

PROGRAM

CONSCIOUSNESS

IN MODERN SCIENCE AND JAIN PHILOSOPHY

**Second International
Conference on Science
and Jain Philosophy (ICSJP)**

Virtual Conference | March 19-22, 2021

Organizers:

FIU Jain Studies Program

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF)

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FIU Jain Studies Program
**Steven J. Green School of International
& Public Affairs**

Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF)

Co-sponsors:

Mohini Jain Presidential Chair in Jain Studies
University of California, Davis

Jain Vishva Bharati Centers
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Spiritual Technology Research Foundation (Mumbai)
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ORGANIZERS



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PROGRAM AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

7:30 AM to 7:40 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 4:40 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 5:10 PM IST

Welcome Address Founding Dean John F. Stack, Jr.
Florida International University

Conference Overview Iqbal Akhtar
Florida International University

7:40 AM to 9:15 AM EDT | 4:40 AM to 6:15 AM PDT | 5:10 PM to 6:45 PM IST

Theme: Soul and Consciousness in Jain Philosophy

Samani Chaitanya Pragya (Moderator)
Florida International University

Acharya Vijaynandighoshisuri Maharaj
Is It Possible to Define Consciousness Scientifically?
Research Institute of Scientific Secrets from Indian Oriental Scriptures

Kanti Mardia
On Two Qualitative Jain Models of Consciousness
Leeds University and Oxford University

Chakravarthi Devakumar
Mati Jñāna and Cognitive Science
Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

9:15 AM to 10:15 AM EDT | 6:15 AM to 7:15 AM PDT | 6:45 PM to 7:45 PM IST

Conference Address Nathan Katz (Moderator)
Florida International University

Muni Mahendra Kumar
Soul, Life, and Consciousness in Jain Philosophy
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

BREAK

Note: Times are given for Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) and Indian Standard Time (IST)

10:30 AM to 11:20 AM EDT | 7:30 AM to 8:20 AM PDT | 8:00 PM to 8:50 PM IST

Salutatory Addresses

Samani Punya Pragya
Benediction

President Mark B. Rosenberg
Presidential Address
Florida International University

Message from His Holiness Acharya Mahashraman

Samani Chaitanya Pragya
Conference Introduction
Florida International University

Dipak Jain
Welcome Address
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Address by Chief Guest
Embassy of the Republic of India in the United States

Pratap Sanchetee
Vote of Thanks
Executive Director, ICSJP2021

11:20 AM to 12:00 PM EDT | 8:20 AM to 9:00 AM PDT | 8:50 PM to 9:30 PM IST

Keynote Address

Jainendra Navlakha (Moderator)
Florida International University

Padmavibhusan Raghunath A. Mashelkar
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

BREAK

12:15 PM to 1:15 PM EDT | 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM PDT | 9:45 PM to 10:45 PM IST

Conference Address

Dipak Jain (Moderator)
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Nathan Katz
Consciousness and the End of Life
Florida International University

1:15 PM to 2:15 PM EDT | 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM PDT | 10:45 PM to 11:45 PM IST

Conference Address

Narendra Bhandari (Moderator)
Science and Spirituality Research Institute

Vernon M. Neppe
How the Triadic Dimensional Vortical Paradigm (TDVP) Unifies Nature, Spirituality and Science
Pacific Neuropsychiatric Institute

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 6:00 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM IST

Theme: Relative Economics – A New Model of Development based on Consciousness

Ashok Bapna (Moderator)
Malaviya National Institute of Technology

Atul K. Shah
City University of London

Siddheshwar R. Bhatt
Indian Council of Philosophical Research

Chain Singh Barla
University of Rajasthan

Dayanand Bhargava
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Prabhat Pankaj
Jaipuria Institute of Management

BREAK

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM EDT | 6:15 AM to 7:45 AM PDT | 6:45 PM to 8:15 PM IST

Theme: The Biological and Spiritual Evolution of Consciousness

Erik Larson (Moderator)
Florida International University

Narayan L. Kachhara
Consciousness and the Doctrine of Karma
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Ashok K. Jain
Consciousness in Ekendriya Jivas with Special References to Microorganisms
Jiwaji University

Jaipat Singh Jain
Animal Consciousness, Jainism and Science
Independent Scholar

BREAK

11:00 AM to 1:45 PM EDT | 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM PDT | 8:30 PM to 11:15 PM IST

Theme: Neurological and Cognitive Theories of Consciousness

Shekhar Bhansali (Moderator)
Florida International University

Satish Kumar
Jain Science: Uniting Spirituality and Science
Schumacher College

Samani Chaitanya Pragya
Definition, Structure, Function and Cognitive Theories of Consciousness
Florida International University

Narendra Bhandari
Anekantavad in the Context of Quantum Physics
Science and Spirituality Research Institute

Bennett L. Schwartz
Monkey Metacognition
Florida International University

Andrew Bridges
Hegel and Anekāntavāda in a Wired Brain
California State University

Wolfgang Baer
The Soul and Life in Conscious Action Theory
Nascent Systems Incorporated

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

7:30 AM to 11:00 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 8:00 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM IST

Theme: Karma Theory and Development of Consciousness

Pratap Sanchetee (Moderator)
Sanchetee Neurology Research Institute

Muni Siddha Kumar
Consciousness beyond Mind and Brain
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Dharmchand Jain
Effect of Nāma-karma on Manifestation of Consciousness
Jainarain Vyas University

Sudhir M. Shah
Think of These Things: Soul, Consciousness and Science
Yale University

Anand Bhansali
Concept of Soul in Jainism
Independent Scholar

Helen Kaibara and Jimmy Triplett
*Towards a Cultural Role for Jainist Belief in Modern World:
Reconciling Soul of Jainism with Organismal Biology*
Jacksonville State University

Jashvant Shah
Consciousness: Contrasting Oriental and Occidental Approaches
Indian Ministry of Education

Namramuni Maharaj Saheb
Consciousness in Fetal Development
Parasdham

Gary Francione
Cetanā: Animals, Plants, and the Ahimsic Imperative of Veganism and Ecological Preservation
Rutgers University Law School

Jeffery D. Long

The Nature of the Jiva: Consciousness as Intrinsic to Reality in Jaina Philosophy

Elizabethtown College

Surendra Singh Pokharna

Forty-seven Shakties of Aatma in Jainism and Analogous Ideas in Modern Science

Daulat Singh Kothari Institute for Research and Education

BREAK

11:15 AM to 2:30 PM EDT | 8:15 AM to 11:30 AM PDT | 8:45 PM to 12:00 AM IST

Theme: Evolution of Consciousness in Jain and Western Perspectives

Kirti Jain (Moderator)

Jain Education and Research Foundation

Rupert Sheldrake

Morphic Fields and Biology

Institute of Noetic Sciences and Schumacher College

Acharya Kanaknandi

Jain Acharya

Kalyan Gangwal

Physician, Scholar and Activist

Christopher Chapple

Conscience and Consciousness

Loyola Marymount University

Brianne Donaldson

The Role of Consciousness in Jain Responses to Darwin

University of California, Irvine

Anand Vaidya (San Jose State University) and

Purushottama Bilimoria (University of Melbourne)

Consciousness: A Cross-Cultural and Multi-Disciplinary Engagement between

Jain Philosophy, Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenological Philosophy of Mind

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 6:30 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM IST

Theme: Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence

Neptune Srimal (Moderator)

Florida International University

Muni Abhijit Kumar

Unleashing the Power of Consciousness through Spiritual Technology to

Counter Future Threats from Artificial Intelligence and Others

Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Muni Jagrit Kumar

The Enigma of Consciousness

Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Paras Mal Agrawal
A Multidimensional View of Consciousness in Context with One's Identity and Equanimity
Vikram University

Ratnakumar Shah
Wherefrom Life: Soul, Matter or Consciousness? The Jain Perspective
Fergusson College, Pune

Ram Gopal Jain
Consciousness, Conation and Knowledge as the Powers of the Soul
Independent Scholar

Shugan C. Jain
The Exchange of Information between Soul and Matter
International School of Jain Studies

Mahaveer Singh Sisodia
Consciousness: Cell-To-Cell Communication and Ahimsa
Jainarain Vyas University

Meenal Katarnikar and Jinesh Sheth
Denying the Binary of Dualism and Identity Theories: Jaina View on Consciousness
University of Mumbai

BREAK

9:45 AM to 11:15 AM EDT | 6:45 AM to 8:15 AM PDT | 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM IST

Theme: Origin and Evolution of Consciousness

Nirmal Baid (Moderator)
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Natalia Zheleznova
Mind Theory in Jain Context
Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences

Mehool Sanghrajka
Reflections on Consciousness in Jain Soteriological Thought
Institute of Jainology

Shyam Lal Godawat
Consciousness in Lower Organisms: Jain and Scientific Views
Rajasthan College of Agriculture

Pragati Jain
The Mathematics of Consciousness
Government College Manawar

Sushama Parekh
Jain Perspective – Known, Knowing and Knower in the Inner Consciousness Space
Williamette University

Christopher Miller (Loyola Marymount University)
and Jonathan Dickstein (University of California, Santa Barbara)
*Revisiting Veganism and the "Ahimsā Crisis":
Raising Consciousness according to Karma and Science*

BREAK

11:30 AM to 11:45 AM EDT | 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM PDT | 9:00 PM to 9:45 PM IST

Organizers' Address Iqbal Akhtar
Florida International University

Sapan Bafna
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Bipin Shah
California State University, Fullerton

11:45 AM to 1:30 PM EDT | 8:45 AM to 10:30 AM PDT | 9:15 PM to 11:00 PM IST

Valedictory Addresses Jain Community Youth
Closing Prayer

Erik Larson
Concluding Remarks
Florida International University

Gulab Kothari
Address by Chief Guest
Rajasthan Patrika

Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan
Keynote Address
University of Rajasthan

Award Ceremony

Samani Chaitanya Pragya
Conclusion
Florida International University

Nirmal Baid
Vote of Thanks
Jain Education and Research Foundation

PANELISTS



Muni Kumar Abhijit is a profound thinker and a versatile scholar, with expertise in diverse disciplines, including philosophy, the life sciences, spirituality, parapsychology, and meditation. He is the first Jain ascetic to have earned a PhD in English: his thesis was titled “Doctrine of Gods in Jainism: A Critical Study.” With his deep understanding of Jain scriptures and modern science, he has had a deep impact on scholars, scientists, and the masses. He bridges ancient wisdom with modern science through his pioneering work on *Bhagwati Sūtra*. Being competent in multiple languages, he has created 100 Sanskrit verses in a single day. He has also traveled nearly 10,000 kilometers on foot.



Paras Mal Agrawal is a physicist and has served as lecturer, reader, and professor in India and as a visiting professor and research professional in Oklahoma State University. He has published more than four books and seventy research papers in top-notch research journals in the fields of molecular dynamics and quantum mechanics. He has also written books on Jainism—*Soul Science*, Parts I, II, and III—and provided an English translation and explanation of *Samayasāra*. He has received various awards in scientific fields, as well as Jainism.



Wolfgang Baer holds a doctoral degree from the University of California-Berkeley. His PhD thesis included a physical analysis of his own role as a conscious observer while operating spectroscopic experiments. His interest led to the analysis of cognitive vision and consciousness. He is a regular contributor to conferences dealing with physics and consciousness, including science and nonduality (SAND), toward a science of consciousness (TSC), and foundations of mind (FoM). He studies cognitive systems development and macroscopic quantum effects with the aim of developing theories integrating subjective and objective experiences. His recent book, *Conscious Action Theory*, focuses on physical theories that encompass consciousness.



Anand Bhansali was born into a Jain family in India in which practicing the Jain way of life runs deeply. After completing his MBA, Law, and CA in India, he came to the United States on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship where he earned his LL.M. from the University of Miami Law School. His entire family regularly studies Jainism in the Jain group in Miami, and they have also learned a great deal from visiting Samanis from India. He is inspired by the rational approach of Jain religion toward life and living.



Andrew Bridges holds the Bhagwan Shantinath Lectureship in Jain Studies at California State University-Fullerton, where he teaches the course “Non-Violence, Animal Rights, and Diet in Jainism” and helps organize the annual “Peace and Religion Symposium.” His current research interests include metaphysics and epistemology, utopian studies, and religion and technology.



Jonathan Dickstein is a PhD candidate in religious studies at the University of California-Santa Barbara. His work focuses on South Asian religious traditions, animals and religion, and comparative ethics. His dissertation project explores animal taxonomies and dietary regulations in Vedic, Dharma, and Yoga sources.



Shyam Lal Godawat for nearly forty years has taught and conducted research in agriculture and its extension. He was the head of the Department of Agriculture at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology and the dean of the Rajasthan College of Agriculture, both in Udaipur. He has guided many MSc (agriculture) and PhD candidates in developing their dissertations. Prof. Gogawat has extensively studied many Jain scriptures and is actively engaged in exploring the scientific nature of Jain philosophy. He is the recipient of many awards and titles, such as Vigyan-Shree, Dharm-Prabhavakar, Gyan-shree, and Gyan-Dani.



Muni Jagrit Kumar is a Jain monk and disciple of *Ācārya* Shri Mahashraman. He is a versatile scholar, having mastery over various disciplines such as mathematics, philosophy, meditation, spirituality, memory, psychology, parapsychology, and the life sciences; he knows several languages including Sanskrit, Prakrit, and French. He has demonstrated *Avadhan-Vidya*, a rare ancient science of memory and mental mathematics, at several public gatherings. Currently, he is engaged in research on consciousness from the perspective of science and Jainism and in translating the ancient Jain scripture *Bhagwati Sūtra* into English. He has eulogized his *guru* by creating 100 Sanskrit shlokas in a day.



Dharmchand Jain has served as a professor of Sanskrit and as dean of the Faculty of Arts in Jainarain Vyas University, Jodhpur. His most significant work is on criticism of Buddhist epistemology and logic from the Jain point of view. He has written six books and edited thirty-four, participated in many national and international seminars, and guided three research projects. For his work in Prakrit and Sanskrit literature and Indian philosophy, he has received several awards. He has been editor of *Jinvani Monthly* for the last twenty-six years.



Pragati Jain is the head of the Mathematics Department at Government College, Dhar, India. Her areas of interest include computational mathematics, fuzzy and rough set theory, differential equations, linear and abstract algebra, and the history and philosophy of Indian mathematics. She has written six books and more than fifty research papers that have been published in national and international journals. She has also guided three research scholars to earn their doctorate degrees. She is a life member of several esteemed organizations such as the Indian Science Congress Association and the Indian Mathematical Society and has received numerous awards.



Ram Gopal Jain is a Jain scholar based in Chicago. He is an adviser to the president of Digamber Jain Mahasabha and to the president overseas of Shri Digamber Jain Mahsamiti. He is also the vice president, USA & Canada, of Bharatvarshiya Digamber Jain Mahila Mahasabha and is a member of the Advisory Board of Rashtriya Digamber Jain Pratinidhi Mahasabha.



Shugan C. Jain is the founder-chairman of the International School for Jain Studies. Before that he worked as an information systems engineer-cum-consultant specialist. He has organized more than fifteen international seminars and delivered lectures at universities in the United States, Canada, Thailand, and India. He has translated and edited Jain texts into English, authored books on topics related to Jainism, and published more than fifty papers. He has also helped reform Jain education institutions like Parshwanath Vidhyapeeth Varanasi and four schools of the Jain Shiksha Pracharak society in Old Delhi.



Helen Kaibara is an assistant professor of Asian history at Jacksonville State University (JSU) in Florida. She was a Fulbright-Hays fellow at Rikkyo University in Tokyo and has a PhD from Michigan State University. She has an interest in ecology and is currently conducting research on various environmental projects in Southern India.



Meenal Katarnikar is a professor in the Department of Philosophy and director of the Centre for Extra Mural Studies, University of Mumbai. She specializes in epistemology, Indian philosophy in general and Jainism and Buddhism in particular, and research methodology. She is part of a research project on Kautiliya Arthashastra and has edited and authored various books; she has, to her credit, more than forty research articles published in well-respected journals and publications. She has presented papers and seminars in India, Germany, and Greece.



Muni Siddha Kumar (“Kshemankar”) is a young Jain monk who specializes in Jain philosophy; Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Hindi literature; the study of ancient scriptures, and the intersection of Jainology with the social sciences. He has authored poems and articles for several national magazines and blogs. He is currently engaged in the translation and interpretation of a 1,600-year-old scripture. Initiated into the monkhood eight years ago, he is devoting his life to meditation, spirituality, and discovering the true self.



Christopher Miller is the Bhagwan Mallinath Assistant Professor of Jain and Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University. His current research focuses on the ways in which Jain and yoga practices are translated into contemporary transnational yoga communities. He is the author of a number of articles and book chapters on Jainism, the history and practice of modern yoga, yoga and politics, and yoga philosophy and is a coeditor of the 2019 volume *Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age*.



Sushama Parekh is an adjunct professor at the Claremont School of Theology, which offers a graduate program in Jain studies. She is also director of JAINA (Federation of Jain Associations in North America), which promotes Jain studies at academic institutions in the United States and Canada. She received her MSEE degree from Loyola Marymount University and has been working in the aerospace industry for the past forty years in various management and executive roles. She is currently a principal engineer at Moog Inc., responsible for research and development in innovative motion-control technologies used in commercial and military aircraft.



Mehool H. Sanghrajka is the managing trustee of the Institute of Jainology, which he joined after earning his PhD in Jainism twenty years ago. As executive director, Mehool leads the development of www.Jainpedia.org, which now has more than one million page views annually. He represents the Jain faith at UK government events and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, where his papers—"The Role of Religions in Promoting Fraternal Love and Non-Violence for Global Harmony and Peace: A Jain Perspective" and "Religious Perspectives on Pandemic and Human Suffering: A Jain Perspective"—were published in *Pro Dialogo* during the current pandemic. Mehool is founder and CEO of Learning Possibilities, a global educational technology business.



Bennett L. Schwartz is a professor of psychology at Florida International University. He has more than ninety professional publications, including books, journal articles, book chapters, and commentaries. His primary research interest is metacognition. His view that tip-of-the-tongue states are a window on active consciousness, as well as a case study in metacognition, is well known in the field of cognitive psychology. He has also conducted research on human and nonhuman primate memory. Prof. Schwartz is editor-in-chief of *New Ideas in Psychology* and associate editor of both *Metacognition and Learning* and *Acta Psychologica*. He is completely vegetarian and mostly vegan.



Jashvant Shah is a retired entrepreneur and founder-trustee of the Sthanakvasi Jain Trust in Vapi, Gujarat, India. He has a profound interest in the ancient languages of Prakrit and Apabhramsa, Jain philosophy, and Jain literature. He has translated various books on Jain philosophy from Gujarati or Hindi into English and presented numerous papers on Jain philosophy-related subjects in English, Hindi, and Gujarati.



Ratnakumar Shah served as a lecturer in mathematics and astronomy at Fergusson College, Pune, and later joined the Life Insurance Corporation of India from where he retired as executive director in 1995. He has written books on insurance, statistics, dynamics, and quantitative techniques. In 2007, he began his studies in Jaina mathematics and since then has published and presented nearly twenty research papers in international journals and conferences. He recently completed a research project on “Karma Mathematics” sponsored by Kundakunda Jñānapīṭha, Indore. He currently is editing and translating (into English) two *āgamic* works—*Anuyogadvārasūtra* and *Jambuddīvapa attisutta*—for Jain Viśva Bhāratī, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India.



Sudhir M. Shah is a student of various spiritual traditions and is involved in educating youth in Jain philosophy and spirituality. A scientist, educator, and social entrepreneur, he has served JAINA as a board member, editor of *Jain Digest* magazine, a member of various committees, and an exhibition committee chair. Sudhir is committed to ushering in meaningful reforms in Jain societies and does not shy away from addressing controversial topics on various traditional practices. Active in interfaith communities, he has also conducted workshops at various temples, churches, mosques, and synagogues, as well as at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Barcelona, Toronto, and Salt Lake City.



Jinesh Sheth is currently pursuing his PhD as a UGC Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai. His research interests include Jaina philosophy, Indian philosophy, analytic philosophy, the philosophy of mind, and research methodology. He has presented papers at national and international conferences and has three papers published in conference proceedings and one in a peer-reviewed journal.



Mahaveer Singh Sisodia has been a Visiting Scientist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and at the Physical Research Laboratory in India. He was also head and professor of the Department of Geology and dean of the Faculty of Science at J. N. Vyas University, Jodhpur, India. He has 120 publications and has made thirteen educational films for national broadcast on Doordarshan. Dr. Sisodia has received various awards and honors during his illustrious career. He has a profound interest in Jain studies and regularly gives talks on the concepts of *anekāntavād* and consciousness.



Jimmy Triplett is an associate professor of biology at Jacksonville State University. He received his PhD from Iowa State University and completed a post-doc at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. His research focuses on plant hybridization and bamboo taxonomy, and he conducts fieldwork in both Southeast Asia and the United States.



Natalia A. Zheleznova is a senior research fellow in the Department of History and Culture of the Ancient Orient, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow where she is conducting research on Jainism. She has written several books on Jainism in Russian and is the recipient of the Kundakunda Puruskar Award and the Prakrit Jnanabharati International Award.

