

# History, Scripture and Debate: Studies in South Asia in Memory of Paul Dundas

Organised by the DHARMANATH NETWORK IN JAIN STUDIES

University of Birmingham

Venue: The Writers' Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel



**FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025**

2 – 2.15 PM – WELCOMING ADDRESS BY MARIE-HÉLÈNE GORISSE

SAMANI SANMATI PRAGYA & SAMANI JAYANT PRAGYA RECITE THE NAMOKAR MANTRA

2.15 – 3.45 PM – FIRST PANEL Chairperson – Liz Harris

**Gregory Clines** (Trinity University, Texas) Varṇa and Personhood in Jain Narrative Literature

**Seema Chauhan** (Trinity College, Dublin) The Emergence of Jain Lay Identity

**Sasha Restifo** (Florida International University) The Last Obstacle: Neminātha's Renunciation in the *Rājimatīprabodha-nāṭaka* of Yaśaścandra

3.45 – 4.05 PM – COFFEE BREAK

4.05 – 4.35 PM – SECOND PANEL Chairperson – Steve Heim

**Nalini Balbir** (University of Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle) Functions of the Jain Question-Answer format and its contemporary avatars

4.35 – 4.50 PM – LAUNCH OF THE NEW JAINPEDIA PLATFORM **Mehool Sanghrajka** (Institute of Jainology)

4.50 – 5 PM – Update on the activities of the JAINA-Academic Liaison Committee **Manish Mehta**

5.45 – 6.15 PM – PROGRAM AT THE BIRMINGHAM JAIN ASHRAM (322 HAMSTEAD ROAD, HANDSWORTH)

6.15 PM – DINNER AT THE ASHRAM

**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**

9 – 10.30 AM – FIRST PANEL Chairperson – Naomi Appleton

**Robert Leach** (University of Zurich) What's Love got to do with it? Thoughts on Gāndharva Marriage

**Andrew Ollett** (University of Chicago) The Periodization of Prakrit Literature

**Mary Brockington** (University of Oxford) Saṅghadāsa, Vimalasūri, Agastya and Rāma: notes towards dating

10.30 – 11 AM – COFFEE BREAK

11 AM – 12 PM – SECOND PANEL Chairperson – *Tba*

**Christine Chojnacki** (University of Toronto) An obscure lineage for an illustrious teacher? The enigma of the Pūrṇatallagaccha

**Anchit Jain** (University of Delhi) Re-reading the Sectarian Confrontations in the *Mudritakumudacandra-prakaraṇa*: A tribute to Paul Dundas' last publication

12 – 12.15 PM – ROUNDTABLE 1 – REMEMBERING PAUL

12.15 – 2 PM LUNCH AND SHORT VISIT OF THE CAMPUS (GROUP PHOTO IN FRONT OF THE OLD JOE)

2 – 3.30 PM – THIRD PANEL Chairperson – Anna Tosato

**Steven Vose** (University of Colorado, Denver) Mantras, Vidyās, and Other Coveted Technologies: Toward a Social History of Jain “Tantras”

**Ellen Gough** (Emory University) Becoming A Śvetāmbara Ācārya in Modern Jainism

**Whitney Kelting** (Northeastern University, Boston) Śrīpāl, Siddhacakra Pūjā, and the Self-Made Man: Jain Tantra as a Laymen's Technology

3.30 – 3.45 PM – SHORT COFFEE BREAK

3.45 – 4 PM – ROUNDTABLE 2 – REMEMBERING PAUL

4 – 5 PM – FOURTH PANEL Chairperson – Anil Mundra

**John Cort** (Denison University) Putting History into the Study of the Jains and the Jains into the Study of South Asian History

**Peter C. Bisschop** (Leiden University) Meticulousness and Rigour: reflections on Paul's files

**SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**

9 – 10.30 AM – FIRST PANEL Chairperson – Ana Bajželj

**John Brockington** (University of Oxford) A little-known illustrated manuscript of the Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa: the Uniara Rāmāyaṇa

**Eva De Clercq** (Ghent University) Nagas in Jain literature

**Audrey Truschke** (Rutgers University) Akbar through Jain Eyes: Reading Shantichandra's *Kriparasakosha* (Treasury of Compassion)

10.30 – 11 AM – COFFEE BREAK

11 AM – 12.30 PM – SECOND PANEL Chairperson – Jay Soni

**Shin Fujinaga** (University of Miyazaki) Monks in the Sthānāgasūtra and its Commentary

**Peter Flügel** (SOAS, London) Āvaśyaka-Rituals of the Loṅkā-Traditions

**Lynna Dhanani** (UC Davis) Cooperation and Coordination: Investigating Mendicant Networks and Interaction through the Jaina Bhaṇḍārs of Jaisalmer

12.30 – 2 PM LUNCH AND VISIT OF THE WINTERBOURNE GARDEN

2 – 3.30 PM – THIRD PANEL Chairperson – Ruth Westoby

**Zoe Slatoff** (Loyola Marymount University) Like Milk and Water: Breath, Mind, and Liberation in Hemacandra's *Yogaśāstra*

**Robert Zydenbos** (Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich) *Tba*

**Marie-Hélène Gorisse** (University of Birmingham) On Kaivalya and Mokṣa

3.30 – 3:45 – LAST REMEMBRANCES AND CLOSING REMARKS

**A WARM THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & COLLABORATORS:** THE INSTITUTE OF JAINOLOGY; DR. JASVANT & MEERA MODI; BAKUL MEHTA; THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS; THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA; THE JAIN ASHRAM AT BIRMINGHAM



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