



## Manipal Centre for Philosophy & Humanities

Invites you for a Talk and an Interactive Session

with

Dr Ashok Aklujkar

University of British Columbia



**Title:** Some Misconceptions about the History of Indian Philosophy

**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2015 | **Time:** 5.15 pm

**Venue:** Gangubai Hanagal Auditorium, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Dr TMA Pai Planetarium Complex, Manipal University

The story of the study of ancient Greek and ancient Indian philosophy is largely a story of two solitudes. There are occasional exceptions that try to catch sounds from the other solitude, such as Thomas McEvilley's *'The shape of ancient thought: comparative studies in Greek and Indian philosophies'*. However, on the whole, the stance of scholars is that there is not enough evidence available to relate the two traditions in terms of the direction of borrowing or over long stretches of time or in a manner that would involve entire authors or entire works. The best one can do is to point out certain broad parallels and differences. Without disputing the justifiability of the stance, the present paper points out that it is more probable than not that Greek philosophy, in its earliest accessible period, was favorably inclined toward Indian philosophy and was interested in knowing from the latter. I do not go along with Wilhelm Halbfass in this regard and I also reject Johannes Brokhorst's thesis of late arrival of rationality from Greece into India. Incidentally, I dispense with a few other easier-to-refute misconceptions found in Indian philosophy textbooks.

Dr Ashok Aklujkar, the author of *Sanskrit: an Easy Introduction to an Enchanting Language*, received his M.A. degree in Sanskrit and Pali from the University of Poona and his Ph.D. degree in Sanskrit and Indian Studies from Harvard University. He has been teaching courses in Sanskrit language and in the related mythological and philosophical literatures (occasionally also in Indian belles lettres in general) at the University of British Columbia since 1969. His published research is mostly in the areas of Sanskrit linguistic tradition and poetics. For the last several years he is engaged in the ambitious project of preparing critical editions of the works of Bhartr̥hari, a grammarian-philosopher, and of the commentaries elucidating those works.

**Contact: 0820 - 2923561**

**office.mcph@manipal.edu**