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Mr Todd Wahlstrom

Appendix Two: Lectures and Seminars

Michaelmas Term 2022

Hinduism 1

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Vedānta

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Readings in Phenomenology

Prof. Gavin Flood

Lecture from the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow

Visualization in Some Bengali Hindu
Contemplative Traditions: Vaishnava bhakti,
Shakta Tantra, Baul songs and Raja Yoga
Dr June McDaniel

The Modern Loss of Ecstasy in Religion and
Theology

Dr June McDaniel

Lectures of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow

The luminous ātman within: Beliefs about
afterlife and voluntary death of sages in the
Sanskrit epics

Valters Negribs

The relationship between āsana (posture),
sukha (bliss), and meditation in early yoga

Valters Negribs

Other Lectures

Śākta Traditions Lecture Series

The Body of the Goddess

Prof. Diwakar Acharya

Pali reading Group

Valters Negribs, Shree Nahata

Hilary Term 2023

Hinduism 2: Modern Hinduism

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims 2

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Pali prelims (Pali for sanskritists)

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Phenomenology

Prof. Gavin Flood

Senior Seminar in Indian Religions

Dr Jessica Frazier, Prof. Gavin Flood

Lectures of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow

9 Rooms: Philip Rawson and the exhibiting of
tantra

Prof. Chris Dorsett

9 Bookmarks: Rawson's writing and the
influence of Abhinavagupta

Prof. Chris Dorsett

Other Lectures and Seminars

Metaphysical Thinking in India

Prof. Gavin Flood

Netra Tantra Seminar

Trinity Term 2023

Sanskrit Prelims

Prof. Gavin Flood

Pali Prelims (Pali for Sanskritists)

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Pali prelims (Pali for sanskritists)

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Vedānta

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Readings in Middle Bengali: Vaṃṣī Śikṣā

Dr Lucian Wong

Readings in Phenomenology

Prof. Gavin Flood

Indian Philosophy and Religion Seminars

Dr Jessica Frazier

**Lectures of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan
Visiting Fellow**

Challenging Expectations: Interpreting the
Bengali Satya Nārāyaṇer Puthi of Kavivallabh

Prof. Tony Stewart

Alternatives to the Gosvāmī Master Narrative:

Vernacular Explorations in the Vaiṣṇav

Imagination of the 16th-18th c.

Prof. Tony Stewart

Lectures of the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow

Gendering Jajmani, Caste-ing Monastic

Governmentality and Capital

Professor Indrani Chatterjee

Other Lectures

Potential Avenues for Research on Tantric

Forms of Vaiṣṇavism in Bengal (Vaiṣṇava

Sahajiyā)

Dr Robert Czyżykowski

Ordeals and Judicial Wagers

Professor Dr Harald Weise

Sapiens and Sthitaprajna

Dr Ashwini Mokashi

Against Infinite Nothingness: Arguments East
and West for a Foundation of Reality

Dr Jessica Frazier

The Sanskrit Traditions Symposium

Other Lectures

The concept of sukha in the ascetic traditions
of Ancient India

*Valters Negribs (EPHE / Paris 3 Sorbonne
Nouvelle)*

The Significance Of Etymology In Early

Modern Polemical Works Of Vedānta

Vinoth Murali (University of Cambridge)

The Textual Sanctification of Vārāṇasī

Olli-Pekka Littunen (Leiden University)



Sushant Battacharya and Aryan Kundra at the OCHS Summer Univeristy course in Kathmandu.



ochs.org.uk

13-15 Magdalen St. Oxford OX1 3AE
+44 (0)1865 304300
www.ochs.org.uk
Regd Charity No. 1074458



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