

# *Eighth Annual Lecture in Jain Studies at UC Davis*

Part of the "Religion and Medicine: East and West" Two-Day Lecture Series

LiveStream link: <https://youtube.com/@8thAnnualLectureJainStudiesUCD>

***In Memoriam: Paul Dundas (1952-2023)***

**Tribute by Whitney Kelting, Northeastern University, 5pm PT**



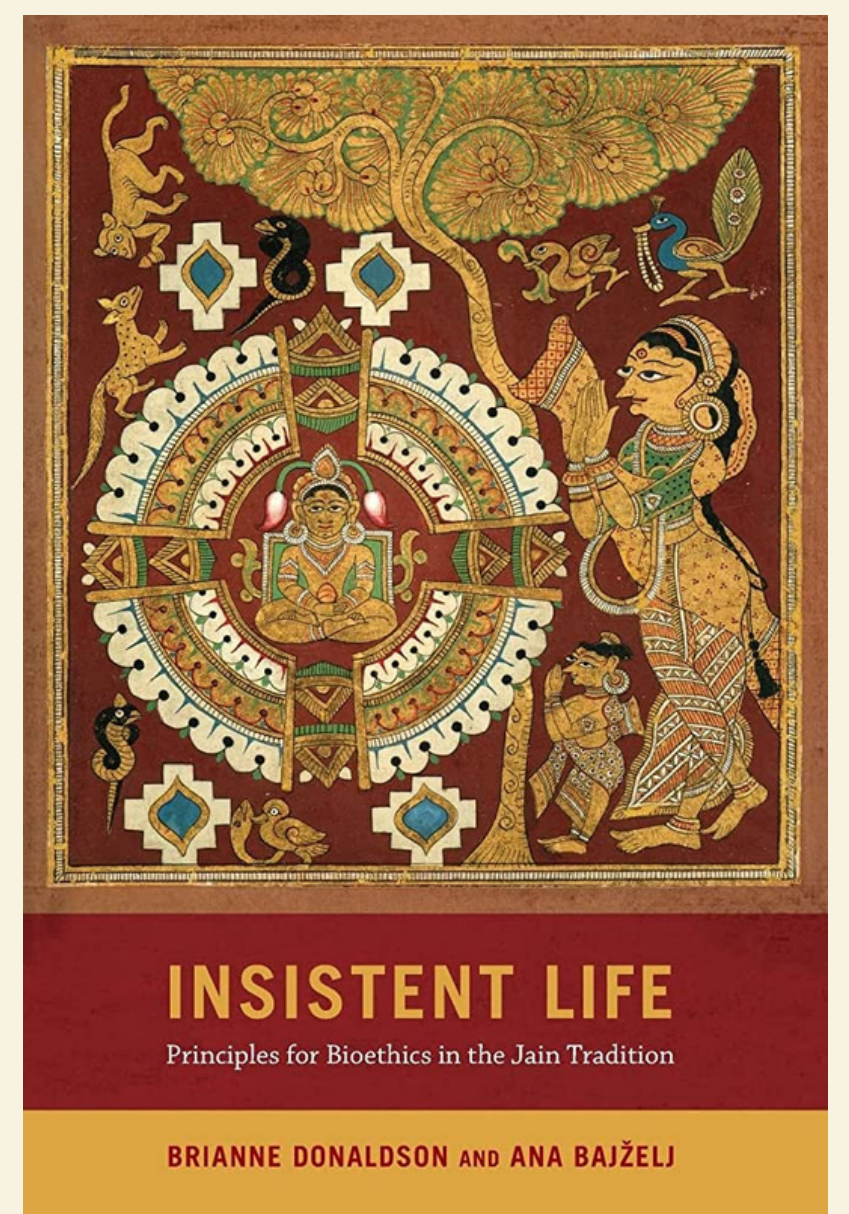
**Ana Bajželj, UC Riverside**

**“Illness, Medicine, and Ascetic Practice: Jaina Attitudes to Ailing Mendicants”**

**Date: Thursday, May 11; Location: Student Community Center, Multipurpose Room**

**Time: Reception 4:30-5:00 PT; Lecture 5:10-6:30 PT**

Early Jaina canonical texts depict the ideal mendicant as an ascetic intent solely on achieving liberation, calmly enduring various discomforts to burn away karma that perpetuates rebirths. These texts indicate that proper observance of austerities allows no exceptions, even in cases of illness. Sick mendicants are instructed to focus on transcending the body and forgo any treatment. However, as recent studies have shown, the emphasis in later Jaina Śvetāmbara texts shifts from celebrating the virtues of an ascetic hero, unyielding in the face of illness, to the duty of mendicants to provide medical treatment for their fellow mendicants when they fall ill. Examining Jaina approaches to ailing mendicants in the oldest canonical strata, Ana Bajželj will demonstrate that this shift has an early foundation in the emerging practical accommodations and the duty to care for the sick, as well as in recognition of a healthy body as a vital instrument for spiritual attainment. She will discuss these findings in the broader context of her recently published co-authored book, *Insistent Life: Principles for Bioethics in the Jain Tradition* (UC Press, 2021).



*Ana Bajželj is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies at the University of California, Riverside. She was previously a research fellow at the University of Rajasthan and the Polonsky Academy (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute), and she taught at the University of Ljubljana and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on Jain philosophy, particularly metaphysics, ethics, and philosophy of mind. She is the author of *The Nature of Change in Jaina Philosophy* (Ljubljana University Press, 2016, in Slovenian) and the co-author of *Insistent Life: Principles for Bioethics in the Jain Tradition* (UC Press, 2021). She is currently working on a monograph study of the *Tattvārthasūtra* and its commentaries.*

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