

# Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies

Department of Religious Studies | School of International and Public Affairs



The Third Annual Mahavir Jayanthi Lecture

## Women in Jainism

Lecture by Nalini Balbir, Sorbonne-Paris

April 11, 2013 | 6:00 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | GC Ballroom

Jainism is one of the major religious traditions of the world that ascribes rather prominent roles to women within its own system. Based on original texts, contemporary observation and a growing number of studies in the last decades, this lecture will explore the diversity of these roles. Laywomen, nuns, but also female goddesses are actors that structure the conception of gender at various levels within Jain practice. Debates and recent trends will be investigated as well.

Of Franco-Indian origin, Nalini Balbir is professor in Indology at University of Paris-3 Sorbonne Nouvelle and at Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Section Sciences historiques et philologiques), where she teaches Sanskrit, Middle-Indian languages and Hindi. Her fields of research are primarily Jainism in all its aspects (philological and contemporary), Theravada Buddhism, as well as Pali and Prakrit languages and literature. One of her contributions had women in Jainism as its topic. In recent years she has been engaged in the cataloguing of Jain manuscripts in various European countries. She is at present the chief editor of the JAINpedia website, an educational resource containing descriptions of digitized manuscripts and an encyclopedia of Jainism online.

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Complimentary Jain vegetarian dinner will be served afterwards. For more information, call 305-348-7266.