



**Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla  
&  
FLAME University, Pune**



present

**Beyond Imperialism of Categories**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Interdisciplinary Conference in the series**

**"New Directions in Indic Studies"**

**May 12 – May 13, 2021**

**Online on [Cisco WebEx](#) and Facebook Live**

**Programme Schedule(all times are IST)**

**Day 1: May 12, 2021 (Wednesday)**

**9:00-10:00 AM INAUGURAL SESSION**

**Welcome Address:** **Professor Makarand R. Paranjape**  
Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study

**Inaugural Address:** **Professor Sunaina Singh**  
Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University

**Introductory Remarks:** **Professor Pankaj Jain**  
Professor and Head, Indic Studies Initiative, FLAME University

**Session I: 10:00 AM– 11:50 PM**

**Chairperson:** **Professor Ankur Barua, Cambridge University**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**10:00 - 10:40 AM** Professor Robert Thurman, Department of Religion, Columbia University

*Sanskrit Buddhism*

**Speaker:**

**10:40AM- 11:20 PM** Professor KTS Sarao, Delhi University

*Victorian Indologists and Anagarika Dharmapala in the Mahabodhi Temple controversy*

**11:20- 11:50 PM** Discussion

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM** LUNCH BREAK

**Session II: 2:00 PM – 3:40 PM**

**Chairperson:** Professor Madhu Khanna, Jamia Millia Islamia

**Speakers**

**2:00- 2:40 PM** Professor Vinod Vidwans, FLAME University  
*Indian Music: Retrospect and Prospects*

**2:40- 3:20 PM** Professor Bharat Gupt, IGNCA  
*Natya Shastra: Past and Present*

**3:20- 3:50 PM** Discussion

**Session III: 3:50 PM – 5:30 PM**

**Chairperson:** Professor Adarasupally Nataraju, Assam Central University

**Speakers:**

**3:50: 4:30 PM** Professor Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Delhi University  
*History of Indian Philosophy: Analysis of contemporary Understanding of Classical through Colonial*

**4:30- 5:10PM** Professor Lavanya Vemsani, Shawnee State University  
*New Historiography for New India*

**5:10-5:30 PM** Discussion

**DAY 2: May 13, 2021 (Thursday)**

**SessionIV: 9:30 AM- 12:10 PM**

**Chairperson** Professor Viraj Shah, FLAME University

**Speakers**

**9:30- 10:10 AM** Professor Chris Chapple, Loyola Marymount University  
*Jain Studies in the Global Academy*

**10:10- 10:50 AM** Professor Jeffery D Long, Elizabethtown College  
*Practical Anekāntavāda: A Jain Contribution to Global Civilization*

**10:50: 12:10** Discussion

**Session V:3:50 PM– 5:40PM**

**Chairperson** Professor Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Vivekananda College

## **Speakers:**

**3:50- 4:30 PM**

Professor Deven Patel, University of Pennsylvania

*What is a "commentary" on Sanskrit kavya?*

**4:30- 5:10**

Professor Frederick M Smith, University of Iowa

*The category of the center: bringing together forest and village in Vedic ritual*

**5:10- 5:30 PM**

Discussion

**Closing Remarks**

**Vote of Thanks**

## **Bios and Pictures**

### **Director**

Makarand R. Paranjape is currently Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. He was educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he got his Masters and Ph.D. in English. He has been a Professor of English at Jawaharlal Nehru University for over twenty of his forty years as a university teacher. He is the author of some twenty and editor of more than two-dozen books, in addition to hundreds of academic papers and popular articles. His latest books include *Swami Vivekananda: Hinduism and India's Road to Modernity* (HarperCollins 2020), *New Perspectives in Indian Science and Civilization* (Routledge 2020), *Debating the 'Post' Condition in India* (Routledge, 2018), and *The Death and Afterlife of Mahatma Gandhi* (Penguin Random House, 2015). Makarand is currently a columnist in *Open Magazine*, *Gulf News*, *The New Indian Express*, and *The Print*.



### **Convenor**

Dr. Pankaj Jain, Professor and Head of Indic Studies at FLAME University, will spearhead this seminar series. As a former tenured associate professor at the University of North Texas in the USA, Dr. Jain has vast experience in Indic studies with three monographs and several papers to his credit. He was an integral team member for India-China Institute's Everyday Religion and Sustainable Environments in the Himalaya at The New School – an initiative previously funded by the Luce

Foundation in 2010. He was a Fulbright Fellow for Environmental Leadership in 2012 and the American Academy of Indic Studies' founding director in 2016.



### **Speakers and Chairs:**

#### **Ankur Barua**

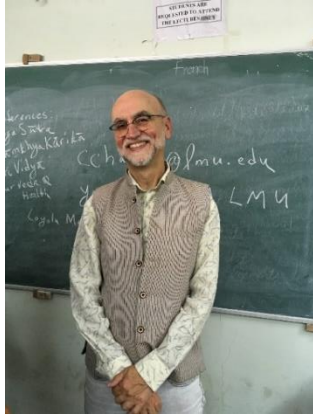
After a B.Sc. in Physics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, **Ankur Barua** read Theology and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge. His primary research interests are Vedantic Hindu philosophical theology and Indo-Islamic styles of sociality.

He researches the conceptual constellations and the social structures of the Hindu traditions, both in premodern contexts in South Asia and in colonial milieus where multiple ideas of Hindu identity were configured along with transnational circuits between India, Britain, France, Germany, and the USA. He studies how these ideas continue to shape the subjectivities of British Hindus across multi-ethnic environments and of the wider British public.



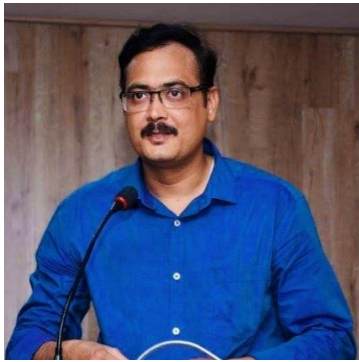
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Dr. **Christopher Key Chapple** is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology and founding Director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. A specialist in India's religions, he has published more than twenty books, including the recent *Living Landscapes: Meditations on the Elements in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain Yogas* (SUNY Press). He serves as an advisor to multiple organizations, including the Forum on Religion and Ecology (Yale), the Ahimsa Center (Pomona), the Dharma Academy of North America (Berkeley), the Jain Studies Centre (SOAS, London), the South Asian Studies Association, and International School for Jain Studies (New Delhi). He teaches online through the Center for Religion and Spirituality (LMU) and YogaGlo



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**Dr. Balaganapathi Devarakonda** is presently heading the Department of Philosophy at the University of Delhi, Delhi. His research interests are in Indian philosophy, philosophy of religion, social & Political Philosophy, and Philosophical Practice. In addition to teaching and research, Prof. Bala is a certified Philosophical Counsellor by American Philosophy Practitioners Association, New York. He serves as the Regional Coordinator (India) of Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Washington DC, and Chief Advisor to the Centre for Ethics & Values, Ramanujan College, New Delhi.



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**Dr. Bharat Gupta**, a retired Associate Professor in English at the University of Delhi, is an Indian classicist, theatre theorist, sitar and surbahar player, musicologist, cultural analyst, and newspaper columnist. His books include *Dramatic Concepts Greek and Indian* (1994), *Natyashastra, Chapter 28: Ancient Scales of Indian Music* (1996) [translation into English], *Literary Criticism and Theory (Greek)*, *Twelve Greek Poems into Hindi* (2001), and *India: A Cultural Decline or Revival?* (2008)



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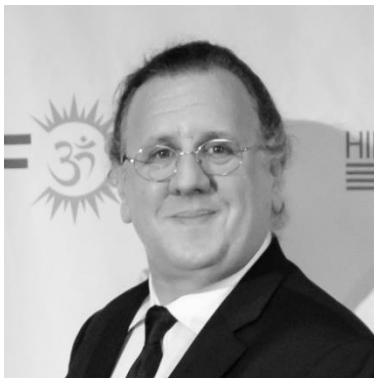
**Dr. Madhu Khanna** is an Indian people historian of religion and noted Tantric scholar based in Delhi. She was the Director for the Centre for the Study of Comparative Religion and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She is currently a Visiting Professor of Indic Religion at the same Centre, where she teaches interdisciplinary courses in Hindu Studies. She has several books and

exhibition catalogues to her credit and has contributed to three national projects, as well as several research projects for the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)



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Dr. **Jeffery D. Long** is the Carl W. Zeigler Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, where he has taught since receiving his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School. In 2013, Dr. Long gave the inaugural Virchand Gandhi Lecture in Jain Studies at Claremont University. In 2018, he received the Hindu American Foundation's Dharma Seva Award for his ongoing work to promote accurate and culturally sensitive portrayals of Indic traditions in the American education system and popular media. In 2019, Dr. Long gave three presentations at the United Nations.



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Dr. **Adarasupally Nataraju** is the Dean of the School of Philosophy at Assam University, specializing in Consciousness Studies: Vedanta and Phenomenology. He has edited two volumes on the Nature of Consciousness from Bloomsbury. His book on the philosophy of J. Krishnamurti is in the press from Munshiram Manoharlal. He has also guided several D. Lit, Ph.D., and M Phil research scholars.





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Dr. **Deven Patel** is Associate Professor and Chair at the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. He is the author of *Text to Tradition: The Naisadhiyacarita and Literary Community in South Asia* (Columbia University Press, 2014). His research interests are Classical Indian literature and aesthetics, focusing on Sanskrit poetry and poetics, the regional cultures of South Asia; Indian philosophy; myth; critical theory, and translation studies.



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Dr. **K. T. S. Sarao** is a professor and head of the Department of Buddhist Studies at the University of Delhi. Sarao has been a visiting professor/fellow at Dongguk University, Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies, Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, Maison des Sciences de L'Homme, Toronto University, and Visva-Bharati University. He has written several books and papers on Buddhism.



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Dr. **Viraj Shah** is an archaeologist specializing in ancient Indian art, architecture, iconography, and socio-religious history. She has extensively worked on Jainism and Jaina Rock-cut Caves in Maharashtra, India. She has also worked on the temple institution of medieval Maharashtra, India. Her research areas of interest are socio-economic-religious history, religious architecture, iconography, and pilgrimage and landscape studies. She is specifically interested in Jaina iconography and religious practices, especially in the Deccan region of India. Currently, she works as an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean at FLAME University, Pune, India.



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Dr. **Sunaina Singh** is the Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University. Prof. Singh has also been the Vice President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The Academic Union of Oxford honoured Prof. Sunaina Singh as "Honorary Professor" of Oxford University in December 2020. This citation acknowledges her remarkable achievement of re-inventing the historic Nalanda University and its academic architecture.



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**Dr. Frederick M. Smith** is a Professor of Sanskrit and Classical Indian Religions, Departments of Religious Studies and Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature, University of Iowa, USA. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984. His work includes studies of texts and performances of Vedic sacrificial ritual from antiquity to the present; studies of religious experience in India, with a primary focus on the history and phenomenology of deity and spirit possession; the writings of Vallabhācārya, the founder of the sect of Krishna devotion called Puṣṭi Mārga (Path of Grace) in the early 16th century, and his successors; and India's great epic, the Mahābhārata.



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Dr. **K Srinivasan** is the former Head of the Department of Sanskrit in Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai. Hebrew University invited Professor Srinivasan, Jerusalem, in 2004



to espouse "Towards a New History of Sanskrit Literature." In November 2008, he was invited to the annual meeting of the prestigious American Academy of Religion Chicago, where he spoke on Hinduism.



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Dr. **Robert Thurman** is the Padma Shri Professor Emeritus of Indo Tibetan Buddhology at Columbia University. Dr. Thurman is Editor-in-Chief of the Buddhist Sciences Treasury, a three-generation project of the American Institute of Buddhology and Wisdom Publications to translate the Tibetan Tengyur, and President of Tibet House, an NGO dedicated to preserving the culture of Tibet. He teaches worldwide and is the author of more than 20 books. He has been a disciple and friend of the Dalai Lama for 56 years. In 1997, Time named him one of the "25 Most Influential Americans," and recently, to his surprise, Watkin's Spiritual Leader List ranked him number 52 in the world.



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Dr. **Lavanya Vemsani** is a professor of Indian History and Religions in Social Sciences at Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, Ohio. She holds two doctorates in Religious Studies (McMaster University) and History (University of Hyderabad). She was awarded the South Asia Council of the Canadian Asian Studies Association's (SACA/CASA) Best Thesis Honorable Mention prize for her Ph.D. thesis at McMaster University. Her books include *Modern Hinduism in Text and Context*; *Krishna in History, Thought, and Culture: Encyclopedia of the Hindu Lord of Many Names*; *Hindu and Jain Mythology of Balarama*.



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Dr. **Vinod Vidwans** is a professor at the FLAME School of Fine & Performing Arts at FLAME University. Earlier, he was a Senior Designer (Professor) and an Ex-Vice Chairman (Research) at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. He also headed the Departments of New Media and Software Users Interface Design at NID, Ahmedabad. He is a visiting faculty at IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Kanpur, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, D. J Academy of Design, Coimbatore, and Pt. Deendayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar. He has developed a computational theory of Indian Classical music.



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**Other Co-hosts:**



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

