

# The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

## Academic Report 2015–16



A RECOGNISED INDEPENDENT CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies  
13-15 Magdalen St  
Oxford OX1 3AE  
Tel. 01865-304300  
[www.ochs.org.uk](http://www.ochs.org.uk)  
Regd Charity No. 1074458

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## The academic year 2015–16

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This year marks the end of an era with the departure of our esteemed Academic Director, Professor Gavin Flood. It also marks the beginning of a new era with opportunities opening up for younger scholars to take on the mantle of bringing Hindu Studies deep into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This year's report in a nutshell?

- Eleven new students
- Three new issues of the Journal of Hindu Studies
- Fourteen new books in our three book series
- Nearly forty new books and papers (that we know of) by our Research Fellows
- One new research project: Human Transcendence
- A new visiting fellowship: the JP and Beena Khaitan Fellowship
- A growing library – in terms of collection size and available space

All these and more are detailed in this report.

### Professor Gavin Flood departs for Singapore

Professor Gavin Flood, the Academic Director of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies left Oxford in Hilary term to take up a chair in Comparative Religion at the National University of Singapore after more than ten years invaluable service at the heart of Hindu Studies in Oxford.

While at the OCHS he was Consulting Editor of the Journal of Hindu Studies and produced three books: *The Truth Within: A History of Inwardness in Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism*; *The Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation*; and *The Importance Of Religion: Meaning In Our Strange World*. He was also an editor on the Routledge-OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series and the Routledge-OCHS Tantra Studies Books Series.

In 2008, Prof. Flood was awarded a Recognition of Distinction as Professor of Oxford University. In 2014 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. He was a member of the University's Faculty of Theology and Religion and its Faculty Board. In 2016 he was appointed a Senior Fellow at the OCHS.

The OCHS plans to continue working with Professor Flood in the continued development of research and publishing at the OCHS.

### Interim Academic Director

Replacing someone as integral to the OCHS as Professor Flood is key to the Centre's future development and one that the Board is approaching with care. It's not a decision to be rushed but at the same time senior academic leadership is vital. To that end Professor John Brockington has agreed to be the OCHS interim Academic Director 2016–17.

Professor Brockington is a Senior Fellow at the OCHS and Emeritus Professor of Sanskrit at University of Edinburgh. He has worked closely with the Centre on projects including his Ramayana conference in June 2015. He has written several books and around 100 articles on his special area of research, the Sanskrit epics, as well as on other topics. He was the Secretary General of the International Association of Sanskrit

Studies from 2000 to 2012 (and is now a Vice President) and he was the chair of the organising committee of the 13th World Sanskrit Conference, held at Edinburgh in July 2006.

The Board is aiming to fill the role in time for Michaelmas term 2017. Meanwhile, the OCHS sees this as an opportunity for younger scholars to take responsibility and develop seniority in their project fields.

## Teaching

In Michaelmas 2015, Professor Flood taught Hinduism 1, Sanskrit Prelims in Theology, and gave tutorials to two undergraduates. He also supervised 13 D.Phil students.

Since Professor Flood's departure, both Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen have been appointed associate members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

In Hilary, Dr Lutjeharms taught Hinduism II and tutored undergraduate students in Hinduism I for the Faculty of Theology and Religion. In Trinity he tutored undergraduate students in Hinduism II, as well as one Stanford University student in Hinduism. Throughout this academic year, Dr Lutjeharms also offered Sanskrit tutorials for several D.Phil. students.

Dr Wernicke-Olesen taught Sanskrit and tutored students.

Our JP and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Dr Frazier, also a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, judged transfer of status for two of the centre's Ph.D. students and took on one of the Centre's Stanford University visiting students in Trinity term.

## Research

### The Śākta Traditions research project

*Project leaders: Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke Olesen*

The project has grown with a number of new colleagues, several book projects as well as a fieldwork dimension and the prospect of a research and study centre in Kathmandu.

### *Output*

The conference volume from the 2011 Śākta Traditions conference was published in September 2015 by Routledge.

It was decided by the project leaders Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen to postpone the second Śākta conference to Autumn 2017 or Spring 2018 and concentrate on the more immediate task of writing a book together on 'Models of the Human in Tantric Hinduism'. The book explores a distinctive Śākta anthropology and is a step towards a full translation of the Netratanttra.

- Silje Lyngar Einarsen will undertake critical research in early Śākta purāṇic material and do field research in Bengal/Assam.
- Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder will write a monograph on the South Indian Tripurārahasya within the next three years.
- Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen will contribute with an essay on Śākta Traditions to the new Blackwell Companion to Hinduism.

### *Seminars and teaching*

Silje Lyngar Einarsen arranged a successful series of Śākta seminars at the OCHS in Hilary and Trinity 2016 with contributions from Gitte Poulsen, Alexandra Wenta, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and herself. Dr Wernicke-Olesen taught a course in the Netratrantra Ch. 7 in Hilary 2016 with a focus on Śākta anthropology.

### *Fieldwork*

Dr Wernicke-Olesen will continue his fieldwork amongst the Nāth Yogīs in Nepal with intern Gitte Poulsen during the summer 2016. Silje Lyngar Einarsen, Gitte Poulsen, Tanja Louise Jakobsen, Anders Kirstein, Dr Wernicke-Olesen and others will meet in Kathmandu during the summer 2016 to examine the possibilities of establishing a research and study centre in Kathmandu.

### **Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period**

After the successful workshop ‘Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period’ organised by project director Ferdinando Sardella and D.Phil. candidate Lucian Wong at Worcester College in March 2015, a volume of papers has been under preparation during fall 2015 and spring 2016.

The volume is being edited by Sardella and Wong, and negotiations are underway for publication in the Routledge Hindu Studies Series. It will feature well known international scholars of Bengali Vaishnavism and history such as Tony Stewart, Rebecca Manring and Amiya Sen.

The BVMP project has also contributed to the creation of a Middle Bengali Retreat cum Workshop in Transylvania on August 11–21 through Lucian Wong, who is a co-organiser. The workshop is meant to deepen the skill of researchers for reading primary texts, and it will be led by several prominent scholars of Bengali including Professor Imre Bangha from the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

### **The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project**

*Project leaders: Dr Ravi M. Gupta and Dr Kenneth R. Valpey*

The project’s second book, *The Bhāgavata Purāṇa: Selected Readings* was submitted to the Columbia University Press and following a very useful peer-review process is now in press with an expected print date of October.

The second phase of the research project is now in progress. A meeting in Chennai with several Indian scholars representing seven in India, helped articulate and clarify research plans and modus operandi with the OCHS and plans were made for a conference in Chennai in cooperation with Madras University and the CPR Institute of Art on 6–8 January 2017.

Scholars from the Chennai meetings have begun their respective research projects. One important project, headed by Dr G. C. Tripathi, is assessment of the existing Bhāgavata critical edition, published in Ahmedabad in the early 1990s.

Another group of five scholars will translate selected commentaries on a single chapter of the Bhagavata Purana's tenth book. Each participant will translate one commentary, and the group will meet regularly (beginning August 2016) to compare their results and work through translation issues. The aim is for this collaborative process to shed light on the shifting theological concerns through the Bhagavata's reception history.

It is hoped that these initiatives will bring scholars together in an ongoing working relationship with the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project and thus with the OCHS as a whole.

### **The Gosvāmī Era: The Founding of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism in Early Modern South Asia**

*Project leaders: Dr Kiyokazu Okita and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms*

The early modern period in North India was one of the most socially turbulent and yet culturally vibrant times in its history. It saw the rise of several new religious groups and devotional theologies, such as Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism inaugurated by Kṛṣṇa Caitanya and developed by his principal disciples, the Gosvāmīs. This project, managed by Kiyokazu Okita (Kyoto University) and Rembert Lutjeharms (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies), aims to research the Sanskrit theological, ritual, poetical works of the first followers of Caitanya.

This academic year, we have been laying the foundations for the future of the research project. We are currently planning an international conference on the sixteenth century history of Vṛndāvana, to be held in Oxford in 2017.

In collaboration with researchers from the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project and the Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period Research Project, we have set up the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Library series, a book series that aims to provide authoritative editions of the principal theological texts of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition with a faithful and accessible English translation. The first volumes in the series are expected to be published in 2018.

Dr Lutjeharms has been finalising his monograph on the poetry and theology of Kavikarṇapūra, an important early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava thinker, while Dr Okita has continued working on ethics and aesthetics in the writings of the Gosvāmīs, and prepared several peer-reviewed articles on this for publication, including 'The Influence of Śiṅgabhūpāla II on Bengali Vaiṣṇava Aesthetics', in *The Journal of Indian and Buddhist Studies*, vol. 64.

In July 2015 Dr Lutjeharms presented a paper, 'Caitanya and the Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana: A reappraisal of early Caitanya Vaiṣṇava intellectual history', at the 12th International Conference on Early Modern Literatures in North India, at the University of Lausanne. In April 2016, he presented, 'The Devotional Self: A preliminary exploration into the nature of devotion and the self', at the Worldwide Krishna Movement conference, held at the Centre for the Study of World Religions of Harvard University.

### **Human Transcendence: Philosophies Beyond Mere Materialism**

*Project leaders: Dr Jessica Frazier and Lucian Wong*

Whether secular or religious, various thinkers have argued for an innate aspect of human nature, psychology or culture that inspires us to go beyond the mere exigencies of life, working to develop new abilities, possibilities, or creations. This might be the creative tensions of natural and cultural life for Friedrich Nietzsche, the inspiration of a perspective that reaches beyond the present moment for Pierre Hadot, or faith in another reality that lies 'beyond Being' for Emmanuel Levinas. In these and other contexts, one sees critiques of 'mere survival' and a minimal conception of the material world - while greater attention is given the mechanisms

that drive humans to improve and develop, transforming the self and actualising new possibilities.

### *Symposia*

A series of themed symposia combined short papers with vigorous discussion and debate. Speakers explored themes ranging across secular and religious, contemporary and classical, Western and Asian contexts in which we seem to see the tension between the 'horizontal life' and 'vertical aspirations' at work.

### *Matter and Religion*, May 2016

Dr Donovan Schaeffer, Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Jonathan Duquette

### *Transformation: Emerson, Gadamer, Sloterdijk*, May 2016

Dr Jessica Frazier, William Konchak, Lucian Wong,

## **Publishing for the academic year 2015–16**

### **Journal and book series**

#### *Journal of Hindu Studies*

In the academic year 2015–16 there were three issues of the Journal of Hindu Studies, a co-publication with Oxford University Press.

- August 2015: Tantric Studies
- November 2015: Bhakti across Boundaries
- May 2016: General issue

The Journal's Editors are Professor Gavin Flood, Dr Jessica Frazier, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms.

The Editorial Board is: Daud Ali, Mandakranta Bose, John Brockington, Gudrun Buhnemann, Francis X. Clooney, Richard Freeman, Jonardon Ganeri, Ravi Gupta, John Stratton Hawley, Will Johnson, Richard King, Shashiprabha Kumar, Julius Lipner, Angelika Malinar, Vasudha Narayanan, Patrick Olivelle, Laurie Patton, Ted Proferes, Himanshu Prabha Ray, T. S. Rukmani, Deepak Sarma, Arvind Sharma, David Washbrook, Somdev Vasudev.

#### *Routledge/OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series*

This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture and society of Hindus living in India and abroad.

- *The Integral Philosophy of Aurobindo: Hermeneutics and the Study of Religion*  
Brainerd Prince, 01/10/2016
- *The Other Ramayana Women: Regional Rejection and Response*  
Edited by John Brockington, Mary Brockington, 03/06/2016
- *Nonviolence in the Mahabharata: Siva's Summa on Rishidharma and the Gleaners of Kurukshetra*  
Alf Hiltebeitel, 12/04/2016

- *Bhakti and Embodiment: Fashioning Divine Bodies and Devotional Bodies in Krsna Bhakti*  
Barbara A. Holdrege, 10/09/2015
- *Pilgrimage in the Hindu Tradition: Salvific Space*  
Knut A. Jacobsen, 21/08/2015
- *Hindu Perspectives on Evolution: Darwin, Dharma, and Design*  
C. Mackenzie Brown, 04/08/2015
- *Religion, Narrative and Public Imagination in South Asia: Past and Place in the Sanskrit Mahabharata*  
James Hegarty, 23/07/2015
- *Interpreting Devotion: The Poetry and Legacy of a Female Bhakti Saint of India*  
Karen Pechilis, 18/07/2015

#### *Archaeology and Religion in South Asia Book Series*

This series, in association with the Routledge, reflects on the complex relationship between religion and society through new perspectives and advances in archaeology. It looks at this critical interface to provide alternative understandings of communities, beliefs, cultural systems, sacred sites, ritual practices, food habits, dietary modifications, power, and agents of political legitimisation.

- *Women and Monastic Buddhism in Early South Asia: Rediscovering the invisible believers.*  
Garima Kaushik. February 2016
- *The Archaeology of Sacred Spaces: The temple in western India, 2nd century BCE–8th century CE.*  
Susan Verma Mishra, Himanshu Prabha Ray. Forthcoming, August 2016

#### *Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions*

Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions is established to publish scholarship on south, east and southeast Asian tantric traditions. The series aims to promote the study of Hindu and Buddhist tantric traditions through the publication of anthropological and textual studies.

- *The Radha Tantra: A critical edition and annotated translation*  
Måns Broo, 11/11/2016
- *Tantric Buddhist Practice in India: Vilasavajra's commentary on the Mañjusri-namasa-giti*  
Anthony Tribe, 03/06/2016
- *Goddess Traditions in Tantric Hinduism: History, Practice and Doctrine*  
Ed. Bjarne Wernicke Olesen, 22/09/2015
- *Tantric Mantras: Studies on Mantrasastra*  
Andre Padoux, 23/07/2015



## Fellows' publications

### Professor Mandakranta Bose

- 'Theology, Sexuality and Gender in the Hindu Tradition,' *Oxford Handbook of Theology, Gender and Sexuality*, ed. Adrian Thatcher, Oxford University Press, 2015.
- 'Rāmāyaṇa in the Hindu Tradition,' on-line publication in *Hinduism—Oxford Bibliographies*, 2016.
- *Rāmāyaṇa in Bengali Folk Paintings*. Forthcoming 2016, Niyogi Books, New Delhi.
- 'The Killing of Sindhu in the Painted Scrolls of Bengal', *Ramkatha in Narrative, Performance and Pictorial Traditions*, eds. Molly Kaushal and Alok Bhalla, Aryan International Books, Delhi, 2015.
- 'Designing Women: Felicitous Malice in a Bengali Rāmāyaṇa' in *The Other Ramayana Women: Regional Rejection and Response*, eds. Mary and John Brockington, Routledge, 2016.

### Dr Arya Burt

- 'An Uncertain Future: The Crisis of Succession in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness'. In K. Knott, M. Francis, eds. *Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?* Farnham: Ashgate. Forthcoming 2016.
- Book review: *Jainism: A Guide for the Perplexed* by Sherry Fohr. *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*. Forthcoming 2016.
- Book review: *Hinduism and the 1960s: The Rise of a Counter-culture* by Paul Oliver. *Journal of Religious History*, 4 (1), pp. 135-137.
- 'The History of ISKCON'. In *ISKCON Fiftieth Anniversary Magazine*. ISKCON Communications International.
- 'Transcendent Being or Fallible Human? In Search of the Authentic Guru in the Gaudiya Vaishnava Tradition'. *Sufi Journal*, Summer.

### Dr Jessica Frazier

- *Hindu Worldviews: Theories of Self, Ritual and Reality* (Bloomsbury, Feb 2017)
- 'Vedāntic Philosophy in Hindu Studies', *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 8.1, 2015
- 'Overflowing Selves: The Phenomenology of Possession in Hindu and Christian Contexts' in *Mystical Theology: Eruptions from France*, (Ashgate, 2015).

### Professor Ravi Gupta

- *The Bhagavata Purana: Selected Readings*. With Kenneth R. Valpey. Columbia University Press, 2016.
- 'Translators' Troubles: Seeking a Method that Suits the Bhāgavata Purāṇa', in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 2016.

- ‘Jīva Gosvāmī’s Interpretation of the Gāyatrī: Translation and Context’, in *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, 2016.
- ‘Identidade e Legitimidade na Sampradaya Vaisnava de Caitanya’, in *Filosofia e Teologia da Bhagavad-Gita: Hinduismo e o Vaishnavismo de Caitanya*, ed. Ricardo S. Silvestre and Ithamar Theodor. Jurua Editora, 2015.

*Dr Natalia Lidova*

- ‘The Religious Background of the Nāṭyaśāstra Tradition’, in *The Nāṭyaśāstra and the Body in Performance: Essays on Indian Theories of Dance and Drama*, ed. by S.Nair. New York: McFarland, 2015: 196-216.
- Ed.: *Russian Literature in the Countries of Asia and Africa*. Moscow, 2015 (in Russian).
- ‘The Cosmography of Mount Meru and Early Pūjā Cult’, *Proceedings of the Fifth Dubrovnik International Conference*, ed. by M.Jezić. Zagreb (Forthcoming)
- ‘Brahmayāga in the Atharvaveda-veda pariśista 19b – Vedic ritual or Agamic rite?’, *Proceedings of the Sixth Vedic Workshop*, ed. by M.Witzel (Forthcoming).

*Dr Rembert Lutjeharms*

- *Splendour of Speech: The theology of Kavikarnapura’s poetics*, Oxford Theology and Religion Monographs. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
- “‘Why do we still sift the husk-like Upaniṣads?’ Revisiting Vedānta in early Caitanya Vaiṣṇava theology’ in *Texts and Traditions in Early Modern North India*. Edited by John Stratton Hawley & Tyler Williams. Oxford University Press, 2016 (forthcoming).

Dr Lutjeharms has also been completing his first book, which is expected to be published by Oxford University Press in early 2017.

*Dr Kiyokazu Okita*

- ‘Ethics and Aesthetics in Early Modern South Asia: A Controversy surrounding the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Book X’, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, Special Issue, *Translating the Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, ed. by Anand Mishra and Monika Horstmann.
- ‘The Influence of Śiṅgabhūpāla II on Bengali Vaiṣṇava Aesthetics’, *The Journal of Indian and Buddhist Studies* vol. 64, 2016, 1081–7.
- ‘Dialogue between Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, Deep Ecology, and Catholicism’, *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, vol. 24, no. 1, 191–204.
- Forthcoming, ‘Sexuality and Religion in Early Modern South Asia: The Case of Bengal Vaiṣṇavism’, *Hinduism Beyond the Renaissance: Vaishnavism in Colonial Bengal* ed. by Lucian Wong and Ferdinando Sardella (Oxford: Routledge)

- Forthcoming, 'Salvation through Colorful Emotions: Aesthetics, Colorimetry, and Theology in Early Modern South Asia', *Emotion and Materiality in the Context of Change* ed. by Barbara Schuler (Brill).
- Forthcoming, 'Quotation, Quarrel and Controversy in Early Modern South Asia: Appayya Dīkṣita and Jīva Gosvāmī on Madhva's Untraceable Citations', *Adaptive Reuse in South Asian Literatures and Arts (tentative)* ed. by Elisa Freschi and Philipp Maas, *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag), pp. 259–83.
- Forthcoming book review: Neelima Shukla-Bhatt. (2015). *Narasinha Mehta of Gujarat: A Legacy of Bhakti in Songs and Stories*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press). *International Journal of Asian Studies*.

*Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray*

- *Beyond Trade: Cultural Roots of India's Ocean*, Aryan Books International, New Delhi 2015.

*Dr Kenneth Valpey*

- 'Imaging Devotional Theologies: Seeing as Expanding the Depth of Believing.' In Sushma K. Bahl, *Forms of Devotion: The Spiritual in Indian Art. Vol. 1*. New Delhi: Niyogi Books & MOSA. pp. 57–73.
- 'Vaishnava Tantra As Outlined in the Bhagavata.' *Prabuddha Bharati* 121/1, January, pp. 178–90.
- (In press, 2016) 'Igniting Hanuman's Tail: Hindu Indian and secular views on animal experimentation'. *Journal of Animal Ethics*.
- (In press, October 2016) *The Bhāgavata Purāṇa: Selected Readings*. Co-authored, with Ravi M. Gupta. New York: Columbia University Press.

*Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen*

Dr Wernicke-Olesen has published two books and an article:

- an edited Śākta Traditions volume with an introduction: *Goddess Traditions in Tantric Hinduism: History, Practice and Doctrine*, Routledge, 2015;
- a new introduction to Hinduism for the Danish high school system: *Varanasi: Hinduismens brændpunkt*, Systime, 2015, with J.T. Pedersen and S.L. Einarsen. The book was published as a paperback and as an interactive iBook and is expected to be widely used;
- a German article on Yoga and Asceticism, 'Übungswissen in Yoga, Tantra und Asketismus des frühen indischen Mittelalters', Berlin, 2016, with S.L. Einarsen.

In addition, Dr Wernicke-Olesen is working on a Danish translation of the *Haṭhayogapradīpikā* (of which the first chapter on *āsanas* has been published by Systime, 2015) together with Silje Lyngar Einarsen and a group of his former students.

## Named Lectures

This year's first Majewski Lecture was by Dr James Mallinson of SOAS, who spoke on, 'Asceticism for All: the Yoga of the Householder' in Michaelmas 2015. In Hilary,

Lubomír Ondračka's lecture was 'To Die or Not to Die: Yogi's Choice at the Moment of Death'.

In Trinity Professor Diwakar Acharya delivered the Wahlstrom Lecture: 'The Celestial Dolphin, an Upaniṣadic Puzzle, and the First Incarnation of Viṣṇu'.

### **Visiting Fellows' reports**

We were pleased to welcome Dr Jessica Frazier, a longstanding member of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and lecturer at University of Kent, Canterbury as our inaugural JP and Beena Khaitan Fellow.

This year's Shivdasani Fellows were Professor Joseph Prabhu from California State University, Professor Kisor Chakrabarti of the Institute for Cross Cultural studies and Academic Exchange, and Dr Prabhavati Reddy of George Mason University, Virginia, USA.

Other visiting fellows included Prof. Mandakranta Bose of the University of British Columbia; James Madaio, a postdoctoral research fellow at New Europe College in Bucharest; and Dr Anita Bobade of the University of Mumbai who is researching 'Vedanta, Dharma, and Management'.

OCHS lectures and seminars by our visiting fellows are listed in Appendix one.

#### **Dr Joseph Prabhu**

I spent an enjoyable two months as a Shivdasani Fellow at the Oxford Center for Hindu Studies (OCHS) in Michaelmas Term 2015. During that time I gave two public lectures on Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda, and two seminars on Hegel and Cross-Cultural Hermeneutics, and on Raimon Panikkar and Cross-Cultural Theology. Given how busy academic life seems to be during term, both the lectures and seminars were fairly well-attended and gave rise to lively discussions.

While there, I also gave two guest lectures elsewhere in Oxford, on 'Word and Silence' to the 'Study of Religion' lecture series in the department of Theology, and a presentation on Raimon Panikkar to the theology seminar of Professor Werner Jeanrond, Master of St. Benet's Hall. It was a pleasure as well to discuss their doctoral work with Lucian Wong on Nineteenth Century Vaishnavism, Nina Petek on the Bhagavad Gita, and Emily Kilburn on Sri Aurobindo.

Needless to say, Oxford's great libraries were of considerable help to me in the two research projects I was engaged in at the time, a book on Gandhi tentatively called 'Liberating Gandhi: Community, Empire and a Culture of Peace', and the second volume of a two-volume work on Indian Ethics which I am co-editing with Purushottama Bilimoria (also a former Shivdasani Fellow), and Amy Rayner.

Thus far, I have provided a brief account of my formal academic duties and activities during my tenure of the fellowship. I would be remiss, however, if I did not mention the friendly and efficient staff who helped in various ways to make my stay memorable.

Shaunaka Rishi Das, OCHS Director, was both a genial and friendly host and someone with whom I discussed the future of OCHS at some length. Gavin Flood, the Academic Director sat in on some of my lectures and seminars and then very kindly invited me to be part of a reading group which he was conducting. Pandita Wong, who was the temporary secretary filling in for Judit McFarland, the long-time secretary, went to great pains to find me pleasant accommodation. Her husband, Lucian, came

for most of my lectures and then engaged me in discussion both on his doctoral dissertation and on philosophical topics of common interest. Jessica Frazer, with whom I share many interests, was a lively and brilliant conversation partner. Lal Krishna, Rembert Lutjeharms, the ever-helpful librarian, and the wonderful cooks who prepared the delicious Wednesday afternoon lunches, were warm and solicitous.

OCHS is a centre with a bright future. Not only has it under the leadership of Shaunaka Rishi Das and Gavin Flood become a reputable centre for Hindu Studies; it has also attracted a group of very bright and energetic young scholars whose work will undoubtedly build on the strong foundation that has been laid and further the cause of Hindu studies both in Oxford and around the globe.

### **Professor Kisor Chakrabarti**

I really enjoyed spending a term at OCHS as a Shivdasani Fellow. Everyone in the Centre was helpful. It was also good to meet a number of excellent scholars there and the lectures and seminars were fruitful for making progress in my research.

On my own initiative I was able to get in touch with several renowned professors of the University of Oxford. I was invited to a number of lunch/dinner meetings and explored possible areas of collaborative research. I have stayed in touch with some of them and hope to make progress. I also contacted some professors at other universities, such as the University of Liverpool, and have continued correspondence with them.

Several substantial articles will hopefully result from such collaboration and get published in not too distant future.

The Centre offers a variety of useful courses. The one critically important area where the offerings should be supplemented and new offerings added is Hindu philosophy. Classical Hindu philosophies such as the Vedanta, the Samkhya and in particular the Nyaya must be systematically covered in regular frequencies for the kind of international standing and contribution that can be expected and achieved in such a centre. The library holdings of the Centre must also be significantly expanded.

### **Dr Jessica Frazier**

My work at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies this term focussed on the theme of India and Global Philosophy and has three dimensions: of developing (a) teaching and syllabi, building (b) networks and projects aimed at an international conferences, and producing (c) research outputs. In addition to this I also provided support in teaching, tutoring and representing the Centre in Oxford's academic life over the term.

#### *Teaching and syllabi*

As part of the OCHS's development of teaching on Philosophy and Religious Studies more broadly, I developed a syllabus and negotiated OCHS teaching and examining on Indian Philosophy in the Philosophy Faculty of Oxford University – historically speaking, a first for the University. I also developed a detailed syllabus of Study of Religions teaching (covering approaches from Freud's Psychology of Religion, to Durkheim's Sociology of Religion), adaptable to International and Indian higher education systems, and to the OCHS Continuing Education curriculum.

### *Networks and projects*

Two projects – Global Philosophies, and Human Transcendence – have been initiated this term under the auspices of the Visiting Fellowship.

The first project seeks to develop the theme of ‘Problems in Global Philosophy: Indian Interventions’ – incorporating scholars in Munich, Dubai, and Singapore. Outputs would include a website, symposia, syllabi, and publications that would support the exploration of themes in Indian philosophy, and their contribution to wider philosophical problems. One immediate focus for this network would be a conference on Substance in Indian Philosophy: The Heart of the Matter accompanying the Ashgate ‘Dialogues in Indian Traditions’ volume *Categories in Indian Philosophy: Thinking Inside the Box*. Already this project has led to a contribution to the ‘History of Philosophy without Gaps’ project (Munich/King’s College, London), and further collaborations, as well as the Philosophy teaching described above.

The second project, ‘Human Transcendence: Philosophies Beyond Mere Materialism’, is a project that tries to link India and the West, and secular sciences with religious perspectives. This project explores the way in which philosophies, both religious and secular, seek to go beyond the ‘horizontal’ dimension of material, biological, and social systems that sustain our basic needs, to strive toward a ‘vertical’ dimension of higher achievement and ideals. Through events that bring together different disciplines and cultures, the project aims to develop toward a conference and edited publication. Two symposia took place during the period of the Fellowship, and two-three more are planned for Michaelmas 2017.

### *Research and outputs*

In the first weeks of the term I was able to finish ‘Hindu Worldviews’, a book aimed at exploring ideas of the self in classical Hindu texts such as the Upaniṣads, and developing them into theories applicable across all cultures. I have then been able to follow up with work on a more textual-historical monograph study of Bhedābheda doctrines and their interest for broader philosophical questions about the nature of existence. This book will explore conceptions of Being in the Bhedābheda tradition and two different variations of Bhedābheda pariṇāma-vāda arguments in Rūpa Gosvāmi’s *Laghubhāgavatāmṛtam* and *Bhaktirasāmṛtasindhu* respectively. The first explores the *Laghubhāgavatāmṛta*’s arguments that Kṛṣṇa is a more basic form of being than Brahman (rather than merely a part or aṃśa of the latter) based on the idea that the fullest (pūrṇa) form of a śakti is also its original (pūrva) form. This idea, drawing on Śrīdhāra Swami’s Advaitic interpretation of divine being, has considerable implications for the underlying idea of what Being itself is, and in the next section we see how notions of Being are further developed in Rūpa Gosvāmi’s *Bhaktirasāmṛtasindhu*, drawing on older debates about the creation of rasa which reflect modern questions about emergence. In the final chapter on we see the way in which the philosophy of rāsa relates to the practices of the community, taking Bhedābheda’s ideas out of the theoretical sphere and into the realm of practice-grounded experience. This is part of my broader interest in Vedānta as a tradition of ontological reflection that offers much to the broader project of metaphysical inquiry. As such, while it will be a historical and textual monograph, the goal is also to revive interest in the sophisticated strategies of Vedāntic thinkers as contributors to broader philosophical controversies.

I have also been able to plan a conference for a further edited volume on Indian Philosophy to accompany the previous book *Categorisation in Indian Philosophy*. This will develop from the Oxford conference that is planned as part of the Global Philosophies project.

#### *General participation in the life of the Centre*

I was also able to convene Readings in Phenomenology (with Lucian Wong) and a seminar on Matter and Materialism, and As a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, I am also positioned to support directly Study of Religions staff in the Faculty and participate in its academic life more generally through the coming Trinity term, representing the Centre in Oxford's forum of religion and philosophy scholars. It has been enormously invigorating to talk with students and young scholars here in Oxford, using the resources of the OCHS to encourage them in their careers.

#### *Thoughts on the future of the OCHS*

It has been fascinating to take part in the academic life of the OCHS over the last years and now in this new capacity. The Centre's vision has expanded far beyond its initial remit to provide Hinduism teaching for Oxford University; now in addition to this the Centre is developing ground-breaking teaching around the world, it is a major centre of Hinduism publishing, it is a forum for the finest international scholars in the field and it has moved beyond the boundaries of the field to address wider issues about the future of religion and of Indian culture.

One of the most important developments in the last year is the expansion of the Centre's ability to serve as an international scholarly forum, attracting global attention and becoming a hub for projects, prestige and funding. The development of new fellowships has been essential to this – enabling the Centre to plan projects, conferences, teaching, and networks in a way that is radically expanding its profile. This is something I would encourage as a future direction: with more visiting scholars involved from around the world, and more long-term staff based in Oxford who are able to encourage and guide such projects, the Centre has the capacity to embed itself permanently in universities, organisations, projects and institutions globally.

#### **Visiting fellows report: Professor Mandakranta Bose**

In my ten years of close association with OCHS, I have benefitted greatly from being a Fellow at OCHS, including a stint as a Shivadasani Fellow in 2006. That fellowship centred on a set of lectures I gave on the place of women in Hindu thought and social culture, which led to a full-length book, *Women in the Hindu Tradition: Rules, Roles and Exceptions* (Routledge, UK and New York: 2010).

The year after my Shivadasani Fellowship, I was invited to participate in an OCHS symposium on 'Archaeology and Text: The Temple in South Asia' (October 20–21, 2007), at which I presented a paper on 'Sastra and Prayoga: Building Bridges between Text and Performance in the Sanskrit Tradition'.

Through the years of my Fellowship at OCHS, many of my publications have come out of ideas exchanged with OCHS colleagues such as Professor Gavin Flood, Dr Jessica Fraser and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms.

Let me mention just a few:

- ‘From Craft to Art: The Aesthetic Ends of Technique in Sanskrit Texts of Classical Indian Dance.’ *Journal of Hindu Studies* 4.1. Oxford University Press, 2011
- “‘Where he lies, I lie’”: Tagore meets Kabir’ *Journal of Hindu Studies* 4.2. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- ‘Theology, Sexuality and Gender in the Hindu Tradition,’ *Oxford Handbook of Theology, Gender and Sexuality*, ed. Adrian Thatcher. Oxford University Press, 2015.

My connection with OCHS has also helped me to undertake sustained studies in the *Rāmāyaṇa* as a locus of the Hindu faith and culture, resulting in a series of public lectures at universities and institutions, including the British Library in 2008, and several publications, some of them listed here:

- ‘*Rāmāyaṇa* in the Hindu Tradition,’ on-line publication in *Hinduism—Oxford Bibliographies*, 2016.
- *Rāmāyaṇa in Bengali Folk Paintings*. To be published in 2016 by Niyogi Books, New Delhi.
- *A Woman’s Rāmāyaṇa: Candrāvati’s Bengali Epic*. Eds. Mandakranta Bose and Sarika Priyadarshini Bose. Translated with introduction and annotations. London & New York: Routledge, 2013.

‘The Killing of Sindhu in the Painted Scrolls of Bengal.’ In *Ramkatha in Narrative, Performance and Pictorial Traditions*, eds. Molly Kaushal & Alok Bhalla, Delhi: Aryan International Books, 2015.

Among my work on the *Rāmāyaṇa*, I am particularly pleased to include a symposium I jointly organized with John Brockington and Mary Brockington at OCHS in July 2014, with an international group of *Rāmāyaṇa* scholars. This led to a book edited by John Brockington and Mary Brockington, coedited by myself and published by Routledge, UK, on 8 June 2016, which includes my essay ‘Designing Women: Felicitous Malice in a Bengali *Rāmāyaṇa*’ and concludes with my ‘Afterword.’

It was as an OCHS Fellow that I was invited in May this year by the Department of Indology at the Jagiellonian University of Crakow, Poland to give a talk on ‘Sītā, the Voice of Justice in the *Rāmāyaṇa*’ and am very pleased that the lecture drew a very large audience of students and faculty.

I am also pleased that it is Professor Gavin Flood’s encouragement that has led me to gather a set of articles on the idea and worship practices of Hindu goddesses written by eminent scholars across the world scheduled for publication in 2018 by Oxford University Press, UK in the History of Hinduism Series of the press.

Another research initiative that I am now pursuing as an OCHS Fellow is a joint editorial project with Professor Diwakar Acharya, Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics, Oxford, a close friend of OCHS. Our plan, whose details are to be finalised over the next few months, is to edit a number of classical texts from India and Nepal to the highest standards of textual scholarship over the next several years, a plan in which another noted Sanskrit scholar, Dr Jonathan B. Katz, Fellow of All Souls and Public Orator, Oxford University, has evinced active interest. In addition, I am pursuing talks with Oxford University Press editors in Oxford concerning a series of publications arising out of my work and that of others at OCHS, although this is as yet at a preliminary stage.



My appreciation of OCHS is by no means limited to these particulars of my work but stretches to the conversations I continue to enjoy with the increasingly varied members of the OCHS family. As an academic familiar with religious studies programmes at many universities around the world, I find the work of OCHS unique in its dedication to all aspects of the Hindu religion and the culture nurtured by the Hindu faith while eschewing any sort of denominational agenda. In its sustained effort to offer courses across a wide range and levels of Hindu studies OCHS has succeeded in engaging academic as well as lay audiences in a climate of liberal enquiry. In supporting introductory studies side by side with the highest forms of scholarship as represented by the publications of its Fellows, visiting academics, and graduate students, OCHS has scored successes unmatched by many other institutions of far larger size and budget. Founding and running the *Journal of Hindu Studies* is in itself an achievement that other institutions may well envy. But most impressive perhaps is OCHS's ability to pull people in, almost from the street, young and old, to enjoy and participate in serious and informed yet relaxed conversation. How might a study centre serve the cause of knowledge better?

I look forward to future years of drawing upon the intellectual and cultural climate of OCHS.

### **Conference papers and lectures by Research Fellows**

#### **Professor Mandakranta Bose**

- 'Sītā, the Voice of Justice in the Rāmāyaṇa', Department of Indology Conference, Jagiellonian University of Krakow, Poland

#### **Dr Arya Burt**

- 'Sing, Pray, Love: Kirtan and the New Devotional Body'. Presented at Yoga and the Body, Past and Present: A Symposium, Australian National University, Canberra, May 2016.
- 'Krishna in the West: Key Issues in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness after the death of the founder'. Presented at Religious Transformation in Asian History Conference, Australian National University, Canberra, April 2016.
- 'Key Issues in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness after the death of the founder'. Presented at University of Sydney Religion Seminar, Sydney, March 2016.

#### **Professor Ravi Gupta**

- 'Toward an Interfaith Theology for ISKCON: Lessons from Caitanya's Encounter with the Qazi of Navadvipa.' Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, April 2016.
- '3000 Years of History: Balancing Breadth and Depth in Survey Courses.' Dean's Series on the Liberal Arts: Celebrating Teaching Excellence, Utah State University, March 2016.
- 'Creation and Chaos in Hindu Sacred Texts.' Parliament of the World's Religions, Salt Lake City, October 2015.

- 'All Men are Created Equal? The Debate over Caste in Classical and Contemporary India.' Bennion Teacher's Workshop on Democracy in Asia, Utah State University, June 2015.
- 'Who Owns Religion? Toward a Dialogue between Scholar and Practitioner.' University of Chicago, April 2015. This invited lecture was also delivered at the University of Illinois Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology.
- 'Teaching Asian Religions in Utah: Challenges and Opportunities.' The Asia Center, University of Utah, April 2015.
- 'Pedagogy and the Big Questions: Dealing with Religious Commitments, Strongly Held Values, and Belief Systems in the Classroom.' Annual Meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC. January 2015.
- 'Vaishnava Conceptions of Divine Love in Comparative Perspective.' First annual Vaishnava-Christian Interfaith Dialogue in India. Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. January 2015.

#### **Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray**

- 'Oceanography In Historical Perspective: Mapping The Past In The Present,' Maritime History Society, Anniversary Commemorative Lecture, Mumbai, 2015.
- 'Nalanda: The Making of a World Heritage Site', Nalanda University, Rajgir, 26 November 2015.
- 'Archaeology of the Greeks in India,' Conference on Globalizing Classics, Humboldt University, Berlin, 4 – 5 September 2015.
- 'Trans-Locality and Mobility across the Bay of Bengal: Nagapattinam in Context,' International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links: Historical and Contemporary Dimensions, New Delhi, 23-24 July 2015
- 'Managing World Heritage Sites in India: Rani-ki-Vav, a case study', Cultural Heritage Management: A Global Perspective, Asiatic Society, Kolkata, 26 – 27 March 2015.

#### **Dr Natalia Lidova**

- 2015, 'The Role of Vidūṣaka: Sacral Laughter in the Nāṭyaśāstra Tradition', 16th World Sanskrit Conference, Shilpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2016, 'Rasa as Aesthetic Emotion and Religious Ecstasy', OCHS, Oxford
- 2015, 'Language of Priest – Wording of Poet: Sacral Speech in the Earliest Genres of Sanskrit Drama', The Annual Roerich Conference, The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Moscow, Russia
- Public Lecture 'Kūṭiyāṭṭam – Ancient Theatre in the Contemporary World', The Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences Moscow, Russia

### **Dr Kiyokazu Okita**

- March 2016, 'The Rise of Kṛṣṇa Worship in Early Modern South Asia', Kyoto University and Sikkim University Joint Workshop on Human Survivability, Sikkim University, India.
- January 2016, 'Sanskrit Religious Poems in Early Modern South Asia: The Perspective of Bengali Vaiṣṇavism', the Buddhist Research Institute, Taishō University, Japan.
- May 2016, 'Singing in Protest: Early Modern Hindu-Muslim Encounters in Bengali Hagiographies of Caitanya', Exploring Bhakti: Is Bhakti a Language of Power or of Protest? South Asian Studies Council, Yale University.
- December 2015, 'A Middle Class Construction of Neo-Vaiṣṇavism in Nineteenth Century Bengal: Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura's Commentary on the Brahmasaṃhitā', The 4th International Congress of Bengal Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.
- September 2015, 'After Kashmir: Early Modern Sanskrit Aesthetic Theories in Andhra and Bengal', International Workshop on Pre-Modern Kashmir 2015, Center for Eurasian Cultural Studies (Haneda memorial Hall), Kyoto University, Japan.
- September 2015, 'The Karṇāṭaka Connection: Siṅhabhūpāla II's Influence on Bengali Vaiṣṇava Aesthetics', The 66th Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies, Koyasan University, Japan
- August 2015, 'Salvation through Colorful Emotions: Aesthetics, Colorimetry, and Theology in Early Modern South Asia' Panel session In the Context of Change: Approaching Emotions and Objects of Material Culture, in the XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany.
- July 2015, 'The Karṇāṭaka Connection: The Influence of Siṅhabhūpāla II on Bengali Vaiṣṇava Aesthetics', 12th International Conference on Early Modern Literatures in North India, Lausanne, Switzerland
- June 2015, 'The Karṇāṭaka Connection: The Influence of Siṅhabhūpāla II on Bengali Vaiṣṇava Aesthetics' in 16th World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Dr Brainerd Prince**

- May 2016: Presented 'Religion in Secular Spaces', The Young Intellectuals, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- May 2016: Presented 'The Philosophy of Research Practice' Postgraduate Seminar, MBTS and AGST, Penang, Malaysia
- May 2016: Presented 'What is Religious Studies?: The Religious-Secular Debate' and 'Articulating your Research Proposal: An Ontological Investigation' in Yoga, Tantra and Asceticism: Past, Present and Future, OCHS Seminar for Aarhus University, Denmark, at Baliol College, Oxford

- May 2016: Presented 'Relational Sanctification: Grace as Spiritual Practice', at Empowered21 Europe Scholars Consultation, Oral Roberts University, London
- April 2016: Presented 'Beyond Free Speech and Sedition Laws – Then how should we Speak?: Insights from the Indian Experience', The Montague Barker Lecture, OCMS, Oxford
- April 2016: Presented 'How can Hindus engage with other Religious Traditions?', at Friends of OCHS Event, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Leicester
- March 2016: Presented 'Can Hindu approaches to Childhood offer a corrective to the Child Rights Discourse?', at Friends of OCHS Event, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Birmingham
- March 2016: Presented 'Mission as Polyhabiting Plural Worlds: Insights from the Life and Mission of Montague Barker', The Montague Barker Lecture, OCMS, Oxford
- January 2016: Presented 'Innovating Success: Research as the Art of Understanding', at Christ Institute of Management, Christ University, Lavasa
- January 2016: Presented 'Pursuing Success: Lessons from Henry Ford', at Ecole Hoteliere at Lavasa, Lavasa
- October 2015: Presented 'Mission as Translation: A Fusion of Three Horizons', The Montagu Barker Lecture, at OCMS, Oxford
- October 2015: Presented 'A Hindu Vision of Childhood and Parenting' at Friends of OCHS Event, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Leicester
- August 2015: Consultation on 'Hinduism in South East Asia with specific reference to
- Malaysia' at Faculty of Theology, Bible College Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
- May 2015: Presented 'Is Hinduism a Religion?' at Friends of OCHS Event, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Leicester

### **Dr Kenneth Valpey**

- 2015 November/December: Several lectures in universities in Beijing, China.
- 2016 March: 'The practice of Hindu image worship'. At the Center for the Study of World Religions Spring Workshop, Harvard Divinity School; workshop theme: Sacramental presences: Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist perspectives.
- 2016 April: 'Lifetimes in preparation: Post-Prabhupada ISKCON life-writing as theology'. At the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School; conference theme: The worldwide Krishna movement: Half a century of growth, impact, and challenge.

## **The Danes in Oxford**

In October 2014, the first visiting student from Aarhus University came to the OCHS, and ever since then Danish students have been a fixture in nearly every term at the OCHS.

The exchange program was established by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department for the Study of Religion, Aarhus University and the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS).

Through this collaboration, Danish students interested in further developing their study of Sanskrit, have the opportunity to visit and study the OCHS for one or several terms as a part of their studies in Denmark.

On three occasions, a larger group of students from Denmark also visited the OCHS as a part of their studies, and under these excursions, the OCHS has served as the meeting place and hosted their Sanskrit readings and lectures. One of these visits, Spring 2016, included a two-day seminar on the on the Haṭhayogapradīpikā, co-organised with Brainerd Prince, Matthew Carlos, and Silje Lyngar Einarsen.

The program has so far included both undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. students who come to Oxford to work on their own projects and interest.

Students have taken tutorials and lectures, and been provided with guidance by the OCHS in combination with experiencing the academic life of Oxford independently. Most students were used to large lectures with 40–70 people attending, making it direct discussion and engaging with texts a difficult task. Seeing and encountering the lively discussions made possible with smaller groups, for instance during the Phenomenology readings, is a very different and unique academic experience for a Danish student.

The tutorial system compels students to develop their own thoughts and ideas – their own projects – and not just to study towards an exam. This is a proper glimpse of the Oxford experience: a university that enables and inspires students to think critically and independently rather than simply replicating a curriculum.

## **Awards for OCHS students**

### **Amit Mishra Bursary**

Christopher Fleming  
Anahita Hoose  
Anwasha Sengupta

### **Aku's Bursary**

Pavlo Smytsnyuk

### **Gupta Dan Bursary**

Pavlo Smytsnyuk

### **Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary**

Tara Heuzé

### **Hanuman Bursary**

Ionut Moise  
Tilak Patel

**Jiva Gosvami Scholarship**

Alan Herbert

**Okita Bursary**

Tara Heuzé

**Patel Book Grant**

Christopher Fleming

**Professor Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book Prize**

Christopher Fleming

**Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary**

Sunit Patel

## **Library**

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### **Expansion**

Plans are afoot to move our archive out of our offices to another space, kindly made available by Mr Bharat Bhundia. This will allow another 220 sq. ft for our growing library. This translates to three new study desks and another 180 ft of shelving space making home for 2500 books. This should be ready for the start of the 2016–7 academic year. Sadly, this is still less than the library growth for this year, underlining, yet again, the need for a new premises.

### **Collection**

This year, the OCHS Library has received several large and very important collections:

- a library of works on interfaith dialogue and comparative religion from Brian Pearce;
- a collection of books mostly on Vaiṣṇava thought that belonged to the late Professor M. Narasimhachary, donated by his wife, Dr Narasimhachary;
- a large collection of books, mostly on Bengali history and literature, from the library of the late Dr Bishu P. Choudhury, donated by his wife Anuradha Choudhury;
- and the library of the late Professor Friedhelm Hardy, with a great focus on southern Hindu traditions, Vaiṣṇava bhakti literature, and Sanskrit and Prakrit poetry, donated by his wife Aruna Hardy.

The Library received a very generous donation of over 200 Indian books from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and also received donations from the following individuals: Diwakar Acharya, John and Mary Brockington, Kisor Kumar Chakrabarti, Shaunaka Rishi Dasa, Anuradha Dooney, Krishna Dutta, Prema Goet, Rembert Lutjeharms, Dilip Kumar Mohanta, and Purnima Toolsidass.

## Appendix one: Lectures and seminars

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### Michaelmas term 2015

#### Lectures

*Hinduism 1 (eight sessions): Sources and Development*  
Prof Gavin Flood FBA

*Sanskrit Prelims (eight sessions)*  
Prof Gavin Flood FBA

*Readings in Phenomenology (eight sessions)*  
Prof Gavin Flood FBA

*Readings in the Netra Tantra (eight sessions)*  
Prof Gavin Flood FBA

*Readings in Early Modern Bengali Texts (four sessions)*  
Lucian Wong

*Religion and the Philosophy of Life Series (two sessions)*  
Prof Gavin Flood FBA  
*Lecture 1 – Theories of Life and the Origins of Religion*  
*Lecture 2 – Indian Theories of Life*

*Majewski Lecture: Asceticism for All: the Yoga of the Householder*  
Dr James Mallinson (SOAS)

#### Shivdasani Lectures, Professor Joseph Prabhu

*What is Still Living in the Life and Work of Gandhi?*  
The Contested Legacy of Swami Vivekananda

#### Shivdasani Seminars, Professor Joseph Prabhu

*Hegel and Hinduism: How not to do Cross-Cultural Hermeneutics*  
Raimon Panikkar and Hindu-Christian theology

#### Seminars

*Truth in Theology*  
Dr Ankur Barua (Cambridge), Professor Keith Ward (Oxford), Dr Jessica Frazier (Oxford and Kent)

#### Other Lectures

*The Mammoth, Multi-faith Kumbh Mela: A Place of Practical Plurality amid Colossal Chaos*  
Dr Kalpesh Bhatt

*‘śrīkaṇṭhācāryair eva sa panthā darśitaḥ’*: Historiographical remarks on the  
Śivādvaita Vedānta corpus  
Dr Jonathan Duquette, University of Oxford

## Hilary term 2016

### Lectures

*Hinduism 2: Hindu Traditions (Paper 21) (eight sessions)*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Elementary Sanskrit (eight sessions)*

Dr Bjarne Olesen

*Majewski Lecture: ‘To Die or Not to Die: Yogi’s Choice at the Moment of Death’*

Lubomír Ondračka

### Seminars

*Readings in the Netratāntra Chapter 7 (eight sessions)*

Dr Bjarne Olesen

*Readings in Phenomenology (eight sessions)*

Dr Jessica Frazier & Lucian Wong

*Readings in Middle Bengali Texts (eight sessions)*

Lucian Wong

*The Śākta Traditions seminars: Convenor: Silje Lyngar Einarsen*

*Session one: A distinctive Śākta imaginaire? On theory and method in the study of Hindu ‘Śāktism’*

Dr Bjarne Wernicke Olesen

*Session two: ‘Doing’ the text of Durgā. On scripture, ritual, and the internalization of tradition*

Silje Lyngar Einarsen

*Session three: The juiced-up body: A Śākta anthropology?*

Gitte Poulsen

*Matter and Religion Seminar*

Dr Donovan Schaeffer, Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Jonathan Duquette

### Shivdasani Lectures: Professor Kisor Kumar Chakrabarty

*A Comparative Study of Some Classical Causal Proofs of the Existence of God  
Are Cognitive States Self-Revealing?*

### Shivdasani Seminars: Professor Kisor Kumar Chakrabarty

*Cartesian and Nyaya Psycho-Physical Dualism*

Nyaya Ethics



## Other Lectures

*Rasa as Aesthetic Emotion and Religious Ecstasy*

Dr Natalia Lidova

## Trinity term 2016

### Lectures

*Wahlstrom Lecture: The Celestial Dolphin, an Upaniṣadic Puzzle, and the First Incarnation of Viṣṇu*

Professor Diwakar Acharya

*Readings in Phenomenology (seven sessions)*

Dr Jessica Frazier and Lucian Wong

*Readings in Middle Bengali Texts (eight sessions)*

Lucian Wong

*Early Modern Hindu Theology Seminars: Convenor: Dr Rembert Lutjeharms*

*Making the Implicit Explicit: Emplotment as Saṃsāra and Soteriological Method in Advaita Vedānta*

Dr James Madaio

*Śaivism and the Bhāgavata Purāṇa*

Dr Anand Venkatkrishnan

*Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must write poetry: Language, poetics, and theology in the works of Kavikarṇapūra*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Matter and Religion Seminar*

Dr Donovan Schaeffer, Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Jonathan Duquette

### Shivadasani Lectures: Professor Prabhavati C. Reddy

*The Ritual Culture and Materiality of Sacred Images in the Vaisnava Temple Tradition*

*The Vaisnava Appropriation of Vedic Fires in the Vaikhanasa Tradition: A New Ritual System for Image Worship*

### Shivadasani Seminars: Professor Prabhavati C. Reddy

*The Tantric Mandala of Srisailam Temple and the Religious World of Saivas and Saktas*

Nath Siddhas and Hatha Yoga Practices in South India

### Other Lectures

*The juiced-up body: A Śākta anthropology?*

Gitte Poulsen

## Appendix two: Visiting fellows

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### **Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas term 2015: Professor Joseph Prabhu**

Professor Joseph Prabhu is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at California State University, Los Angeles and occasional Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. He is active as both a scholar and a peace activist. He edited *The Intercultural Challenge of Raimon Panikkar* (Orbis Books, 1996) and co-edited the two-volume *Indian Ethics: Classical Traditions and Contemporary Challenges* (Ashgate Publishing Co, 2007; Springer and Oxford University Press, India, 2016). He authored *Raimon Panikkar as a Modern Spiritual Master* (Orbis Books, 2015). Joseph Prabhu has been a Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University and of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago. He has also been co-editor of *ReVision* from 1995-2003, and a contributing editor of *Zygon*. He is the past President of the International Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, 2008–10, and the Program Chair for the Melbourne Parliament of the World's Religions, 2009. He served on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the Council of a Parliament of the World's Religions from 2005–11. He has lectured and taught at more than seventy universities either as visiting professor or as guest lecturer in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and the United States.

### **Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Hilary term 2016: Professor Kisor Kumar Chakrabarti**

Professor Kisor Kumar Chakrabarti is the President of the Institute for Cross Cultural studies and Academic Exchange. He is a former Provost and Dean of the faculty and Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Distinguished Scholar in residence of the Davis and Elkins College, the Sarah B. Cochran Professor of Philosophy of the Bethany College and Forrest S. and Jean B. Williams Distinguished Professor of Humanities of the Ferrum College. He has also taught at the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Calcutta, among others. He received the Doctoral Fulbright, the Post-doctoral Fulbright and the Senior Fulbright awards and held fellowships at the University of Pittsburgh, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla, the Australian National University, and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. He has studied classical Sanskrit philosophical texts under the guidance of eminent Hindu pundits for many decades. He has also studied Greek philosophical texts in the original and taught Greek philosophy, modern philosophy, logic and Indian philosophy in colleges and universities in India and the USA for forty five years. He has authored seventy eight research papers and articles mainly on the topics of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, Indian philosophy and comparative philosophy. His books include *Definition and Induction*, (University of Hawaii Press, 1995), *Classical Indian Philosophy of Mind*, (State University of New York Press, 1999), *Classical Indian Philosophy of Induction*, (Rowman and Littlefield, 2010) and *Major Doctrines of Hinduism and Buddhism*, (Magnus Publications, 2012). He has been a Visiting Professor or invited to give lectures in about a hundred colleges and universities in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the USA.

### **Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Trinity term 2016: Dr Prabhavati C. Reddy**

Dr Prabhavati C. Reddy is an Adjunct Faculty member of Religious Studies at George Mason University in Virginia, USA. She is an interdisciplinary scholar with a Ph.D. in Sanskrit and Indian Studies from Harvard University, an MA in Asian Art History from

the University of Texas-Austin, and an MA and M.Phil. in Ancient History and Archaeology from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. She has taught at George Washington University and was a two-year Andrew Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at Northwestern University where she taught in the Department of Religious Studies. She specialises in Hindu traditions and is interested in the historical development of sectarian traditions with reference to constructive theological frameworks and syncretism, religious authority and identity, and conflict and resolution in response to sociological and political processes. She is the author of *Hindu Pilgrimage: Shifting Patterns of Worldview of Srisailam in South India* (Routledge, 2014) and has published several articles on Indian art and Indian diaspora/Hindu temples in North America. She is currently working on two books entitled, *The Tantra and Siddha Traditions at Srisailam: Kundalini and Hatha Yoga Practices in Medieval India* and *Vaisnava Rituals and Sacred Images*. She has lectured at universities in both the US and India as well as has presented papers at professional conferences.

**JP and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Trinity term: Dr Jessica Frazier**

Dr Jessica Frazier is the author of the forthcoming *Hindu Worldviews: Theories of Self, Ritual and Reality*, as well as *The Bloomsbury Companion to Hindu Studies, Reality, Religion and Passion: Truth and Ethics on Hans-Georg Gadamer and Rupa Gosvami*, and numerous chapters on Indian philosophies and arts. She is also the editor of *Thinking Inside the Box: The Concept of Categories in Indian Philosophy*, and works on both Indian and Western philosophical traditions, seeking fresh approaches to perennial questions. As well as being a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, she is a Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Kent.

**Visiting Fellow: Dr Anita P. Bobade**

Dr Anita P. Bobade, is an Associate Professor for Management Studies, with University of Mumbai. She has done her B.Com from University of Mumbai, Masters in Business Administration from SIBER, India and Ph.D. from Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. The primary focus of her doctoral research was on strategic management of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Industry in India. She made a strong case for influence of national culture and 'cultural intelligence' on effectiveness in a globalized economy and a transnational workplace. Dr Bobade has written over a dozen books on subjects including Capital Markets, Technical Analysis, Strategic Management, Business Ethics, and Corporate Governance.

## Appendix three: New students

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**Thomas Ford**

USA

Brasenose College

Thomas is a visiting student in Religious Studies from Stanford.

**Samuel Horsley**

UK

Balliol College

Samuel is pursuing a BA in Theology. His concentration is yoga, tantra, Buddhism, and animal ethics.

**Asho Kumar**

Singapore

Asho is studying for D.Phil through Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

**Molly Ann Moore**

UK

Christ Church

Molly is studying for a BA in Theology and Religion

**Tilak Parekh**

UK

Regent's Park College

Tilak is currently doing a BA in Theology and Religion. He has interests in Hindu and Christian theology.

**Rhianna Reechaye**

UK

St Peters College

Rhianna is studying Theology and Religion, concentrating on Hinduism and the Nature of Religion.

**Ushaben Reifsnider**

UK

Ushaben is studying for a D.Phil through Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

**Yash Saraf**

India

Yash is a visiting student from Stanford. He is studying Hinduism and Literature.

**Anwasha Sengupta**

India

St Catherine's College

Anwasha is studying for an M.Phil. in Modern South Asian Studies. Her focus is on the history of India, Persian, Brajhasha, and Bengali.

**Aadya Shukla**

UK

Aadya is studying Computer Science.

**Finlay Stroud**

UK

Lady Margaret Hall

Finlay is studying philosophy, theology, and religious studies.