

# Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Annual Report 2021





Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies  
13-15 Magdalen St  
Oxford OX1 3AE  
Tel. +44 (0)1865 304300  
[www.ochs.org.uk](http://www.ochs.org.uk)  
Regd Charity No. 1074458

# The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

## Annual Report

### 2021

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## Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

A full year of pandemic restrictions in education has been hard but I must congratulate our scholars and students for their focus and adaptability. All have done very well, mastering the mysteries of all things Hindu, and what were once the mysteries of Teams, Canvas, and Zoom. Our students have also done well academically – which is the great achievement.

I'm very happy to announce that we will start the next academic year with a new relationship with the Faculty of Theology & Religion and the University of Oxford. Beginning in October, two of our scholars, Dr Jessica Frazier and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, will become Research Lecturers in the Faculty, positions funded by the OCHS. Both will share their time with the University and the Centre. It represents the strongest institutional tie that both our Centre and the Faculty will have with any other external body.

In spite of the difficulties of the year, education and publication went very well, as this report notes. Research also progressed, the only areas of our operation hindered being Library access and coming together for meals and discussion. Even with all the promise of technology there is nothing to replace the wealth of personal interaction.

As an unexpected benefit of shutdown around the world, we had an understandable rise in student numbers for our online courses – 2300 in total. While so many of us were bound to our homes in the pandemic we roamed the universe of the internet looking for education, news, and distraction. Our online experts adapted quickly and launched very successful virtual weekend schools and Zoom tutorials, making our subject widely available.

I would like to thank our scholars, students, and staff who rose to the occasion; to our patrons and friends who retained their commitment and maintained our efforts; and to the army of volunteers who have worked in Leicester, Birmingham, and London, and far afield in New York, Denver, and Gainesville, USA, and Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai, India. We are your servants.

Warm regards,



Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Director



## Building on Trust: Theology, Religion, and Hindu Studies

Joint statement from

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and the Faculty of Theology & Religion, University of Oxford.

The relationship between the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and the University of Oxford's Faculty of Theology and Religion has matured over more than two decades – working together to help develop the study of religion at Oxford.

With generous support from the OCHS, scholars from the OCHS have regularly been employed by the Faculty to teach, tutor, and supervise students, and the Centre has also funded research positions, including that of the Professor of Hindu Studies and Comparative Religion.

By working cooperatively, the field of Religious Studies in Oxford has been enriched and Hindu Studies established. With a view to consolidating this productive partnership the Faculty and the Centre are pleased to announce a new phase in our relationship.

We have established two new Research Lectureships, with Dr Jessica Frazier and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms appointed as our first post holders. Both will work part-time for both institutions, funded fully by the OCHS.

The posts will consolidate Hindu Studies in Oxford, attracting more students, and encouraging new teaching, research, and publication. It will also ensure the broader study of religion, and comparative religion and philosophy.

'I am delighted that the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies have formalised a new relationship. This new relationship builds on, and deepens, the longstanding and fruitful collaboration between the Faculty and OCHS, and ensures that the Faculty will continue to offer world-class teaching and research in the study of Hinduism.'

Dan Grimley  
Interim-Head of the Humanities Division,  
University of Oxford

'The OCHS has been and remains instrumental in sustaining and developing Hindu Studies at Undergraduate, Graduate and the Doctoral level in the Faculty. This new link strengthens the research and teaching collaboration between OCHS and the Faculty, and will greatly enhance the Faculty's ability to attract students in Hindu studies.'

Prof. Anna Sapir Abulafia, FBA  
Professor of the Study of the Abrahamic  
Religions

'The fact that Hindu Studies is being so recognised at this academic level, that the OCHS is the catalyst between the subject and the University, and the prospect of students of all backgrounds gaining access to a more serious consideration of these cultures, is an excellent step forward in education in this country.'

Lord Dholakia  
Chair of the Board of Governors, OCHS

'I am delighted both professionally and personally. With these posts we can expand Hinduism and Indian Philosophy at Oxford, helping students to explore India's rich intellectual history and bring its philosophies to life in new ways. For me personally, this means new research and publishing on the topics I find most vitally important. And above all, I look forward to continuing my work in Oxford with wonderful colleagues and students.'

Dr Jessica Frazier  
Research Lecturer, Faculty of Theology &  
Religion, and at the OCHS

Statement issued by: Prof. William Wood, Chair of the Theology and Religion Faculty Board and Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology & Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

# 1. THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

Message from the Academic Director

Teaching

Quotes from Students

Research

Publication

Fellows' Publications

Conference Papers and Lectures by Fellows

Visiting Fellow's Report

Conferences and Seminars

Awards for Students

## Message from the Academic Director

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the doors of the OCHS have been closed for most of the past year. As a result, there have been no Wednesday Lunches, during which the students and scholars of Hindu Studies in Oxford usually meet each week during term, nor has the OCHS Library welcomed as many readers as it usually does. But behind those closed doors, the scholars and staff of OCHS have had a very busy year, and all the core activities of the Centre—research, teaching, and publishing—have not just continued, but indeed expanded in the past academic year.

This year we were pleased to welcome three new Senior Fellows: Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar, Prof. Gaya Charan Tripathi, and Prof. Alexis Sanderson who were given this professorial award in recognition of their excellent academic achievements.

A new Research Programme—the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme, headed by four Fellows of the OCHS—was launched in Trinity Term, as were two new projects. The first aims to bring the emerging field of Digital Humanities into the realm of Hindu Studies; the second brings together scholars from across the globe to rethink Hinduism in Colonial India. Simultaneously, our other Research Projects and Programmes continued to develop.

The OCHS's teaching at the University of Oxford has continued, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Theology & Religion Faculty, but mostly online. This year we expanded our teaching to include a course on Indian Philosophy for the Faculty of Philosophy. Thanks to the work of Dr Jessica Frazier an undergraduate course in Indian Philosophy is now offered for the first time in the history of Oxford University. More Fellows of the OCHS are now supervising doctoral degrees. And beyond Oxford, the online Continuing Education Department has reached more students in the past year than ever before.

In the sector of publishing, the OCHS has continued to thrive. The Journal of Hindu Studies, published by Oxford University Press, as well as the two book series that the OCHS publishes with Routledge, have seen new volumes. All this is followed by the new volumes in the CED book series, which are set to be published in the coming months by Mandala Publishing. Additionally, the OCHS has also moved into a new area of publishing: the Śākta Research Programme has been publishing lectures by leading scholars online, on YouTube.



Prof. Gavin Flood, FBA  
OCHS Academic Director

## Teaching

Professor Gavin Flood continued to supervise two DPhil students, two MSt students, and two undergraduate students in Theology & Religion. In addition, he taught nine undergraduate students, in both 'Religion and Religions' and 'Hinduism: Sources and Formations'. He has also served on the MSt Exam Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, acted as an examiner for its Final Honour School, and worked for the National Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Dr Jessica Frazier successfully ran and taught a full academic year of the Philosophy Faculty's first ever Indian Philosophy undergraduate course, with a total number of seven students who highly appreciated the module. She tutored 18 undergraduate students, two dissertations, two Master's students, and one doctoral student. Together with Dr Lutjeharms, she continued to co-organise the Hinduism I and II papers, and the Further Studies paper, as well as teaching a module on the Feminist Approaches to Religion. She also ran a series of discussion seminars on 'Arguments in Indian Philosophy', and in 2020 was elected to a stipendiary lectureship at Mansfield as well as Trinity College.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms has continued to give the lectures for 'Hinduism: Sources and Formations' paper (in Michaelmas Term) and 'Modern Hinduism' (in Hilary Term), which he continues to co-organise with Dr Frazier. These lectures were pre-recorded and made available to the students online, followed by a live 'Q&A' session for each lecture. He also tutored seven students in those subjects. He continued to read Vedānta texts in Sanskrit with interested students (now for the tenth consecutive year), this year with focus on selections from Madhva's Anuvyākhyāna commentary on the Brahma-sūtras. This reading seminar was attended not just by current OCHS students, but also by former students who joined the online readings from as far away as New Zealand. In addition, he has been supervising two DPhil students, and acted as examiner for the MSt in the Study of Religion and the Final Honour School.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen taught Sanskrit Prelims to nine students (from Theology & Religion, and other students who audited the paper). He had set the paper for Sanskrit Prelims and developed the course to include a range of relevant Hindu and Buddhist texts. He authored a two-volume Sanskrit grammar and reader which was highly praised and is currently being translated into English to be better integrated in the course. He also taught three students Buddhist Sanskrit at the OCHS and gave advanced Sanskrit tutorials for MPhil and DPhil students from Theology & Religion and from Oriental Studies. He tutored three students in Hinduism I and II and supervised multiple MA dissertations at Aarhus University where he continues to teach under the visiting student programme. He was First Marker for Sanskrit Prelims and the MSt/MPhil Theology (dissertation and essay).

Dr Lucian Wong taught two undergraduate students from the Faculty of Theology & Religion for the paper 'Religion and Religions', and two students for the Faculty of Philosophy in the newly established paper 'Indian Philosophy'.

## Quotes from students



'Working with Professor Flood gave me a stupendously large perspective on Indian traditions and world philosophy, for he relentlessly allowed me - as his doctorate student - to bloom my full creativity and research the very themes I was interested in.'

Ionut Moise  
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Exeter

‘Dr Wernicke-Olesen’s love for the Sanskrit language, philological mastery, systematic approach, and pedagogical expertise combine to make him one of those exceptional tutors you never forget. In his classes, you soon find yourself translating original Sanskrit texts, carefully selected for your level, which gives the student a sense of tangible progress.’

Simon Haas  
DPhil student, University of Oxford



‘Dr Wong’s tutorials were exactly what I needed for my first foray into non-Western philosophy. He both challenged me with novel high-level concepts and offered points of basic clarification when I needed them. Considering I was very inexperienced, Lucian was genuinely interested in my thoughts and we had some really productive discussions in which he encouraged me to go a lot deeper and to follow lines of enquiry a lot further than I otherwise would have.’

Michael Beattie  
BA student, University of Oxford

‘Dr Frazier has been an incredible tutor during my graduate studies. She has invested a great deal in ensuring that my writing, critical analysis abilities, and insight into South Asian perspectives and lived experiences, notably strengthened during my time at Oxford. Her passion for South Asian philosophy and religious cultures is evident, both in her research, and in her commitment to sharing her ample knowledge with students.’

Laura Anderson  
MPhil Student, University of Oxford



‘Dr Lutjeharms’s expansive knowledge is apparent when he teaches. He effortlessly weaves in history, Sanskrit grammar, philosophy and poetics into his discourse. As a tutor, Rembert listens attentively and offers thoughtful guidance and sound feedback that, thus far, has led to the refinement and focus of my thesis.’

Natasha Chawla  
DPhil Student, University of Oxford

## Research

This year saw big developments in the OCHS's research activities. A new Research Programme—the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme—was launched, as were two new Research Projects: 'Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India' and 'Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies' with continued significant developments in other research projects and programmes.

## The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

*Project Leaders: Dr Måns Broo, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr Lucian Wong*

Vaiṣṇava traditions—traditions who teach devotion (bhakti) to Viṣṇu, Rāma, or Kṛṣṇa—have been perhaps the most consistent form of Hindu devotion across the Indian subcontinent. It has found expression in a myriad of regional traditions, centred on local places of pilgrimage or inspired by influential religious teachers. Several Vaiṣṇava traditions have become trans-regional, leaving a lasting mark on the religious landscape of South Asia. Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism—named after Gauḍa, the ancient name of its Bengali homeland—is one such tradition. Inspired by the teachings and person of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486-1533), the tradition emerged in sixteenth century Bengal and was profoundly shaped by Vaiṣṇava forms of devotion propagated in the eastern parts of the subcontinent in the preceding centuries. Yet, it quickly spread and established itself, within a generation to further south in Orissa and to the west in the region of Braj. Subsequent centuries saw a further expansion to Rajasthan, Manipur, and in the twentieth century it transformed into a global movement.

Through their voluminous writings in Sanskrit and a variety of vernaculars (especially in Bengali, Brajabhuli, and Brajabhāṣā) Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas developed a distinct devotion to Kṛṣṇa and Caitanya. Their innovations in the realms of ritual and practice, theology, literature and literary criticism, music, temple architecture, and art had a wide-ranging impact and helped shape the contemporary culture of Kṛṣṇa-bhakti across the northern region.

### Outline of the Programme

Since the emergence of modern scholarship on South Asian religions, the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition has garnered a fair amount of scholarly interest for more than a century, both in South Asia and beyond. As Stuart Elkman noted in 1986, 'it may safely be said that no other Vaiṣṇava movement can claim such an abundance of secondary literature'. The OCHS has contributed greatly to this growing field of scholarship, since its inception, by the work of individual scholars as well as through two successful research projects, 'The Gosvāmī Era: The Founding of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism in Early Modern South Asia' and 'Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period', which have resulted in conferences, symposia, a variety of publications (monographs, edited volumes, journal issues, articles, etc.).

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme is a natural development of these two Research Projects and will serve as a programmatic umbrella under which a variety of future research projects will fall. The aim of the Programme is to facilitate more systematic and coordinated research, by bringing scholars from around the globe together, and encourage interdisciplinary, collaborative research as well as more focussed exchange of ideas.

The Programme attempts to look at the development of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism—defined broadly as those traditions that emerge by the inspiration of Caitanya—from its inception to the modern period, in such diverse fields as theology, philology, literature and literary criticism, ritual studies, architecture and art, musicology, and anthropology. The open structure of the research programme will allow for a variety of collaborative research projects to emerge and also encourage research that looks at those developments in the longue durée by examining not just the articulation of new ideas or practices but also their legacy as well as their antecedents, across both time and place.

### **Aims of the Research Programme**

The Research Programme will especially aim to accomplish the following:

- Establish an international research network
- Establish new collaborative research projects
- Digitise manuscripts and early-print collections
- Organise international conferences, panels, as well as group-readings of primary texts
- Produce critical editions, translations, and studies of key primary texts
- Publish monographs, edited volumes, conference proceedings, and articles
- Develop an academic adult learning programme

### **Ongoing Research**

The research work conducted in the ‘Gosvāmī Era’ and the ‘Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period’ Research Projects has been ongoing.

### **The Gosvāmī Era**

Dr Måns Broo (Åbo Akademi, Finland) is currently finalising the first volume of his critical edition of the Hari-bhakti-vilāsa, the earliest and most influential ritual text of the Gauḍīya tradition. The volume will contain the critical edition of the text, an annotated translation, and detailed introduction.

Professor Kiyokazu Okita (Sophia University, Japan) has finalised the digitisation of hundreds of Vaiṣṇava manuscripts from across the Indian subcontinent, which were microfilmed in the 1980s by the Matsya Project, led by Professor Charles S.J. White. With the permission from the institutions that hold the physical copies of these manuscripts, these digital files will soon be made available online and for public use. He also continues to work with S. Bhuvaneshvari on the editing and translating of Vopadeva’s Harilīlā and Hemādri’s commentary, the Harilīlāviveka, two little-studied texts by authors that significantly influenced the Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana. Above all, he continues to work on his own monograph on the ethics of Gauḍīya aesthetics.

The edited volume that resulted from the ‘The Building of Vṛndāvana’ conference is now ready for publication. The editorial work on this, shared between Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms and Professor Kiyokazu Okita, had been severely delayed due to ill health.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms continued to co-ordinate the Gauḍīya Studies Programme, which provides tutorial-based academic adult education in Gauḍīya Studies, with focus on the earlier period of the Gosvāmī era that was launched in Trinity Term of last year. The programme has been a great success, for both students and tutors. This year 18 students were taught by the following tutors: Dr Måns Broo, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Professor Ravi Gupta, Dr Kenneth Valpey, and Dr Lucian Wong.

Publications of the principal researchers of the project are listed below, with the publications of other OCHS fellows.

### **Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period**

The Vaiṣṇava Periodicals of Colonial Bengal Project, launched last year, continues to develop this year with a new initiative to publish the long out-of-print editions of influential Bengali publications. Hence, the Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇava Classics Series has been launched this year.



### **The Vaiṣṇava Periodicals of Colonial Bengal Project**

One of the most vibrant forms of the Bengali Vaiṣṇava revival that was carried out in the colonial period was through periodical literature. Vaiṣṇavas in colonial Bengal collectively produced an extensive body of periodical literature. This voluminous corpus nevertheless remains largely untapped both in scholarship on Bengali Vaiṣṇavism and more broadly modern Hindu intellectual history. The periodical corpus itself is scattered across various public libraries and archives, not just within Bengal but also beyond, in Vrindavan and in certain international institutions, such as the British Library. Some Vaiṣṇava denominations such as the Baranagar Pathbari and the Gaudiya Math at Baghbazar hold some of the richest standalone Vaiṣṇava periodical collections, but the custodians of these archives make access to them exceedingly difficult. Seven Research Fellows from Indian (Sen and Dey) and European institutions (Broo, Lutjeharms, Sardella, and Wong) are working together to produce a volume of English translations of a representative sample of material from the corpus, accompanied by critical introductions and annotations, that makes this material available to the broader domain of Hindu Studies for the first time.

In conjunction with the translation work undertaken by the team, members of the project have begun working with the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), which as part of its archive contains an extensive collection of Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodicals. The project is collaborating with the BRC to digitally prepare and make this collection available online through the OCHS's state-of-the-art open-access online database, currently in the final stages of construction.

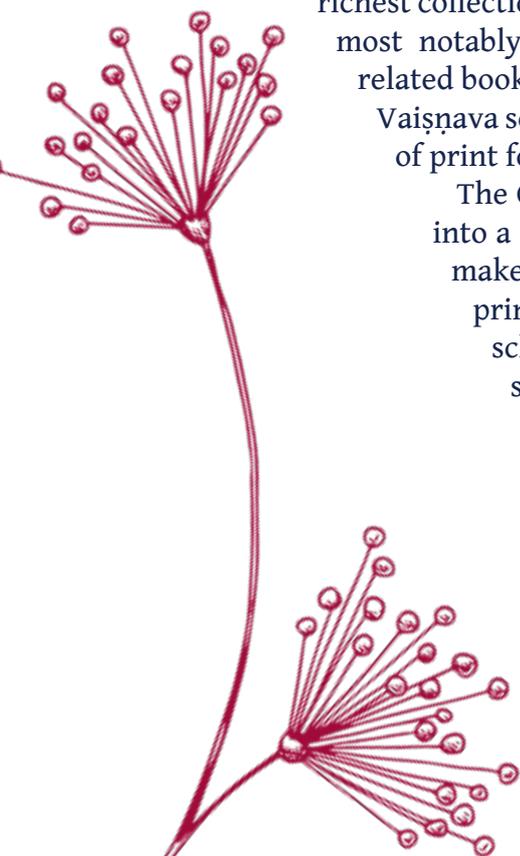
### **Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇava Classics Series**

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a massive proliferation of Vaiṣṇava literature in Bengal. At this time educated Bengalis had begun to flock in droves to take up the study, practice, and promulgation of passionate Kṛṣṇa-bhakti associated with Caitanya and the Vaiṣṇava tradition that he inspired. With Bengal as the seat of the earliest indigenous printing and publishing industry in the subcontinent, it was only natural that much of this Bengali Vaiṣṇava efflorescence played out in the arena of print. Scholars of religion have only recently begun to appreciate just how significant this remarkable phenomenon is, not only for developing a more complete understanding of Gaudiya Vaiṣṇavism's history, but also, more broadly, for understanding the texture and dynamics of religion in modern India.

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), based in South Kolkata, houses one of the richest collections of colonial-era Vaiṣṇava printed literature in the world, including, most notably, approximately 3500 rare Bengali language Gaudiya Vaiṣṇavism-related books acquired from the descendants of renowned mid twentieth century Vaiṣṇava scholar Sundarananda Vidyavinod. Much of this literature has been out of print for over a century.

The OCHS's Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period Project has entered into a collaborative publishing project with the BRC Kolkata, in an effort to make key texts from the Sundarananda Vidyavinod Collection available in print, both to the burgeoning realm of Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇava critical scholarship and the wider Bengali Vaiṣṇava reading public. More specifically, the project proposes to produce new editions of these texts, in the original language, re-typeset and edited, with critical introductions. The project is currently in discussions with Mandala Publishing, who have expressed a serious interest in taking on the proposed series.

The editorial board for the series is led by Dr Lucian Wong, who acts as General Editor, and includes the following scholars: Dr Ferdinando Sardella, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Professor Amiya Sen, Dr Santanu Dey, and Dr Abhishek Bose.



## Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

*Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen and Lucian Wong;*

*Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr Ulrik Lyngs*

This project explores the potential of using computational methods in combination with traditional scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. Compared to traditional workflows in which scholars manually collate, compare, and critically examine manuscripts into edited volumes, new computing tools hold substantial promise for a quicker and much more effective way. For example, many time-consuming tasks may now be automated, and new understandings and insights based on the analysis of large amounts of data can be obtained that would previously have been impossible.

With new coding tools based on R and Python it is now possible to read the entire corpora of texts into a computer and readily obtain answers to questions such as: How does the frequency of specific words differ between texts? Which words commonly co-occur together? Which texts are unusual or interesting on some criteria, such as occurrence of specific words, phrases, length of verses, and so on? Answering these sorts of questions based on the analysis of a large set of texts spanning a longue durée opens up entirely new possibilities and fields of investigation (e.g. in relation to discourse analysis, conceptual history, and statistics). In this way, automated methods can give scholars new ways to efficiently understand and interact with large bodies of texts, which may then be combined with more traditional, in-depth manual analysis and interpretation.

New digital tools also allow scholars to easily share data and analyses in test scripts and open-access databases, or to build online visualisation tools that will let others interact with digitised content in new ways.

### Project outputs

- Online lecture series and seminars on basic workflows for textual analysis in data science, including methods for text mining and visualisation of large corpora.
- Establishing a state-of-the art OCHS open-access database, providing a new user interface for browsing and interacting with primary research materials:
  - The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies. It makes unknown material widely available and searchable for the first time.
  - The database aims to include tens of thousands of manuscripts drawn from the OCHS Kathmandu digitisation project, the National Archives of Nepal, the ASA archives, the Kaiser Library, and metadata from the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project (NGMCP) as well as a large number of Bengali texts and the Gelblum Collection.
  - Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts, and download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV); overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text); and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material
  - The OCHS database offers new workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including 1) the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration, and translation in language of choice); 2) easily perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g. count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages); and 3) automated transliteration of hand-written manuscripts.

## Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

*Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong, Dr Avni Chag, and Dr Arun Brahmabhatt*

### Background

No history of Hinduism can be written without referencing the plethora of initiatory religious communities (sampradāya, panth) that have long comprised the fundamental component of the Hindu religious landscape. For centuries, these organisational formations have profoundly shaped collective and individual Hindu life. They have played a central role in the transmission of religious teachings, rituals, and codes of behaviour, and aligned themselves, to varying degrees, with local regimes of power. Yet, while there is no dearth of scholarship on such formations in classical, medieval, and early modern India, they have, by comparison, featured surprisingly little in the study of colonial period developments within Hinduism.

The basic reasons for this neglect are not hard to discern. Scholarship on Hinduism in the colonial context has been dominated by the discourse surrounding ‘Modern Hinduism’. This value-laden category has privileged the role of a narrowly circumscribed list of figures and institutions that are perceived to betray the workings of a Westernised rationality and its reformative impulses. Indeed, the field of colonial Hindu studies has commonly been equated with the study of these emergent, reform-oriented currents. As a result, sampradāyic formations in this context, when not wholly neglected by scholars, are often presumed to have been rendered increasingly irrelevant by modernising forces.

These prevailing assumptions, however, are not borne out by the historical evidence. Recent years have witnessed growing interest in colonial-era activity within the vast array of regional sampradāyas and panths that fall beyond the discursive confines of the established ‘Modern Hinduism’ paradigm. This burgeoning body of scholarship has begun to reveal just how central a role such religious currents continued to play in innumerable Hindu lives of all varieties amidst the unprecedented social and epistemic changes affected by colonialism. Many of these currents had marked effects upon social and cultural spheres beyond their immediate communal parameters. And while some participated avidly in colonially driven modernising processes, others remained less directly implicated in the colonial sphere. Nevertheless, what is becoming ever clearer is that any serious attempt to understand Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture cannot fail to attend to the spectrum of sampradāyic dynamics within this context.

### Objectives

The Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project, which was launched at the beginning of 2021, aims to serve as a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. The project aims to generate a critical mass of scholarship that deploys these oft-neglected communities as a vital entry point onto the colonial Hindu landscape. In doing so, it aims to establish a model for studying Hinduism in colonial India that neither conflates this potentially rich subject area with an attenuated notion of ‘Modern Hinduism’, nor is predetermined from the outset to reproduce variations on a well-worn ‘tradition-modernity’ motif.

### Output objectives

- An online series of themed panel discussions
- A conference
- An edited volume
- An international research network

The project directors are currently making preparations for the project’s first conference, which

is due to be held online 5-6 February 2022, that will provide a forum for the focused exploration of colonial sampradāyic dynamics beyond regional boundaries and a vital opportunity for critically rethinking the texture of Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture. The conference will showcase work addressing themes including, but not limited to:

- Commentarial and scholastic practices
- Legal and institutional frameworks
- Theological and philosophical innovations
- Manuscript and print cultures
- Vernacular literary networks
- Ritual and ascetic lifeworlds
- Personal and public identity formations
- Gender roles and dynamics
- Materiality and visual culture

## The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

*Project Leaders: Professor Gavin Flood FBA and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen*

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops, and seminars in Oxford as well as numerous volumes and articles.

To the projects have been added a new high profile research project on Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Ulrik Lyngs. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) has been a Visiting Online Fellow at the OCHS for Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary Term 2021 working on the Śākta dimension of this project. The project aims at establishing a state-of-the-art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies and makes large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts have been made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions. The database has been expanded with a Bengal text dimension and the Geldblum Collection. Dr Ulrik Lyngs continues as our Data Scientist lead and Digital Humanities Consultant for the research programme. Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen has been developing the Śākta Traditions website and the research programme.

The visiting student programme continued in Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary Term 2021 with an MA student from Southern University of Denmark working at the OCHS on tantric and ascetic traditions under the supervision of Dr Wernicke-Olesen.

During the year Dr Wernicke-Olesen has given a number of Śākta-related online papers and taught a number of seminars such as the Graduate Research Seminar on 'Blood Sacrifice in Tantric Hinduism' at the Theology and Religion Faculty in Michaelmas Term 2020 and two major online lectures in the Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series in Michaelmas Term 2020 and Trinity Term 2021.

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen established a study and research centre for the Śākta programme in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitisation and fieldwork. While the work in Nepal came to a halt in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic, the facilities have now been secured

until 2022 and it is our hope that work in Nepal will resume in Michaelmas Term 2021. Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

Gavin Flood, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Rajan Khatiwoda continue their work on an annotated edition and full translation of the Netratantra, now in three volumes, to be published in the Routledge Tantric Studies series. The translation group has had weekly reading sessions with Alexis Sanderson and Harunaga Isaacson since July 2020. The readings continue.

### Śākta Traditions Online Lectures Series

*Conveners: Ms Lena Molin and Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen*

The academic year further saw the launch of a highly successful Śākta Traditions Online Lectures series supervised by Dr Wernicke-Olesen. The list of speakers in Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary and Trinity Terms 2021 included some of the most renowned scholars in the field of Śākta Studies which was then coupled with several groundbreaking lectures, e.g. a three-hour long lecture in three parts by Alexis Sanderson. The Project aims to carve out space for Śāktism as an area of research in its own right. The project is a compilation of the most prominent research already done in the field of Śākta Traditions, which can serve as educational material as well as a point of departure for further research on the subject.

The Series comprises three related online lecture series presented during the academic year of 2020/2021. The first, titled ‘Śākta Traditions Lecture Series: Work in progress’, was presented during Michaelmas Term 2020. The second and third series are titled ‘Śākta Traditions Lecture Series: Contributions to a growing field of Śākta Studies’ and were presented during Hilary Term 2021 and Trinity Term 2021.

The main goal of the project is to open up the academic field of Śākta Studies to a wider audience. In light of the Covid-19 lockdown and the changes to the ways in which people now have to work and live the project consists of recorded lectures that are made widely available through the OCHS webpage, the Śākta webpage, and YouTube. Due to the online format of the lecture series, these contributions will be preserved and archived for the future and serve as an important resource for a budding field.

	Śāktism outside of Kashmir (part 3) <i>Prof. Alexis Sanderson</i>		Theology and Social Change in Śākta Tradition <i>Prof. Gavin Flood</i>		Śāktism in Europe <i>Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen</i>		Hinduism and the Goddess - Śāktism and Śākta traditions (part II) <i>Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen</i>
	Before they were foxy ladies, they were lady foxes: Yoginis and Dākinis in Hindu and Buddhist Tantra <i>Prof. David G. White</i>		New Light on Śāktism and Haṭhayoga <i>Dr. James Mallinson</i>		Assessing medieval Śākta history in the light of Indian inscriptions <i>Dr. Bihani Sarkar</i>		
	Tantric Elements Embedded in a Purānic Context: the Example of the Mahatmyakhaṇḍa of the Tripurārahasya <i>Dr. Silvia Schwarz Linder</i>		Divinity and Femininity: Śakti in the World <i>Prof. Mandakranta Bose</i>		Interactions, Intersections, Interdependence: Śāktism and the Indian Vajrayāna <i>Prof. Harunaga Isaacson</i>		

## The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

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

We are pleased to announce the release of a documentary film, titled 'India's Book of Wisdom: The Bhagavata Purana', intended for use in university classrooms and beyond. The film, with subtitles in English, Spanish, and Russian (Mandarin in process), is freely available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331al7pWsJ8>

We continue work on two edited volumes:

- Dr Shakuntala Gawde at the University of Mumbai is putting together an edited volume on the Bhagavata Traditions of Maharashtra. She has commitments from an excellent group of scholars, but submissions are delayed due to pandemic-related shutdowns in India.
- Dr Neeraja Poddar is producing an edited volume on Bhagavata Art History and Visual Culture. Many seasoned as well as emerging scholars in this fledgling field of study have agreed to contribute articles and have sent in their abstracts.

You can also see our various initiatives as well as our network of scholars at the project's website: [www.bhagavatapurana.org](http://www.bhagavatapurana.org)

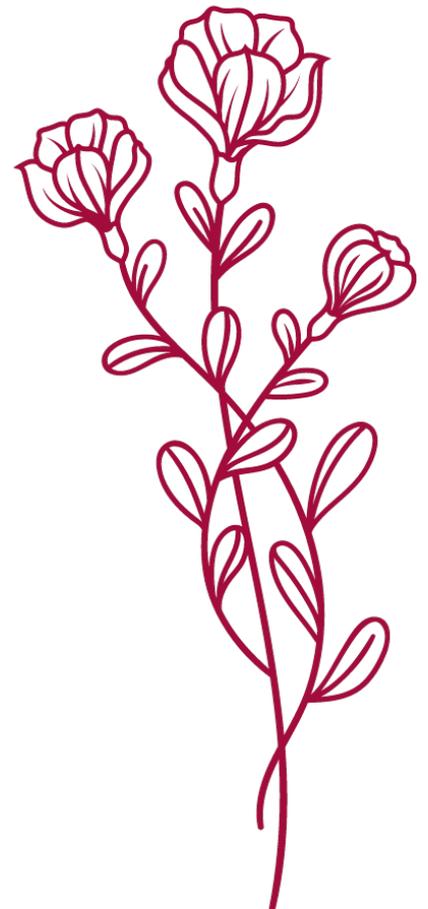
## Comparative Philosophy Project

*Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier*

This project achieved one of its main aims this year, making an impact on academic history by becoming Oxford's first ever, and one of the UK's only, Indian Philosophy courses to run in a Philosophy Faculty. Undergraduates spent two terms attending lectures co-taught by Jessica Frazier and Jan Westerhoff, and engaged in detailed tutorial discussions tutored by Lucian Wong, Justin Holder, and Jessica Frazier. They explored Vedāntic arguments for the unity of all existence in Brahman, explored Sāṃkhya ideas of identity, Kaśmiri Śaiva accounts of consciousness and arguments for Idealism, and compared Hindu approaches to ethics with contemporary theories. Each produced two essays of meticulous philosophical analysis that allowed them to develop their own new insights. Many students reported that it was their favourite course of the year, and have recommended next year's classes to future philosophy students.

The impact of this has rippled outward as Indian perspectives on philosophy become embraced by more and more scholars. Jessica Frazier gave two interviews for the popular Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast which has hosted major international names such as Daniel Dennett and Galen Strawson, and did a separate panel episode for the US philosophy and religion themed television channel Closer to Truth in association with the University of Birmingham's Global Philosophy of Religion project, as well as a Columbia University Comparative Philosophy seminar session on Bhagavad Gītā 2.47, and also becoming a Board member of the Logic and Religion Association.

Publications for the project continue with chapters on 'The World Soul in India' for the Oxford Philosophical Concepts series, on Saṃvāda or Indian philosophical debate for the Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism, and on rational debate in the Caraka



Samhitā for a forthcoming volume on Pluralism in India. The two volumes *Sacred Continuum: Being and Divinity in Hindu Philosophy* for the ‘Cambridge Studies in Religion, Society and Philosophy’ series, and *Being and Substance in Indian Philosophy* for the Routledge ‘Dialogues in Indian Traditions’ series are nearing submission.

Meanwhile students are joining in discussion on this topic. The series of four seminars on Arguments in Indian Philosophy brought together students across faculties, and one has just completed his Master’s thesis on Indian Phenomenology, while the first undergraduate dissertation on Indian Philosophy, exploring arguments for Vedāntic monism, is underway.

## The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan

*Project Leader: Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray*

The Research Project has continued to develop in the following ways:

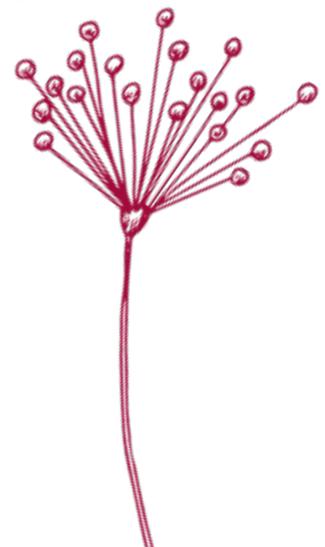
- Signed contract to co-edit *Routledge Handbook of the Hindu Temple: Materiality, Social History and Practice* along with Salila Kulshrestha and Uthara Suvrathan. The Handbook will include twenty papers by leading scholars on various aspects of the Hindu temple divided into six sub-themes. The manuscript is due for submission later in 2021 and the papers received to date are being edited.
- Tabulation of data on temples was continued based on inscriptions from the region of coastal Tamilnadu dating from the 7th to 13th century CE.
- Fieldwork to the archaeological sites could not be undertaken due to lack of financial support for the project. Besides India has been under lockdown most of 2020 and again from April 2021.

## The Comparative Study of Religion

*Project Leaders: Professor Gavin Flood FBA and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen*

This was launched as a research programme in 2019 as the result of long discussion over the years about the possibility of a reinvigorated comparative religion focus at Oxford. Professor Flood’s important book publications within the field of comparative religion (e.g. *Religion and the Philosophy of Life*, Oxford University Press 2019) provide a strong basis for such an undertaking as does the ground research and teaching by the Fellows of the OCHS. Thus, building on the success of the OCHS and what has already been achieved in comparative philosophy and Hindu Studies, the Comparative Study of Religion research programme intends to articulate its intellectual agenda through publication, lectures, and teaching. Among its initial enterprises has been a webpage, establishing a research network, and providing Comparative Study of Religion Seminars.

This year Professor Flood held a seminar on Comparative Religion in Hilary Term 2021 as a prelude to a series of seminars next year. He has also been planning a three-day international conference together with Tanja L. Jakobsen, Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology, an online event to discuss and rethink the Phenomenology of Religion as an intellectual discipline, which will be held online in October 2021.



## Publication

### Journal of Hindu Studies

In the academic year 2020-21 there were three issues of the Journal of Hindu Studies including a themed issue on Vernacular Hinduisms, one on burial monuments (samādhis), and one open issue.

In the past year, the editorial team was also enlarged with the addition of two new editors: Dr Avni Chag (British Museum), and Dr Lucian Wong (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies) have joined the three long-standing editors of the Journal—Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and Dr James Madaio.

### Routledge OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series

This series primarily intends on 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 following new volume was released during the last academic year:

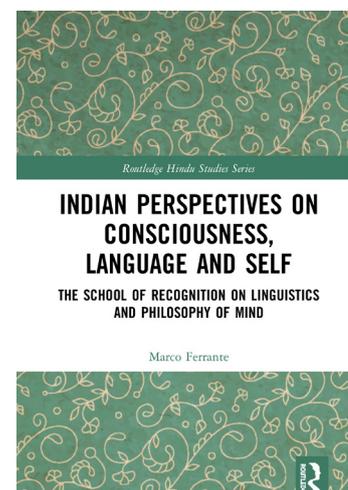
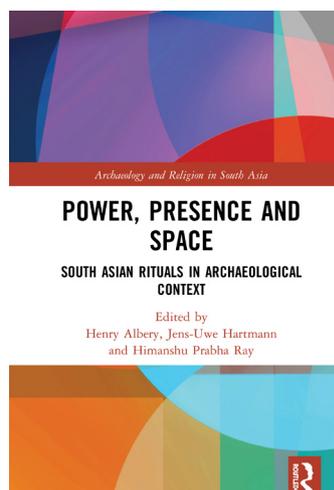
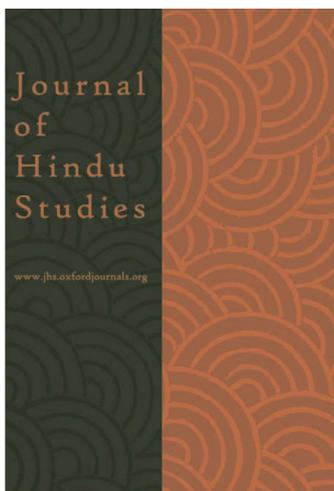
- Marco Ferrante, *Indian Perspectives on Consciousness, Language and Self: The School of Recognition on Linguistics and Philosophy of Mind*.

### Archaeology and Religion in South Asia Book Series

This Series reflects on the complex relationship between religion and society through new perspectives and advances in archaeology. This critical interface is looked upon to provide alternative understandings of communities, beliefs, cultural systems, sacred sites, ritual practices, food habits, dietary modifications, power, and agents of political legitimation. The books in the Series underline the importance of archaeological evidence in the production of knowledge of the past. They also emphasise that a systematic study of religion requires engagement with a diverse range of sources such as inscriptions, iconography, numismatics, and architectural remains.

In the past academic year, the following new book was published in the series:

- Henry Albery, Jens-Uwe Hartmann and Himanshu Prabha Ray (eds.), *Power, Presence and Space: South Asian Rituals in Archaeological Context*.



## Fellows' Publications

### Professor Shrikant Bahulkar

- 'Buddhism and Hindu Society: some observations from medieval Marathi literature', in *Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*, edited by Pradeep P. Gokhale. London: Routledge, 2021, pp. 151-160.
- 'Casting away the caste: A Buddhist standpoint in the *Vimalaprabhā* commentary on the *Kālacakra Tantra*', in *Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*, edited by Pradeep P. Gokhale. London: Routledge, 2021, pp. 77-84.

### Professor Purushottama Bilimoria

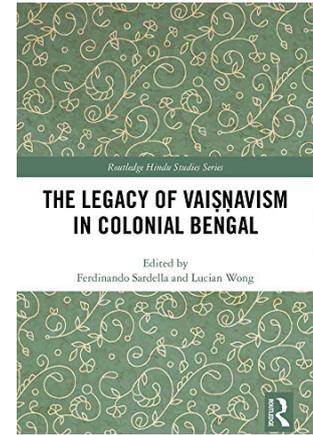
- (edited) with Rita D. Sherma. *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship*. Routledge India, 2021.
- (edited) with Ricardo P. Silvestre, Jean-Vyes Beziau, B.P. Göcke. *Beyond Faith and Rationality: Essays on Logic, Religion and Philosophy*. Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions. Springer, 2021.
- 'Hinduism', in 'Interviews on Eastern Religions on Death and the Afterlife', *Tikkun*, edited by George Yancy, June 2021. <https://www.tikkun.org/eastern-religions-on-death-and-the-afterlife>
- 'Bimal K. Matilal's Philosophy: Language Realism, Dharma, and Ineffability', *RUDN Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (June 2021), pp. 250-259.
- 'A Critique of Economic Reason: Between Tradition and Modernity', in *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses; Intersection of Sustainable Studies, and Philosophy, Religion, Theology*, edited by R. Sherma and P. Bilimoria. Springer, 2021.
- 'After Comparative Philosophy: Discussion of "Wilhelm Halbfass and the Purposes of Cross-Cultural Dialogue," by Dimitry Shevchenko', *Philosophy East & West*. Vol. 7, no. 3 (2021).
- 'Diversity and Philosophy: Vignettes on Comparative Philosophy', in *Key Concepts in World Philosophies*, edited by Chiara Rabbiano and Sarah Flavel. UK: Bloomsbury Press (in press).
- 'Thinking Negation in Early Hinduism and Classical Indian Philosophy', in *Beyond Faith and Rationality: Essays on Logic, Religion and Philosophy*, edited by Ricardo P. Silvestre, et al. Springer, 2021.
- 'Māntric Effect, Effervescent Devatā-s, Noetic Supplications, and Apūrva in the Mīmāṃsā', in *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship*, edited by Rita Sherma and Purushottama Bilimoria. Routledge India, 2021.
- 'Hindu Response to Dying and Death in the Time of COVID-19', *Frontiers in Psychology*, Vol. 12, February 2021.
- 'Gandhi's Swadeshi & A Dream of Self-Sufficiency', *India Currents* (Los Angeles), 7 January 2021.

### Professor Mandakranta Bose

- *Women in Hinduism*, OCHS CED publication (forthcoming).
- 'Dance in the Sanskritic Tradition: Building Bridges Between Text and Performance'. Article for a commemorative volume for the late Kapila Vatsyayan, to be published by IGNCA and D.K. Printworld, Delhi (forthcoming).
- 'Ahalyā, the Human Face of Sacred Infidelity', in *Hinduism and Tribal Religions: Encyclopaedia of Indian Religions*, edited by J. Long, R. Sherma, P. Jain, M. Khanna. Dordrecht: Springer (forthcoming).
- 'Women and Ethics in Hindu Thought and Practice', in *Gender, Ecology & Justice in Indian Ethics*, edited by Purushottam Billimoria. Sophia Studies Series. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer (forthcoming).

**Dr Lucian Wong**

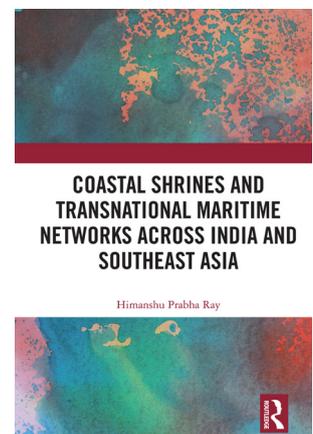
- Edited, with Ferdinando Sardella, *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.
- With Ferdinando Sardella, 'Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal: Hinduism Beyond the Renaissance.' In *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020, pp. 1-14.
- 'Colonial Morals, Vaiṣṇava Quarrels: Tracing the Sources of Nineteenth-Century Anti-Sahajiyā Polemics.' In *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020, pp. 233-55.
- Guest Editor, *Journal of Hindu Studies* 13.1. Special issue on 'Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism and Modernity'.
- Review of *Unforgetting Chaitanya: Vaishnavism and Cultures of Devotion in Colonial Bengal* by Varuni Bhatia, *Journal of Hindu Studies* 13.3 (2020), pp. 370-74.

**Professor Francis X. Clooney**

- 'Hindu-Jesuit Encounters', in *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. Routledge, 2021, pp. 79-89.
- 'The Handbook in Light of the Past and Future of Hindu-Christian Relations', in *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. Routledge, 2021, pp. 476-484.
- 'Teaching the Bhagavad Gītā in the Springtime of Pandemic,' *Tarka* vol. 0 (2021), pp. 156-161.
- 'Rāmānuja's *Nityagrantham* (Manual of Daily Worship): A Translation,' *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 24.1 (2021), pp. 345-380.
- 'On the Style of Vedānta: Reading Bhāratīrtha's *Vaiyāsikanyāyamāla* in Light of Mādhava's *Jaiminiyanyāyamāla*,' in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Vedānta*, edited by Ayon Maharaj. Bloomsbury, 2020, pp. 341-366.
- 'Rāmānuja's 11th Century Hindu Theology of Religious Experience: An Informative, Performative, Transformative Discourse', in *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Experience*, edited by Chad Meister and Paul Moser. Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 208-236.
- 'Comparative Theology in Asia,' *International Journal of Asian Christianity* 3 (2020): seven essays on comparative theology in Asia. I am the editor and author of the introduction, 'Introduction to Comparative Theology in Australia and Asia,' pp. 129-138.
- 'Jesus and the Mysticism of God in the World,' *Prabuddha Bharata* 125.12 (2020), pp. 798-801.

**Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray**

- *Coastal Shrines and Transnational Maritime Networks across India and Southeast Asia*, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- Himanshu Prabha Ray edited, *Archaeology of Knowledge Traditions of the Indian Ocean World*, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- Guest Editor, *India Quarterly*, Special Issue on Mausam Initiative, volume 76, number 2, September 2020.

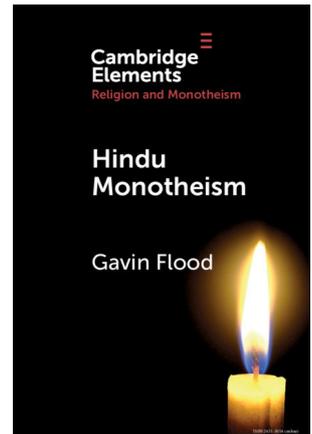
**Professor John Brockington**

- Forthcoming. 'Paṇḍit Seu to Mānaku: a pictorial Rāmāyaṇa with Sanskrit text', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.



### Professor Gavin Flood

- *Hindu Monotheism*. Element Series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Edited book, *Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. Author of 'Introduction' (pp. 1-34) and 'Practice in the Tantric Religion of Śiva' (pp. 243-271).
- 'Hinduism and Meditation: Tantra', in *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, edited by Miguel Farias, David Brazier, and Mansur Lalljee. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021, chapter 4.
- 'The Concept of Mind in Hindu Tantrism', *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 2021: 1-32. doi:10.1093/jhs/hiaa020.
- 'Implicit Anthropologies in Pre-Philosophical Śaivism', *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, vol. 48 (4), 2020, pp. 675-701. doi:10.1007/s10781-020-09435-0.
- 'Politics, Experience, and the Languages of Holiness', *Numen*, vol. 67 (2020), pp. 138-164.
- 'Becoming Invisible and the Formal Indication of the Religious Life', in *In-visibility: Reflections upon Visibility and Transcendence in Theology, Philosophy and the Arts*, edited by Anna Vind, Iben Damgaard, Kirsten Busch Nielsen, and Sven Rune Havsteen. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2020, pp. 49-61.
- 'Bhartṛhari', in *Wiley-Blackwell The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, 2020.



### Dr Jessica Frazier

- Forthcoming. 'Foundations of Indian Philosophy', in *Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd Edition, Gavin Flood ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
- 'Samvada', in *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, Jacobsen ed. 2021
- 'The Self in Meditation: The Art of the Self', in *Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, Miguel Farias ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- 'The World-Soul in India: Complex Causality and Artful Emergence in Śakti Vedānta', in *The World Soul (Oxford Philosophical Concepts)*, James Wilberding ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

### Professor Ravi M. Gupta

- 'Battling Serpents, Marrying Trees: Towards an Ecotheology of the Bhagavata Purana', *Journal of Dharma Studies*, April 2021.
- 'Why Sridhara Svami? The Makings of a Successful Sanskrit Commentary', *Religions*, 11.9, article 436, 2020.
- 'Accomplishing the Impossible: Jiva Gosvami and the Concept of Acintya in Caitanya Vaisnava Vedanta', in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Vedanta*, London: Bloomsbury, 2020, pp. 131-156.

### Dr Santanu Dey

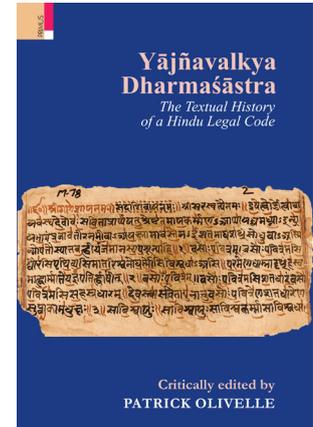
- 'Locating Viṣṇupriyā in the Tradition: Women, Devotion and Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Times', *Religions*, Vol 11 (issue 11), 555, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11110555>
- 'The Quest for Identity: Institutionalizing Processes among Gaudiya Vaishnavas of Colonial Bengal', in *Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Society*, edited by Ruby Sain. New Delhi: Mittal Publications, 2021, pp.93-110.
- 'Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism: Reasserting the relevance and possibilities of Shaktipitha-related travel circuits in South Asia', in *Tourist Resources of India in Contemporary Perspective*, edited by Gautam Mukhopadhyay. Belur Math: Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, 2021, pp.55-81.

**Professor Dermot Killingley**

- ‘The Hindu Evolutionary Heritage and Hindu Criticism of Darwinism’, in *Asian Religious Responses to Darwinism: Evolutionary Theories in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and East Asian Cultural Contexts*, edited by C. Mackenzie Brown (Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures, Volume 33). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2020, pp. 137-165.
- ‘Rammohun Roy’, in *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad M. Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. London and New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 297-306.

**Professor Patrick Olivelle**

- *Yājñavalkya Dharmaśāstra: The Textual History of a Hindu Legal Code*. (Critical Edition with critical apparatus) Delhi: Primus Books, 2020.
- ‘Dharmaśāstra: Materiality in and of Hindu Code’, in *A Companion to Religion and Materiality*, edited by Vasudha Narayanan. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2020, pp. 530-544.
- ‘The Early History of Renunciation’, in *Hindu Practice*, edited by Gavin Flood. (The Oxford History of Hinduism.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 101-121.



**Dr Rembert Lutjeharms**

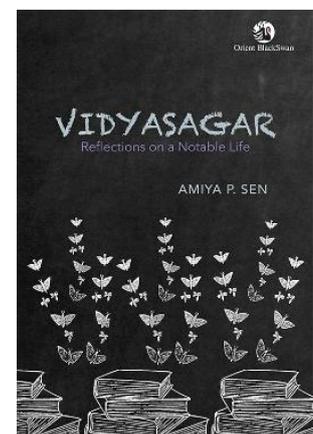
- ‘Vaiṣṇava Practice’, in *Hindu Practice*, edited by Gavin Flood. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 272-310.
- ‘A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of Early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas’, in *The Building of Vṛndāvana*, edited by Kiyokazu Okita and Rembert Lutjeharms, Brill, forthcoming.
- ‘The Perfection of All Beauty and Joy: A Gauḍīya Vedāntic theology of devotional love’, in *The Worldwide Krishna Movement: Half a Century of Growth, Impact, and Challenge*, edited by Graham Schweig, forthcoming.

**Professor Kiyokazu Okita**

- ‘Śleṣa Readings on Bhāgavatapurāṇa 1.1.1: Śrīnātha Cakravartī’s Caitanyamatamañjuṣā Commentary’, *The Journal of Indian and Buddhist Studies*, 69.3 (2021), pp. 979-985.
- Review of *The Emergence of Modern Hinduism: Religion on the Margins of Colonialism*, by Richard S. Weiss (Oakland: University of California Press, 2019), *International Journal of Asian Studies*, 18.1 (2021), pp. 147-149.
- Review of *A Vaiṣṇava Poet in Early Modern Bengal: Kavikarṇapūra’s Splendour of Speech*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 24 (2020), pp. 423-425.

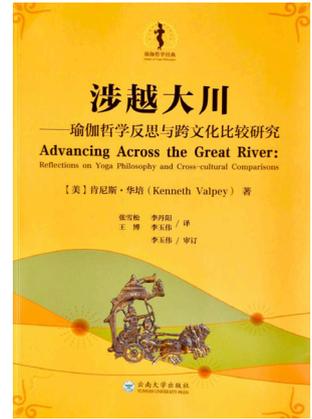
**Professor Amiya P. Sen**

- *Vidyasagar. Reflections on Notable Life*. Delhi: Orient Black Swan. 2021.
- Guest Editor, Special Issue on Hinduism: ‘Hinduism: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Developments’. *Religions* Vol.12, 85, 2021.
- ‘Japan in India’s Xenology. Negotiating Modernity, Culture and Cosmopolitanism in Colonial Bengal’ in *Culture as Power. Buddhist Heritage and Indo Japanese Dialogue*, edited by Madhu Bhalla. London: Routledge, 2021.
- ‘Sister Nivedita’, *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, Oxford University Press.



**Dr Kenneth R. Valpey**

- *Advancing Across the Great River: Reflections on Yoga Philosophy and Cross-Cultural Comparisons*. Kunming (China): Yunnan University Press, 2021. (Dual language publication – Mandarin and English).
- ‘Keeping Cows in the Center: Cow Care in ISKCON’. *ISKCON Communications Journal* Vol. 12, 2021, pp. 57-74.



**Professor Ferdinando Sardella**

- With Knut A. Jacobsen (eds.): *Handbook of Hinduism in Europe, Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section two, South Asia, Vol. 31/1 and 2*. Leiden: Brill, 2020.
- With Clemens Cavallin, Åke Sander, and Sudha Sitharaman (eds.): *The Future of Religious Studies in India*. London; New York: Routledge, 2021.
- ‘Walther Eidlitz’s Embrace of Chaitanya Vaishnavism.’ *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Vol. 29, no. 1, Fall 2020, pp. 105-116.
- ‘ISKCON and the Gaudiya Maths: Conflicts, Schisms, Growth, and Aspiration.’ *ISKCON Communications Journal*, Vol. 12, 2021, pp. 133-145.

**Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder**

- *Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya*, Routledge Hindu Studies Series, forthcoming.
- ‘Maṇḍivīpa’ and ‘Bālā’, in *Tāntrikābhidhānakośa IV / Dictionnaire des termes techniques de la littérature hindoue tantrique / A Dictionary of Technical Terms from Hindu Tantric Literature / Wörterbuch zur Terminologie hinduistischer Tanten*, edited by D. Goodall, M. Rastelli, Verlag der Österreichischer Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien, forthcoming.

**Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen**

- ‘Hinduism and the Goddess: Śākta Traditions’, in *Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd Edition, Gavin Flood ed. Oxford: Blackwell (forthcoming 2021).
- ‘Hinduism and Meditation: Yoga’, in *Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, Miguel Farias ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- With Gavin Flood & Rajan Khatiwoda, *Tantra in Medieval India and Nepal: An annotated edition and translation of the Tantra of the Eye, the Netra Tantra*, Vol. 1, Oxford: Routledge (forthcoming 2022).
- With Ulrik Lyngs & Rajan Khatiwoda: OCHS Manuscript Database (<https://ochs-database-demo.netlify.app/sakta/>).



Netra Tantra manuscript (Nepal, 1200 CE)

## Conference Papers and Lectures by Fellows

### Professor Shrikant Bahulkar

- ‘River as a Cow and Cow as a River.’ Durga Bhagawat Endowment Lecture, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 1 December 2020.
- ‘From Atharvaveda to Āyurveda.’ Invited Talk in the National Seminar *Ātharvaṇī – 2021: A Sneak Peek into the Roots of Indian Medicine and Philosophy*. Organized by Ahalia Ayurveda Medical College Hospital, Pallakkad (Kerala), 17 – 21 April 2021.

### Professor Purushottama Bilimoria

- ‘Yogic-Perception (yogaja-pratyakṣa) in Nyāya and Jainism’, World Logic Day Symposium Logic and Religion, 15 January 2021.
- ‘Using the Routledge History of Indian Philosophy to teach Indian Philosophical Classics with an Analytic-Comparative Focus’, APA Teaching Hub, How to Teach an Asian Philosophical Classic *Sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophy*, 8 January 2021.
- Global Critical Philosophy of Religion and Multi-Entry Volume Project. Workshop, 12-13 January 2021.
- APA Central Division, Society for Philosophy of Emotions, Comments for Michael Cholbi’s Book Symposium: ‘A Philosophy of Grief’. February 2021.
- (With Anand Vaidya) ‘Cognition, Causation, Consciousness in Jainism’, Second International Conference on Jainism and Science, Jain Studies Foundation, Florida International University, March 2021.
- ‘Diversity in Philosophy Journals: Overcoming Insularity, Breaking Down Walls’, East-West Philosophers’ Conference, East-west Center, Honolulu, May 2021.

### Professor Mandakranta Bose

- ‘Divinity and Femininity—Śakti in the World.’ Zoom seminar within OCHS’s Śakta Project, May 2021.
- ‘My World in 1946—Memories of India’s Partition.’ Zoom lecture to a Delhi University graduate seminar, April 2021.
- Response on Zoom to a paper presented on *kutiyattam* by Adheesh Sathaye and Elena Mucciarelli at the STIMW symposium, 27 May 2021.

### Professor John Brockington

- ‘The *Mrcchakaṭikā* of Śūdraka’, Sukānta Mahāvidyālaya, Dhūpguṛi, W Bengal, 4 May 2021.
- ‘Some illustrated *Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa* manuscripts’, *Transdisciplinary Approaches to the Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata* (International Online Seminar Series organised by the Centre for Asian Studies, Cardiff University), 3 June 2021.

### Mary Brockington

- ‘The development of the *Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa* post Vālmīki: the Rāma narrative in the epics.’ Graduate Studies Seminar, University of Oxford, 1 December 2020.

### Dr Santanu Dey

- ‘Engaging with Digital Humanities’ at an International Faculty Development Programme on ‘Research Methods in Social Sciences’ organised by Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, Kolkata; St. Xaviers College, Kolkata; and Stockholm University, Sweden on 26th November 2020.

**Professor Madhav Deshpande**

- Interview by Minakshi Joshi for the Jahnvi Sanskrit e-journal, 15 September 2020: <https://youtu.be/SFZPwh85FGg>
- ‘Signs of Rationality in the Ancient Indian Tradition,’ online lecture for the International Seminar organized by the Sambodh Foundation, Bangalore, 29 November 2020.
- ‘The Scope of Sanskrit in Ancient India.’ Svasthya Rasa Bodhini Lecture Online, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 4 December 2020: <https://youtu.be/shpSEuv7mdg>
- ‘Pāṇini, the Father of Modern Linguistics,’ online lecture for Atharva Forum, India, 26 December 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5BcwDcb6Rs>
- ‘Saṃskṛta-Vyākaraṇaśāstre Vicāra-Svātantryam,’ online lecture for Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Chief Guest at the Two-Day International Seminar on Sanskrit Grammar, 11 January 2021.
- Five initial lectures for the series ‘Sanskrit Language and Its Traditions: A Journey through its History and Contemporaneity, An International Online Lecture Series,’ organized by the School of Humanities, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 20 January-17 February 2021: Lecture 1: ‘Indian Traditions on the Vedas and Sanskrit’: <https://youtu.be/guAZBPV4B4Q>; Lecture 2: ‘Sanskrit: A Historical Linguistics Approach’: [https://youtu.be/o4mUrD\\_7Jxo](https://youtu.be/o4mUrD_7Jxo); Lecture 3: ‘Sociolinguistics of Sanskrit’: <https://youtu.be/Zcp7qGQNFj0>; Lecture 4: ‘Sanskrit Grammarians: From Pāṇini to Patañjali’: <https://youtu.be/W47Ag9yp26c>; Lecture 5: ‘Forms of Vernacular Sanskrit’: <https://youtu.be/fnT6ZzlBP6k>
- ‘Grammar before Pāṇini,’ Deccan College Bicentennial Course, online lecture, 5 February 2021.
- ‘History and Prehistory of Sanskrit Language,’ for Shri Yoga, Washington, D.C., online lecture, 21 March 2021.
- ‘pāṇinīyavyākaraṇe vicārasvātantryam,’ Sanskrit Talk-for-Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 6 April 2021.
- Read ‘Śārādiya-Vāk-Kusumophāraḥ’ in Viśvastarīyā-Kāvyaśaṅgoṣṭhī, arranged to celebrate the birthday of Shri Vats Deshraj Sharma, Mandi, organised by Brahmavidyollāsini, Odisha, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh, 22 May 2021.

**Dr Jessica Frazier**

- ‘Women in Theology,’ Talk at Oxford Faculty of Theology and Religion, May 2021.
- ‘Arguments in Indian Philosophy Seminars: Monism, Identity, Idealism, Ethics,’ Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, April – June 2021.
- ‘The Good Conversationalist: Pluralism in the Caraka Saṃhitā,’ Pluralism Project, April 2021.
- ‘Perspectives on Bhagavad Gītā 2.47,’ Invited Speaker, Columbia University Seminar on Comparative Religion, April 2021.
- ‘Heidegger and India talk,’ SOAS Dead Philosophers Society, March 2021.
- ‘Defining Atheism in India: When is a Theory of Everything a Theory of the Divine (or not)?’ Atheism and Unbelief in Global Philosophy and Religion, Bath Spa Colloquium for Global Philosophy and Religion, Sept 2020.

**Professor Ravi M. Gupta**

- ‘Toward a Vaishnava Interfaith Theology.’ Maxwell Institute Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, November 2020.
- ‘Varieties of Scholar-Practitioners.’ Maxwell Institute Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 2020.
- ‘Engaged Vaishnavism: Possibilities and Challenges.’ *Gauḍīya Studies Programme*, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, December 2020, March 2020, and June 2021.

**Dr Rembert Lutjeharms**

- ‘The Embodiment of all Rasa: Experience and religious pluralism in early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava theology’, *Pluralism and Plurality in Classical and Contemporary India*, The Czech Academy of Sciences, 18-19 September 2020.

**Professor Kiyokazu Okita**

- ‘A Brief History of Devotional Aesthetic Sentiment (*Bhakti-rasa*)’, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 15 February 2021.
- ‘Śleṣa Readings on *Bhāgavatapurāṇa* 1.1.1: Śrīnātha Cakravartī’s *Caitanyamatamañjuṣā* Commentary’, 71st Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies, 5 July 2020.

**Professor Patrick Olivelle**

- Talks on Indian Law at ‘Sanskrit Language and Its Traditions’, Online International Lecture Series, 3 March 2021; and at Department of Ancient Indian History, University of Calcutta, 12 March 2021.

**Dr Neeraja Poddar**

- ‘Mapping a South Asian Sacred Journey: The Gosainkund Pilgrimage Painting at Philadelphia Museum of Art’, Lecture, The Archaeological Institute of America Toronto Society.
- ‘Text and Image in South Asian Painting’, Taught seminar series, Jnanapravaha Mumbai.
- ‘The Philadelphia Museum of Art’s Gosainkund Painting: Visualizing the Routes and Sites of Pilgrimage in Nepal’, Lecture, University of Pennsylvania’s Workshop in the History of Material Texts, Philadelphia.

**Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray**

- ‘Spread of Buddhism in India: how stupas were discovered’, Jaipur Literature Festival 2021, 20 February 2021.
- ‘Metals across the Seas: Ceremonials and Display’, *China and the Maritime Silk Road: shipwrecks, ports and products* webinar, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, 21-23 August 2020.

**Professor Ferdinando Sardella**

- Keynote address in ‘Spiritual Well-being and Stress Management: Religio-Psychological Perspectives.’ Three days international webinar conference organized by Bhaktivedanta Research Center, Kolkata, in collaboration with Kolkata Society for Asian Studies. 21 September 2020.
- ‘Introduction of the Theme’ and ‘The Sociology of Religion and Cultural Studies’ in *Research Methods in Social Sciences with Focus on Cultural Studies*. A five-day online international conference organised by St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous) Kolkata in collaboration with Bhaktivedanta Research Centre Kolkata, Sri Jagannath Research Centre of St. Paul’s Cathedral Mission College Kolkata, Kolkata Society of Asian Studies and the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Genders Studies, Stockholm University. 23-26 November 2020.

**Professor Amiya P. Sen**

- ‘Hindutva before Hindutva. Some Reflections on the Complex Genealogy of Hindu Nationalism’, Webinar, South Asia Institute, Lecture Series on Politics and Governance, Heidelberg, 14 June 2021.
- ‘A Storm of Reform. Rammohun, Vidysagar and Emerging Debates in 19th Century Bengal’, Webinar, Womens’ History Conclave, 20 June 2021.

**Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder**

- ‘Tantric Elements Embedded in a Purāṇic Context: the Example of the *Māhātmyakhaṇḍa* of the *Tripurārahasya*’, Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Hilary Term 2021.

**Professor Daniel Ehnbohm**

- ‘The Pre-History of Illustrating the *Bhagavata Purana* and Its Continuation in Later Times’, *Society for Asian Art*, San Francisco, 22 September 2020.

**Dr Kenneth Valpey**

- ‘Between William Blake and the Bhagavad-gita: Rebooting the Imagination for Troubled Times’. Presentation in the online conference *Spiritual Well-being and Stress Management: Religio-Psychological Perspectives*. Bhaktivedanta Research Centre & Kolkata Society for Asian Studies, 22 September 2020.
- ‘Reinscribing Vraja: A Krishna-centered pilgrimage replication in southwest Hungary’. *Sacred Journeys Online Global Conference* (part 1), Indiana University & Purdue University, Indianapolis, 29 June to 3 July 2020.
- ‘Comparison as a Way of Knowing in the Study of Religion’, *Research Methods in Social Sciences with Focus on Cultural Studies*, Department of History, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata Faculty Development Program, 24 November 2020.
- ‘Temples and Deities: Vaishnava Ritual in a Changing World’. *Gauḍīya Studies Programme*, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, March 2020 and June 2021.
- ‘Earnestness in Hearing and Reading the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*’. *American Academy of Religion annual meeting*. Panel: ‘The Implications of Being Earnest: Sincerity in South Asian Contexts’. 2 December 2020.

**Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen**

- ‘Bali or “Blood Sacrifice” and its Prominent Position and Textual Justification in Tantric Hinduism’, *Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in the Study of Religions, ‘Violence and its Justification in Religion’*, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, 4 December 2020.
- ‘Hinduism and the Goddess - Śāktism and Śākta traditions (part 1 & 2)’, *Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series*, Michaelmas Term 2020, OCHS. Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfCZOUXt2g4>, Part 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmB3QxB\\_-po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmB3QxB_-po)
- ‘Traditionel tantra, yoga og Kathmandudalens mysterier’, Danish-Nepalese Society Online Lecture, 2 February 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSPWSn26PGo&t=5032s>



## Visiting Fellow's Report

### OCHS Visiting Fellow

### Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary Term 2021:

### Ulrik Lyngs

The 2020 academic year continued to be marked by the Covid pandemic. However, it was also an opportunity for the OCHS to continue exploring how digital tools can provide new ways to interact with and understand traditional materials.

Hence, it was a pleasure for me to continue as a Digital Visiting Fellow at the OCHS in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. Our focus during these terms was to explore how the growing corpus of digitised manuscripts collected by the Śākta research programme in Nepal can be made openly available in a way that allows researchers to (a) interact with the soft-copies of manuscripts and their corresponding transcriptions, translations, and critical notes, as well as (b) access the materials in an open format that permits easy re-use in large-scale analyses leveraging a data science toolkit.

Through the terms, we iterated on designs for a website that will function as a publicly accessible interface for browsing, downloading, and analyzing manuscripts from OCHS projects. We built a live prototype that demonstrated an interface where researchers can view manuscript photos and their corresponding text content side-by-side, overlay text on top of the manuscript images for easy comparison between, for example, transliteration and the original script, and comment or suggest corrections on text or image materials.

We also added a section for the Bengali project, which over time may make tens of thousands of Bengali journals available to the public, in addition to the Śākta manuscripts. With guidance from Dr Rajan Khatiwoda we also explored how the OCHS' manuscript collection may integrate meta data from other existing database projects, including the NGMCP.

This work paved the ground for a new research project which was approved by the Academic Planning Committee, namely the Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies project, which will continuously explore the potential for using computational methods in combination with traditional scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. This new project is led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and me, with Dr Lucian Wong as the new leader of the Bengali text project. I will continue as the Digital Humanities Consultant & Data Science Lead of the project. The project is forming a research network with Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg) and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo) and includes three digital curators: Michael Elison (Śākta), Siddharth Chhabra (Bengali), and Prema Goet (Śākta and Geldblum Collection). The open-access database we have prototyped will be a key output of this research project, in combination with online lecture series and seminars on basic data science workflows for textual analysis, as well as wider exploration of new workflows for applying computational tools in Hindu Studies.



## Conferences and Seminars

### Haṭhapradīpikā Translation Seminar

In June, we held a workshop for participants of the Haṭhapradīpikā translation project in the woods of Mjøldrup, Denmark, for going through peer review and feedback from external readers. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the project participants we managed to make the final adjustments to the book, and we are immensely happy and proud of the result!

This workshop marks the grande finale of the Haṭhapradīpikā translation project and concludes many years of work, not only aiming at a translation of the text but also at a better understanding of its different contexts and teachings. The publication has grown substantially in scope since the project's inauguration. In addition to the translation of the text into Danish, it also includes extensive notes, a critical glossary, illustrations of yoga postures, and two essays.



### 37th Annual STIMW Symposium

Conveners:

Dr Jessica Frazier

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Dr Lucian Wong

The Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World Symposium celebrated its 37th event on 28 May 2021, bringing together a global community of scholars working on Sanskrit sources of all kinds, in a shared conversation hosted by the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. The Symposium enjoys a unique structure of having pre-circulated papers introduced by a scholar who then turns over to a response from the author, and opens the floor to general discussion from the audience. This year, as ever, this allowed for vigorous and collegial engagement on a range of topics. Approximately fifty participants from as far afield as Canada, Australia, India, and across Europe joined in.

#### **This year the Symposium's papers were on:**

*Uncoiling a concept: Kuṇḍalinī in the early Haṭha corpus*

Ruth Westoby

*Dharmaśāstra in the Ayodhya Verdict (2019)*

C. T. Fleming

*Hanumān's Leaps of Faith: Intertextuality in the Dharma-maṅgala*

Rebecca Manring

*Transcreating Sanskrit Humour through Kutiyattam Performance*

Elena Mucciarelli & Adheesh Sathaye

The respondents were Jason Birch, Mandakranta Bose, Ishan Chakrabarti, and Jacqueline Hirst.

## Awards for Students

**Amit Mishra Scholarship**  
Valters Negribs

**Dr Sivaswami and Dr Renuka Nagraj Bursary**  
Yizhou Liu

**Gopal and Elizabeth Krishna Bursary**  
Jesper Moeslund

**Gupta Dan Bursary**  
Meera Tridevi

**Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary**  
Yizhou Liu

**Hanuman Bursary**  
Barbora Sojkova

**Jiva Gosvami Scholarship**  
Sibylle Koch

**Okita Bursary**  
Barbora Sojkova

**The Parvati Foundation**  
Ranjamrittika Bhowmik

**Prof. Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book Prize**  
Brett Parris

**Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary**  
Jacob Fisher

**Sri Swami Haridas Giri Scholarship**  
Simon Haas, Priyesh Patel, Mohini Gupta, Lena Molin, Julia Dalalba, Alan Herbert

**Tristan Elby Bursary**  
Valters Negribs, Yizhou Liu, Imran Visram, Ranjamrittika Bhowmik

**Urmimala and Diptendu Ghosh Bursary**  
Sharvi Maheswari

**Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Shaivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies**  
Prema Goet

**Ramalal B Patel Bursary**  
Yizhou Liu



### This year our bursaries and scholarship supported:

- 1 Students from less privileged families studying for an Oxford University degree
- 2 Fieldwork and impressive scholarly achievements
- 3 Publication of research enriching the field of Hindu Studies



## Thanks from Students



‘The OCHS bursary was the reason I was able to join the DPhil programme at Oxford. The faith and support offered by the Centre, and their willingness to go out of the way to support their students, are commendable and made me feel at home in a new place. I am so grateful to be associated with OCHS and look forward to many meaningful collaborations.’

*Mohini Gupta  
DPhil student  
University of Oxford*

‘I would really like to thank OCHS for providing me with the bursary. It not only gave me the financial autonomy to work on my personal projects but also allowed me to buy books for my area of study. I am very happy to report that I ultimately invested the money to come up with a lecture series (with the help of other OCHS members) based on Gender in Hinduism, a theme that is very close to my heart. This would not have been possible without the generosity of the benefactors and the openmindedness of the Centre.’

*Sharvi Maheswari  
MPhil student  
University of Oxford*



## 2. HARISH I K PATEL LIBRARY

The OCHS—and its Library—have been closed for most of the past academic year, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Library nevertheless made books available to the few students who were in Oxford throughout the year, through a pick-up lending system.

Behind the scenes, however, much has been happening. Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, a librarian of the former Indian Institute Library, Oxford, has again offered much of her time this year to help with the cataloguing, and together with Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, has made significant progress on cataloguing some of the large collections that the OCHS Library acquired in the recent past. The closure of the Library also facilitated a reorganisation of the Library, which was much needed due to those large acquisitions and which will be ongoing during the long vacation, so that the Library will be ready to reopen in Michaelmas Term.

‘The OCHS has an excellent library and Rembert Lutjeharms has helped me locate a number of articles and monographs that are crucial to my research’.

*Dr Neeraja Poddar*



# 3. CONTINUING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Online Courses

Courses in Development

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Chaplaincy

Web Development

Integration with Academic Planning Committee and role within OCHS

## Online Courses

For the academic year 2020–21 we have a record of four-fold increase in enrolments on our online courses making it a total of 2200 new students. This represents a fivefold increase in revenue over the past five years.

These figures were aided by six new courses: four new levels of Sanskrit, taking us up to Level 11, and major new courses on Yoga Sutras and Tantra by Nick Sutton and Gavin Flood respectively.

Our previous year's growth in weekend schools was momentarily derailed by Covid, however quick work by Daniel Simpson, Zoë Slatoff, and Raj Balkaran, initiated a whole new programme of online weekend schools which have proved to be highly successful. Additionally, this year we held five weekend schools and a day school. These ranged in format from retreat-based sessions to solid academic weekends.

## Courses in Development

Our Course Development Board came into its own this year and has created a more robust system of course review. Courses in progress include:

- Hinduism and Popular Religious Art
- Mahabharata
- Goddess Traditions
- Shakta Traditions
- Colonial Hinduism
- Hindu Psychology
- Modern Hindu Teachers
- Introduction to Jainism

We are also in discussion on courses including Ayurveda, Bhakti traditions, and Mysticism.

Together these will give us a curriculum of about 40 courses. We are currently identifying the gaps in this curriculum in order to create the next round of courses.



## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a popular accreditation amongst yoga teachers and other practitioners. In many occupations it is a requirement that practitioners show CPD accreditation each year. This year we're running a trial of accrediting five of our courses with CPD credits as a way of adding value. If successful we aim to roll it out to most, or all, courses eventually.

## Chaplaincy

We are in ongoing discussions with groups and individuals attempting to formalise Hindu Chaplaincy accreditation and training in the USA. We have historically good links with all the stakeholders. We have two aims here:

1. Have our courses recognised as required training.
2. Create a range of chaplaincy courses based on existing work.

## Web Development

CED consists of two main websites. The sales site, where students learn of our courses, and the Learning Management System (LMS) where the courses are presented.

We are in the process of upgrading the sales site and increasing our search engine presence with a view to bringing in new cohorts of students.

We also plan to upgrade the LMS in the year ahead. We have been very successful in retaining students but it is felt that improving the LMS will further increase re-enrollment rates.

## Integration with Academic Planning Committee and role within OCHS

An interesting partnership has developed between CED and the academic life of the OCHS. CED helps fund the work of the OCHS and at the same time is fed by that work. In fact, most of the APC has been involved in CED development. As well as this, the APC appoints a member to the CED Course Development Board who also sits on the CED management committee. The current APC representative is Lucian Wong.

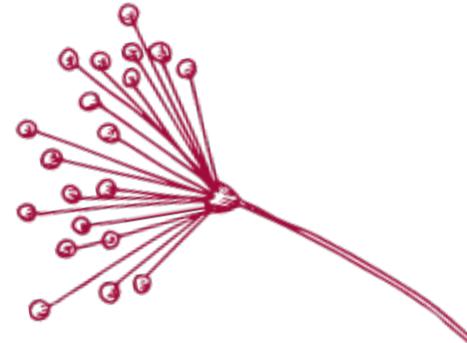
The CED provides teaching and course development opportunities for scholars who want to reach a wider audience. CED has also at times provided scholars from amongst its own alumni who have come to Oxford to study and some of these have then fed back into CED course development.



## Quotes from Students

‘Being from a Hindu background, this course was a blessing. To be able to academically study Hinduism is a rarity. The course far exceeded my expectations. The discourses on religious texts have been profound and eye-opening. The lecturer is incredibly passionate and one can’t help to be moved by his sheer excitement’.

Supriya, USA



‘The course [Philosophy of Yoga] is perfectly designed to answer questions about the history of yoga philosophy, and to provide a framework for further study. I shall be back for more courses on Hinduism’.

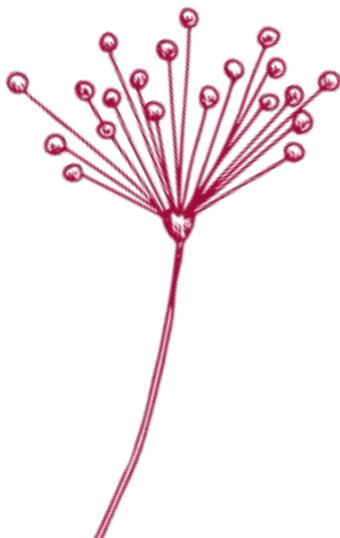
Debora, USA

The tutor is truly an ocean of knowledge and I was impressed by his command of Sanskrit. In a nutshell a very intensive course with many perspectives’.

Ruby, India

‘10/10. Pitched at a perfect level. Having dabbled in yoga for 25 years and having read most of the texts discussed here I feel I only now understand it all fully. Many “aha!” moments as the pieces of the puzzle fell together. Something that will make me a better practitioner and a more confident teacher’.

Jitka, UK



# 4. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Chaplaincy

Outreach

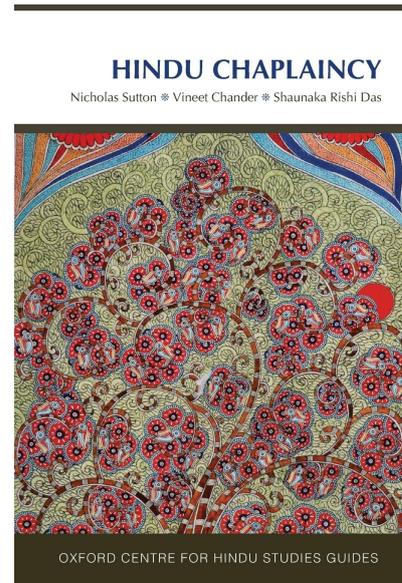
Hindu Climate Action

## Chaplaincy

It was a vibrant year in the field of chaplaincy. Even though most activities were online, there was an increased number of students reaching out to our Hindu Chaplain, Shaunaka Rishi Das. We also saw an increase in the chaplaincy need from the University Hospitals and Hospice.

Members of the Chaplaincy Team taught on the Hindu Ministry course, Harvard Divinity School, and on the Hindu Chaplaincy course at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The book *Hindu Chaplaincy*, by Dr Nick Sutton, has been accepted as recommended text for both of these courses—two of the first courses in Hindu Chaplaincy internationally.

Nick Sutton, Lal Krishna, and Shaunaka Rishi took part in the launch of the North American Hindu Chaplains Association, a conference that took place online with one of our members giving a keynote address.



## Outreach

Interest in our work with the development of the Dow Jones Dharma Index increased during the year:

- We interacted with the UK based charity Faith Invest with an interest in reviving the programme.
- Shaunaka Rishi Das joined the advisory board of the Oxford Faith Aligned Impact Finance Project run by Oxford University's Said Business School.
- The Centre was involved in developing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for the UN Environment Programme about Hindu investment policy.
- Shaunaka Rishi Das and Tanja L. Jakobsen advised on Hinduism within contemporary capital markets for a forthcoming book published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Members of the centre also participated in two recordings of BBC Radio 4 Beyond Belief programmes, and The Hindustani Times ran an article on the ethos of the Centre and the need for academic Hindu Studies, penned by one of their celebrated journalists Vir Sanghvi.

For a number of years now Shaunaka Rishi Das has participated in the Annual Vaishnava-Christian Dialogues in India. This year's event was held via Zoom but was none the less rewarding.

This year we received students from St James School London, and from the University of Florida. Shaunaka Rishi Das spoke at a Young Presidents' Organization, Gold Retreat, in Oxfordshire, and at The Rotary Club, Gately, South Africa, among other events and interviews.



Annual Vaishnava-Christian Dialogues in India Zoom conference.

## Hindu Climate Action

Hindu Climate Action (HCA) is a service project of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies that uses Hindu values to inspire the UK Hindu community to help create a sustainable environment. Founded over a year ago, HCA has participated in more than 30 events, workshops and talks, engaging with people from a range of ages, backgrounds and even countries. From temples to youth groups and universities, they have grown in reach.

### National Aims

Climate change is causing havoc in the natural world and is affecting the poorest and most vulnerable in society. This opposes Hindu values such as Dharma (righteousness), Ahimsa (non-harm) and Karuna (compassion). Hindu Climate Action aims to:

1. Raise awareness about the ongoing climate emergency and highlight the importance of protecting the environment in the Hindu tradition.
2. Inspire the Hindu Community to go green.
3. Run environmental campaigns which allow the community to respond to the climate emergency.
4. Join interfaith initiatives on climate activism.

### The Environmental Challenge

This year the team collaborated with the National Hindu Students Forum UK (NHSF UK) and over 150 of our members joined in. We called upon students to participate in a series of challenges, such as switching to a plant-based meal and upcycling. To celebrate the success of the event, we planted over 50 trees in partnership with NHSF UK and Avon Needs Trees.

### Fast Fashion Workshop

In February 2021, we successfully ran an interactive fast fashion workshop for university students. With topical and education discussions, over 40 students increased their knowledge about the fast fashion industry as well as what Hinduism teaches.

### Career Prospects Webinar

After a successful breakthrough with university students, we saw a clear area of interest and pursued hosting a careers webinar around environmental jobs. Key speakers working for the civil service, IEMA, environmental and business sustainability and wildlife photography, industry experts in an array of fields gave students an insight into jobs within the environmental sphere. We received over 80 sign-ups across 25 different universities and 3 internships were offered at South Asians For Sustainability, a partner organisation.



### In Conversation With...

Partnering with organisations such as Greenpeace, Green Alliance, NHSF UK, Greens of Colour and The Conservation Volunteers, we are highlighting the work of climate activists, organisations and sampradaya in the UK through our online talks 'In Conversation With...'. These live sessions act as an opportunity to highlight the work of climate activists, organisations and sampradaya in the United Kingdom. We have reached a global audience, working with the Hindu Students Forum Netherlands. So far, HCA has held 9 live-streamed talks as a part of the venture with a total reach of 3,500+ views.

### THE UK WATER CRISIS: WHAT CAN WE DO?

#### Angie Morley

I'm Angie, I currently work on managing projects and implementing innovation with a focus on ESG at a law firm. I joined UpRising in 2019 to learn more about the structure of power and how I could make more of a positive impact on social issues I really care about. Out of this, joining SWUB, I've loved working as a team to make real change. I'm specifically interested in how we can help businesses implement water sustainability in their strategy for the future.



#### Pavan Bains

Pavan is an Environmental Science undergraduate at the University of Birmingham who hopes to encourage people and businesses to consider their water footprint. She organises events for Sustainable Water Use Birmingham (SWUB), and most recently organised a webinar event with Dr David Hannah, the UNESCO Chair of Water Science. She also researches and creates social media content for the SWUB accounts.

### Mandir Work

Our work with local communities is a key part of what we aim to do at Hindu Climate Action. This year, despite restrictions on in-person visitations to our mandirs, we were able to deliver multiple workshops to over 60 members of the Leicester Gujarati Community. The workshops outlined the urgency of the climate crisis, our responsibility to protect the planet as Hindus, how the attendees can reduce their carbon footprint and get involved with our work. Within these sessions, we were also aiming to recruit individuals to take part in our Saree Bag Campaign by sewing old sarees into reusable bags. The initiative aims at combating plastic pollution in local shops by distributing reusable bags around the Hindu community made from old sarees.

### Education

Partnering with the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, we are proud to announce The Hinduism and Ecology Course. This course has been designed to understand the key links between Dharma and Ecology in Sanatana Dharma. The aim of the course is to spread these values to a wider audience through an academic lens and to give a foundational understanding of the concept of religion and how the concept of ecology interconnect. It will explore how such values, teachings and guidelines can help us respond to this unprecedented climate emergency. The subtle theme will be the connection that spans beyond creation and how Dharma and Ecology are both one.



# 5. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

Financial Results Year ended 31st March 2021

## Financial Results Year ended 31st March 2021

The audited Financial Statements for 31 March 2021 have been prepared by Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Oxford.

### Summary Results

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>		
Donations	295,908	199,843
Charitable Activities	306,659	206,416
Investment Income	1,297	2,284
Endowment - Designated	-	107,758
Grants	4,918	-
Gain / (Loss) on Investment	68,516	(12,623)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>780,138</b>	<b>400,838</b>
Total Expenditure	589,557	541,934
<b>Net Movement in Funds for the Year</b>	<b>190,581</b>	<b>(141,096)</b>

The results of the year reflect the ongoing challenge of the Centre to maintain its Research and Education activities with limited operational and fund development capacity as well the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The surplus for the year arose in the main from the increase in revenue obtained from a global desire of students to avail themselves of the Centre's online courses during the global 'Pandemic Lockdowns'. The Board views this online surge in activity to be temporary and anticipates further investment will be required to continue the development of its online presence. The Board and operational committees continue to monitor its current cost base, as they look to implement plans to create a long-term fund-raising strategy which would allow the Centre to continue to meet its ongoing costs and long-term ambitions.



## Appendix One: Organisation

### Board of Governors

Prof. Diwakar Acharya  
Prof. Francis X. Clooney, SJ  
Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL  
Prof. Mark Edwards  
Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford  
Prof. Richard Gombrich  
Dr Pujan H. Patel  
Ajay Piramal  
Prof. Ulrike Roesler  
Madhu Ruia  
Azad Shivdasani  
Prof. Mark Smith  
Ramesh Venkataraman

### Administration

Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director  
Prof. Gavin Flood FBA, Academic Director  
Anuradha Dooney, Centre Manager  
Manish Thakrar, Finance Director  
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Librarian  
Elizabeth Krishna, Assistant Librarian  
Tanja L. Jakobsen, Head of Development

### Fellows

Prof. John Brockington  
Mary Brockington  
Anuradha Dooney  
Dr Gillian Evison  
Dr Jessica Frazier  
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms  
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen  
Dr Nicholas Sutton  
Dr Lucian Wong

### Research Fellows

Prof. Mandakranta Bose  
Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria  
Dr Måns Broo  
Dr Santanu Dey  
Prof. Daniel J. Ehnbohm  
Prof. Ravi M. Gupta  
Dr Rajan Khatiwoda  
Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder  
Dr James Madaio  
Dr Kiyokazu Okita

Dr Neeraja Poddar  
Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray  
Dr Ferdinando Sardella  
Prof. Amiya P. Sen  
Dr Kenneth Valpey  
Dr Ionut Moise

### Senior Fellows

Prof. Francis X. Clooney, SJ  
Prof. Madhav M. Deshpande  
Prof. Gavin Flood, FBA  
Dr Sanjukta Gupta  
Prof. Dermot Killingley  
Prof. Julius Lipner, FBA  
Prof. John Brockington  
Peggy Morgan  
Prof. Patrick Olivelle  
Prof. Mandakranta Bose  
Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar  
Prof. Gaya Charan Tripathi  
Prof. Alexis Sanderson

### Kathmandu Office

Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen  
Dr Rajan Khatiwoda  
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen  
Gitte Poulsen

### Investment Committee

Ramesh Venkataraman, Chair  
Martin Sanderson  
Manish Thakrar



## Continuing Education Department

Dr Nicholas Sutton, Academic Director  
Lal Krishna, Operations Director  
Manish Thakrar, Finance Director  
Shaunaka Rishi Das

## Curriculum Development Board

Dr Lucian Wong, Chair  
Dr Raj Balkaran  
Dr James Madaio

## Publications Review Board

Dr Lucian Wong, Chair  
Prof. John Brockington  
Dr Avni Chag

## Tutorial and Course Development

Prof. Guy Beck  
Prof. Mandakranta Bose  
Richard Coldman  
Anuradha Dooney  
Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen  
Dr Jessica Frazier  
Dr Layne Little  
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms  
Danny MacGregor  
Dr Karen O'Brien Kop  
Gitte Poulsen  
Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray  
Musaret Siddiqui  
Daniel Simpson  
Zoë Slatoff

## Patrons Council

Amitabh Bachchan  
Dr Karan Singh  
HE The Indian High Commissioner

## Academic Council

Prof. Diwakar Acharya  
Prof. John Brockington  
Dr Gillian Evison  
Dr Jessica Frazier  
Dr Ravi Gupta  
Prof. Sondra Hausner  
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms  
Peggy Morgan  
Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Prof. G.C. Tripathi  
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

## Academic Planning Committee

Prof. Gavin Flood  
Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Dr Jessica Frazier  
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms  
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen  
Dr Lucian Wong  
Anuradha Dooney

## Development Planning Committee

Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Lal Krishna  
Manish Thakrar

## Friends of OCHS

### Birmingham

Jyoti Patel  
Raj Patel  
Yogesh Patel  
Subrata Roy  
Meena Sodha  
Nitin Sodha

### Leicester

Alkaji Agarwal  
Dr Virendra Agarwal  
Raj Chauhan  
Ramila Chauhan  
Dr Ranjit Johri  
Sumanji Johri  
Bina Modi  
Prafullaben Raja  
Deepak Samani  
Manishbhai Thakrar  
Shobhaben Trivedi

### USA

Mr Robert Cohen  
Shaunaka Rishi Das  
Dr S. Bhattacharya-Ford  
Mr Todd Wahlstrom

## Appendix Two: Lectures and Seminars

### Michaelmas Term 2020

*Hinduism: Sources and Formations*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Sanskrit Prelims I*

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

*Readings in Middle Bengali Devotional Literature:  
Female Gurus*

Lucian Wong

*Readings in Phenomenology*

Prof. Gavin Flood

*Hindu Monotheism*

Prof. Gavin Flood

### Other Lectures

#### Śākta Traditions Lecture Series

*Śāktism among the Śaivas I*

Prof. Alexis Sanderson

*Śāktism among the Śaivas II*

Prof. Alexis Sanderson

*Śāktism outside of Kashmir III*

Prof. Alexis Sanderson

*Theology and Social Change in Śākta Tradition*

Prof. Gavin Flood

*Śāktism in Europe*

Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen

*Hinduism and the Goddess - Śāktism and Śākta  
Traditions I*

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

### Hilary Term 2021

*Hinduism II*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Sanskrit Prelims II*

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

*Readings in Vedānta: Madhva's Anuvyākhyāna*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Readings in Phenomenology*

Prof. Gavin Flood FBA

*Readings in Middle Bengali Devotional Literature:  
Female Gurus*

Dr Lucian Wong

### Other Lectures

#### Śākta Traditions Lecture Series

*Before they were foxy ladies, they were lady foxes.  
Yoginīs and Ḍākinīs in Hindu and Buddhist Tantra*

Prof. David G. White

*New Light on Śāktism and Haṭhayoga*

Dr James Mallinson

*Assessing medieval Śākta history in the light of  
Indian inscriptions*

Dr Bihani Sarkar

*Tantric Elements Embedded in a Purāṇic Context:  
the Example of the Māhātmyakhaṇḍa of the  
Tripurārahasya*

Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

## Trinity Term 2021

*Sanskrit Prelims*

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

*Readings in Vedānta*

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

*Readings in Phenomenology*

Prof. Gavin Flood FBA

*Comparative Religion Seminar*

Prof. Gavin Flood FBA

*Arguments in Indian Philosophy: Reality, identity, scepticism, ethics*

Dr Jessica Frazier

## Other Lectures

**Śākta Traditions Lecture Series**

*Hinduism and the Goddess: Śāktism and Śākta Traditions II*

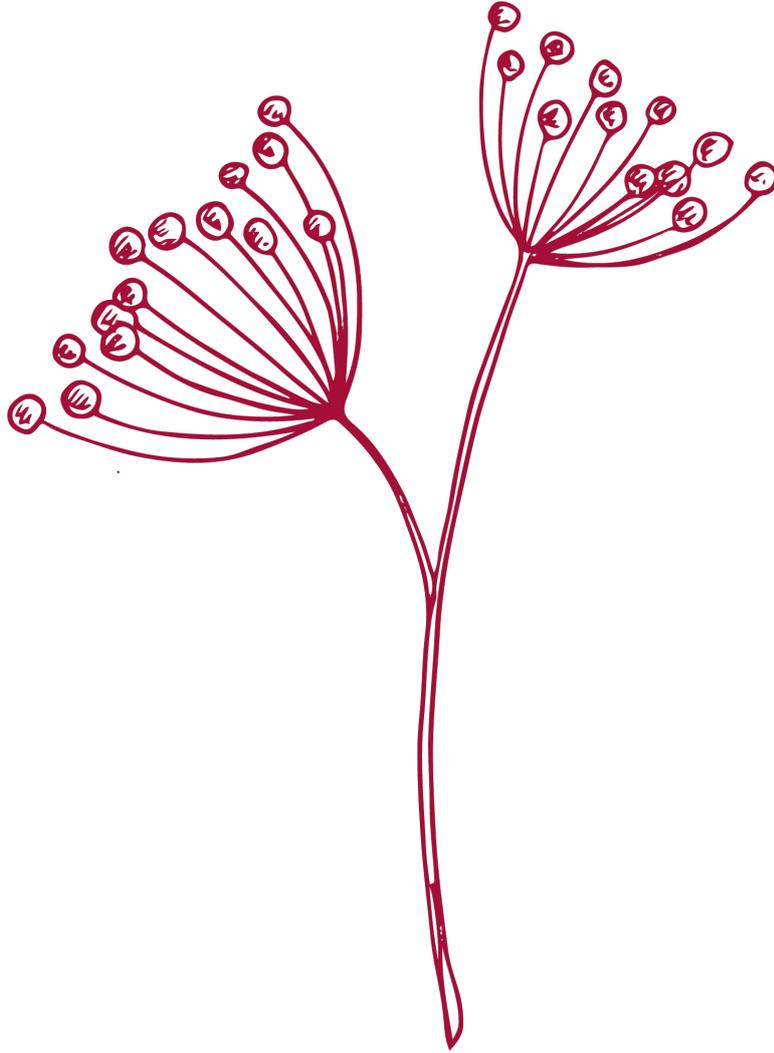
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

*Divinity and Femininity: Śakti in the World*

Prof. Mandakranta Bose

*Interactions, Intersections, Interdependence: Śāktism and the Indian Vajrayāna*

Prof. Harunaga Isaacson





Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

13-15 Magdalen St

Oxford OX1 3AE

Tel. +44 (0)1865 304300

[www.ochs.org.uk](http://www.ochs.org.uk)

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