



## UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of the Chancellor

5221 Cheadle Hall, University of California  
Santa Barbara CA 93106-2030  
[chancellor.ucsb.edu](mailto:chancellor.ucsb.edu)

August 12, 2021

Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasvant and Meera:

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies and the Bhagvan Vimalnath Lectureship in Jain Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

Your thoughtful investment is integral to the development of a visionary Jain Studies program, creating a new international model and adding further strength to our Department of Religious Studies. The Vimalnath Chair and Lectureship will advance the study of the Jain tradition and further popular understanding of its core principles that will help guide our society forward, including non-violence, non-attachment and respect for all opinions.

I greatly appreciate your commitment to Jain Studies and your partnership with our Department of Religious Studies. Your support will foster greater understanding and broader conversations on campus and in our community. Dilling joins me in sending our best wishes. We hope you are staying safe and well.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry T. Yang".

Henry T. Yang  
Chancellor

## Jasvant Modi Philanthropist With a Heart

7/18/2018

 RSS Feed


BY DEVIKA C. METHA

LOS ANGELES, CA - Dr Jasvant Modi, is a humanitarian and compassionate human being, who is often seen at community events in a white shirt with contrasting ties, plain glasses framing a serene face and a personality that spreads peace. Born in India, Modi moved to US in 1975 after finishing his medical studies in Ahmedabad,



after which he never looked back. Just like his name 'Jasvant', the man is always keen on being victorious in his accomplishments.

In an exclusive interview with IJ, Modi talked about his professional and personal journey, accomplishments, charity work and dreaming big!

He recalls, "During my studies in India, I received help from family members, many organizations, government entities, college professors and friends in terms of moral, ethical and financial support and in helping me dream

big. Since coming to the US, I studied in Chicago and became a specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterologist. I started a private practice in Los Angeles in 1983 during which I helped countless people with their health related problems."

Thanking the community for his accomplishments, he stated, "I have reached this stage in my life only because of help every step of the way, especially during my years in India. I want to make a difference in society in any way I can. I want to help patients, help children in realizing their full potential and spread the principle of non violence and pluralism which are the main tenets of Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism." Turning 67 has not stopped him from keeping busy. Since 2004, he has been involved in managing a long term care facility and currently, his family owns four such facilities in the LA area. "This keeps me in touch with patients and their needs. These facilities house patients with various medical needs including those who suffer from dementia and stroke, those who need feeding tubes, ventilators, dialysis, hospice care, rehabilitation and home health services. He adds, "I have come to realize that at the end, dementia and loneliness in the later stage of life is an acute social problem. This is especially true for a significant Indian population because of their religious beliefs and dietary habits." The doctor's day usually starts at 6 am and goes on until 10 pm and as he says, " is a mix of professional and social activities." Interestingly, so far, Modi has given away nearly \$3.5 million for charitable donations and pledged another \$1.5 million for social causes. In fact, nearly \$200K over five years were pledged for his most recent philanthropic gesture, setting up of a Jain chair at University of California Santa Barbara. The first installment of \$40K has already been given.

Though Modi is a pioneer community member, he is a family man at heart. He is always seen accompanied by his wife Dr Meera Modi. Over the years, she has been an important support system and is always seen promoting charity work with him on several occasions. Sharing details of his happy married life, Modi informed, "I met my wife Meera in 1978 here in the US through family contacts and got married in 1979. My wife is a physician and has a private practice. She has been a great support in the family, raising our two children. We both are first generation immigrants and faced many challenges, financial, professional, but hard work with big dreams

made us successful. I believe, success not necessarily brings happiness. Happiness comes from faith, inner blissfulness and helping others.”

But, does success and happiness go hand in hand? He said, “No, as we witness daily in the news about suicide, violence, fights, bitterness and lawsuits . That is why I believe, happiness is more important to achieve and sustain. Family, friends, society and most important faith is very helpful in achieving happiness. Making money is hard for many people but giving up money is even harder. I want to change the narrative--making money should be fun but donating money for a humanitarian cause should be even more fun and satisfying. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are great examples.” And, his motto is quite simple- ‘Utilize my time in helping others in whichever way, I can.’ Discussing future plans for the community and involvement of his kids in further work, he said, “I want to have a senior center, retirement community, assisted living facility, skilled nursing facility and a hospital that serves primarily the South Asian population. A university will be a dream come true. My son, who is an internist and a gastroenterologist and currently a professor at USC in the Department of Medicine has similar goals and believes that he will carry on my legacy. My daughter, who is a lawyer at the US Food and Drug Administration is also hard working and someday both my children will take over our family mission.” Speaking about his best and worst experiences in life, Modi mentioned, “When we make a gift, we are happy but failure in any aspect makes us sad. With friends, I have helped established Jain Chairs /Lectureship at UCI,UCR,UCSB and LMU and I am also in negotiations with 3 more Universities.”

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[http://www.indiawest.com/news/global\\_indian/u-c-riverside-announces-new-endowed-chair-in-jain-studies/article\\_f637edd2-f867-11e6-9331-0bb7f02676dd.html](http://www.indiawest.com/news/global_indian/u-c-riverside-announces-new-endowed-chair-in-jain-studies/article_f637edd2-f867-11e6-9331-0bb7f02676dd.html)

FEATURED

## U.C. Riverside Announces New Endowed Chair in Jain Studies

By GIOVANNI ALBANESE Jr./India-West Staff Reporter Feb 21, 2017



The University of California at Riverside’s College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, as well as the Department of Religious Studies Feb. 17 signed papers for the establishment of the Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies. If the required funds are raised by the end of May, the chair could be in place for the fall 2018 semester, Dr. Nitin Shah, Indian American past-president of JCSC, told India-West. (photo provided)

U.C. Riverside's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of Religious Studies Feb. 17 announced the establishment of its latest endowed chair, the Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies.

The chair is named after renowned Indian poet, philosopher, scholar and reformer of Jain principles Shrimad Rajchandra, who lived from 1867 until 1901. Several institutions and places throughout India use Rajchandra's name in dedication for charitable activities.

The U.C. Riverside chair is the first to bestow the Rajchandra name as a dedication outside India.

The university requires \$1 million to endow a chair. The Indian American families of Mahesh Wadher and Jasvant Modi each pledged \$250,000 but have signed for \$1 million, while the Jain Center of Southern California and Jain Temple of Los Angeles have agreed to help raise the remaining funds. Additionally, the family of Vijay Chheda has pledged \$100,000 towards reaching the \$1 million threshold.

The chair, which has yet to be filled, will be decided by U.C. Riverside officials. The university will set up a committee to conduct interviews of applicants and make a decision on the chairperson.

It will be focused on Jain religious principles with the chair expected to teach classes in Jain studies.

"To teach Jain religion, principles, culture, etc., to undergraduate students," Dr. Nitin Shah, past-president of JCSC, told **India-West** when asked about the goals of the chair. Shah is also chair of the External Education Committee at JCSC, professor of anesthesiology at Loma Linda University and chief of surgical ICU at Long Beach VA Healthcare System.

Additionally, the chair will be expected to conduct research about Jain and other religions as well as teach the three main principles.

"Namely, ahimsa (non-violence), aparigrah (non-possessiveness) and anekantvad (multiplicity of views) to mainstream American students with the goal of developing tolerance amongst people, accepting different religions and living a non-violent peaceful

life,” Shah explained. “We believe that Jain principles have lot to offer to the world and this will be one of the baby steps towards it.”

The chair has to be signed by U.C. president Janet Nepolitano before U.C. Riverside can begin its search for the chair.

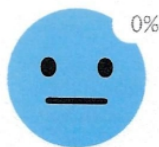
Shah said that if the required funds are reached by the end of May, the university could have a chair in place for the fall 2018 semester.

What is your reaction?

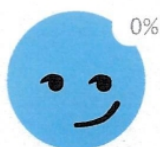
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happy



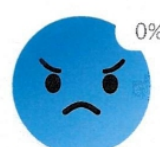
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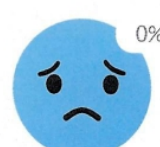
amused




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sad



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July 13, 2018

Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasvant and Meera:

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your remarkable commitment and contribution to the Bhagvan Vimalnath Lectureship in Jain Studies at UC Santa Barbara. In recognition, it is a privilege to welcome you to the Chancellor's Council giving society; a vital community of alumni and friends whose support helps UCSB be a global leader in research, innovation and public service.

We are proud of our Department of Religious Studies, and its excellent faculty who have distinguished themselves in both teaching and research. Your investment will support the recruitment and retention of a distinguished lecturer to enhance teaching and programming in Jain Studies.

I very much enjoyed meeting you when you came to campus. Thank you once again for making UC Santa Barbara one of your philanthropic priorities. By investing in this lectureship, you are helping promote Jain Studies in our renowned Department of Religious Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry T. Yang".

Henry T. Yang  
Chancellor

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Humanities and Social Sciences Building  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3130

Telephone: 805 893-4505  
Fax: 805 893-7671  
<http://www.religion.ucsb.edu>

July 8, 2020

Dr. Jasvant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

On behalf of the Department of Religious Studies, I wish to express our gratitude for your generous donation to the University. Jain Studies is an important new initiative for the Department, the campus at large, and our entire community.

Please accept my deepest thanks.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

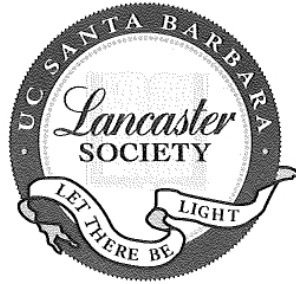
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fabio Rambelli".

Fabio Rambelli

Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies





Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasvant and Meera:

In recognition of your recent generous commitment and contribution, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Lancaster Society. The Lancaster Society is composed of alumni, parents, and friends of the University of California, Santa Barbara who have demonstrated their commitment with cumulative lifetime giving of \$100,000 and above.

The Lancaster Society is named for Louis and Winifred Lancaster, civic-minded philanthropists who were deeply committed to higher education. During their lifetimes, they helped establish the UC Santa Barbara Foundation and worked tirelessly to build bridges between the university and its many constituencies.

Today's Society members share the Lancasters' vision for a world-class university committed to the greater good. Their generosity and leadership have contributed immeasurably to growing and enduring excellence at UC Santa Barbara.

On behalf of Chancellor Henry T. Yang and the UC Santa Barbara Foundation, please accept my sincere gratitude for your commitment to the university and its mission.

With best regards,

Beverly J. Colgate  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Development

In order that we may recognize you appropriately, please complete the enclosed donor recognition information form.

# The Current

## 'A Major Contribution'

### **Donors join forces to establish a \$1 million chair in Jain studies, within Department of Religious Studies**

By Shelly Leachman

Monday, November 16, 2020 - 06:00

Santa Barbara, CA

Adding an important layer to an already robust and well-regarded program, a trio of generous donors has teamed to support research and teaching in Jain studies within the UC Santa Barbara Department of Religious Studies.

The Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies was established through a \$1 million joint gift from Drs. Meera and Jasvant Modi via the Vardhamana Charitable Foundation; Mrs. Rita and Dr. Narendra Parson via the Narendra and Rita Parson Family Trust; and Mrs. Raksha and Mr. Harshad Shah via Shah Family Foundation.

"The most effective way of helping mankind, climate change and all forms of life is by spreading the principles of non-violence, giving and showing respect for all opinions. Support and creation of an endowed chair in Jain studies is the most effective way to achieve this goal," the donors said in a joint statement. "UC Santa Barbara is a prestigious place and more important, it has an effective model to achieve our goals. This new position will make Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekantvad principles better known in the mainstream — and this will benefit us all."

The new gift builds on prior philanthropy from the Modis and the Parsons, in partnership with the Jain Center of Southern California and the Jain Temple of Los Angeles, to establish UC Santa Barbara's Bhagvan Vimalnath Lectureship in Jain Studies and South Asian religions. The study of South Asian religious traditions is a core strength of UCSB's religious studies department, which focuses on comparative study of religions from a secular approach.

Noted Chancellor Henry T. Yang, "Our UC Santa Barbara Department of Religious Studies, founded more than half a century ago, is recognized as one of the best in the world. We are tremendously grateful for the generosity of Drs. Meera and Jasvant Modi, Mrs. Rita and Dr. Narendra Parson, and Mrs. Raksha and Mr. Harshad Shah to establish the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies, which will help us to advance Jain and South Asian studies, an exciting and increasingly important field, at UC Santa Barbara."

The chair holder will support the graduate program and develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses on Jainism, including exploration of Ahimsa (nonviolence), Aprigraha

(non-attachment/non-possessiveness) and Anekantavaad (plurality of views and beliefs) — the principles of Jainism — and their import and implication for modern society. Students will be engaged to explore the practical significance of such principles for enduring peace, social harmony and ecological sustainability.

"We are so pleased that this generous gift will allow our faculty and our students to explore the history, beliefs and practices of Jain traditions within the context of South Asian religions," said John Majewski, the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. "The fundamental tenets of Jainism — including a commitment to peace, non-violence, education and enlightenment — are of increasing relevance to our students and the wider world. We are excited that these funds will support innovative new courses, path-breaking interdisciplinary research, significant national and international conferences, and important public programming."

With a goal to create a visionary program that will be a national and international model, the new position also will enable academic investigation of the many ways in which Jainism has been integral to South Asian and transnational religious histories. The chair holder will support and train innovative scholars in the fields of Jain studies and South Asian religions, including language instruction in Sanskrit and Prakrit, while simultaneously making UCSB the programmatic center for an emerging network of scholars in the field.

"This new endowed chair will be a major contribution to the Department of Religious Studies," said professor and department chair Fabio Rambelli. "Not only will it strengthen our South Asian component by adding Jain studies to our program — the richness of the Jain tradition, with its focus on radical nonviolence and pluralism, extends well beyond narrow definitions of religion to issues that are very important for us here today, such as environmental justice, business ethics and sustainable lifestyles. As such, I expect that the future holder of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies will bring a significant contribution to broader conversations on campus and in our community."

## Contact Info:

Shelly Leachman  
(805) 893-8726  
shelly.leachman@ucsb.edu

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# **Jain Studies Impact Report**

**Prepared for**  
**Drs. Meera and Jasvant Modi**  
**Mrs. Raksha and Mr. Harshad Shah**  
**Mrs. Rita and Dr. Narendra Parson**  
**Dr. Sulekh Jain**

*July 2021*

## UC SANTA BARBARA

July 15, 2021

Dear Jain friends:

On behalf of UC Santa Barbara, thank you for your commitment and generosity in supporting the growth of Jain Studies rooted in our Department of Religious Studies. Following up on our recent conversation on Zoom, it is with enormous pleasure that I write this letter about the status of Jain Studies in our Department. As you all know, it has been a very difficult year, but in spite of that, we have been able to keep up with our classes, research projects, and programming. I am pleased to provide this impact report detailing our efforts.

In the case of Jain Studies, we very much missed our lecturer, Dr. Shivani Bothra, and we had to find a quick alternative on campus among all uncertainties related to the development of the pandemic. I am glad to report that we were able to offer three quarters of Hindi (taught by our graduate student Maharshi Vyas, from Gujarat) and two courses on topics related to the Jain tradition. My colleague Barbara Holdrege has provided detailed information on each of these courses and their instructors. For this coming year, in which a certain degree of uncertainty still remains, we plan to continue in the same way—by having highly qualified graduate students in our department teach these courses (as in the attached material).

In our recent Zoom meeting, you asked me about our vision for the future Jain Studies endowed chair. I confirm that I see it as an organic and important new addition to our department, not as a marginal colleague teaching a “smaller” tradition. Specifically, it would be excellent if the person who holds the future chair could participate directly and actively in various initiatives and programs that already exist in our Department. I am thinking specifically of the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life (<https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/>), the Center for Humanities and Social Change (<https://hscif.org/who-we-are-santa-barbara/>), and two recent university initiatives, also housed in our Department, namely, the Medical Humanities Initiative (<https://www.hfa.ucsb.edu/academics-detail/medicalhumanities>) and the Legal Humanities Initiatives; in addition, we have strong and positive contacts with the Environmental Studies program, and we have been in discussion for the creation of a new program or cluster on food studies. In my vision, Jain Studies will bring a vibrant and welcome contribution to one or more of these directions, all of which address crucial issues for our present and our future.

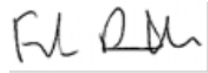
Our department was created more than 50 years ago precisely to promote the study of specific religious traditions in their rich cultural contexts, to develop new theoretical approaches to such a study, and to foster meaningful and creative forms of comparison among traditions, ideas, and practices. Jain Studies will be an important part of our academic community and its endeavors.

Also, on behalf of the entire Department of Religious Studies, I wish to express once more our deepest gratitude to all of you for your generous commitment and investment in UC Santa Barbara and our Department.

## UC SANTA BARBARA

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information. In the meantime, I very much look forward to welcoming all of you to our beautiful campus and to introducing our colleagues to you.

With best wishes,



Fabio Rambelli  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies  
Professor of Japanese Religions and International Shinto Foundation Endowed Chair in Shinto Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara



## UC SANTA BARBARA

The University of California, Santa Barbara and its Department of Religious Studies are honored to recognize and thank you for your generous contributions to develop Jain Studies. Your support adds an important layer to an already robust and well-regarded department and allows us to expand our course offerings in our nationally recognized interdisciplinary program in South Asian Studies. We are proud to partner with you in advancing the study of the tenets and philosophy of Jainism, one of the great religious traditions of the world.

### Building on Our Strengths

The Department of Religious Studies is nationally and internationally recognized as one of the world's leading centers for the study of religion. The Religious Studies faculty counts in its ranks several recipients of the Guggenheim Fellowship; several fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the current president of the American Society for the Study of Religion; and a number of past presidents of the American Academy of Religion, the largest scholarly organization for the study of religion in the world.

Once in place, the holder of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies will develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses on Jainism, including exploration of *ahimsa* (nonviolence), *aparigraha* (nonpossessiveness) and *anekantavada* (plurality of views and beliefs) and their import for modern society. Students will be encouraged to explore the practical significance of such principles for enduring peace, social harmony, and ecological sustainability.



### South Asian Studies Committee

The Jain Studies program will contribute in significant ways to the reputation of the UC Santa Barbara as a leading institution in the interdisciplinary study of the societies, cultures, and religions of South Asia. The South Asian Studies program comprises twenty core faculty in twelve departments across the humanities and social sciences whose research and teaching interests involve a significant focus on South Asia. (Please see Appendix I.)

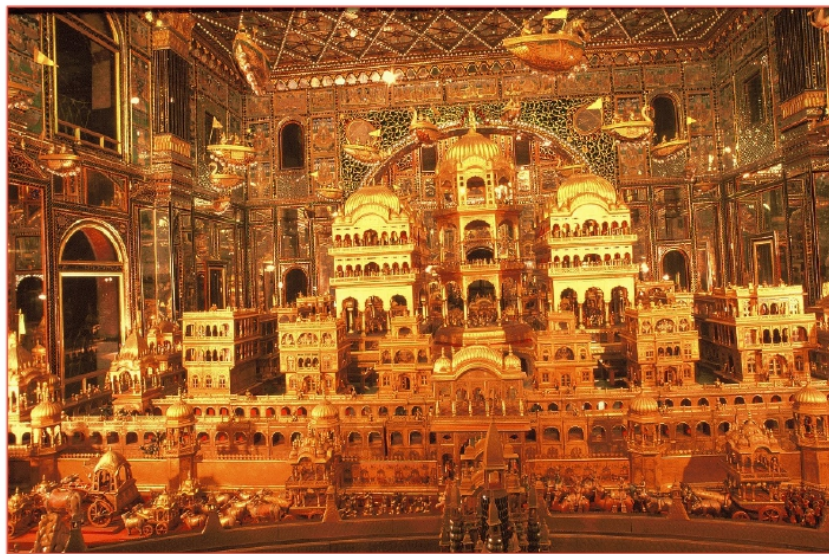
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- The Department of Religious Studies includes six faculty whose courses explore a broad array of South Asian religions, including Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Islamic traditions.
- The faculty in eleven other departments offer courses representing a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of South Asia, including history, anthropology, sociology, political science, global studies, Asian American studies, literature, history of art and architecture, film and media studies, music, and feminist studies.
- Courses in South Asian languages are offered on a regular basis, including Sanskrit, Pali, Hindi, Tibetan, Arabic, and Persian.

The intersecting research interests of the faculty engage a range of issues in South Asian studies, including sex, gender, and bodily identities; performative worlds in South Asia; visual culture; ethnography of rituals; diaspora and transnational identities; religious nationalisms; spatial analysis of sacred places, cultural landscapes, and cyberspace; and cinema and post-colonial media theory.

### South Asian Religions and Cultures Research Focus Group

The South Asian Religions and Cultures Research Focus Group (RFG), which is supported by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, is an interdisciplinary group of twenty faculty and forty graduate students from twelve departments across campus whose research



interests center on South Asia. The South Asian Religions and Cultures RFG was established in the fall of 2005 and is convened by Barbara Holdrege, Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of the South Asian Studies Committee, and Bhaskar Sarkar, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies. The Research Focus Group serves as a forum for faculty and graduate students to meet regularly and discuss their ongoing research projects and an array of social, cultural, and religious issues in South Asian Studies. The group sponsors an annual program of meetings that includes presentations by faculty and graduate students as well as lectures, performances, and film screenings by visiting scholars, artists, musicians, and filmmakers.



## UC SANTA BARBARA

### 2020 – 21 Activities

- ***India “Right”:* Making and Unmaking Indian Citizenship**  
Faculty Panel
- ***Discussion of Reflections of Amma: Devotees in a Global Embrace***  
Amanda Lucia, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Riverside
- ***Discussion of Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas***  
Radhika Govindrajan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Washington
- ***Cybercrime in Digital India: Jamtara’s Youth and OTT Production Cultures***  
Rahul Mukherjee, Dick Wolf Associate Professor of Television and New Media Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- ***The Blood Files: Epidemic, Medium, Milieu***  
Bishnupriya Ghosh, Professor of Global Studies and English, University of California, Santa Barbara
- ***Sri Sabhapati Swami and the “Translocalization” of Śivarājyoga***  
Keith Cantú, Ph.D. Student in Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- ***Willing Ethnic-Nationalists, Diffusion, and Resentment: A Micro-Foundational Account***  
Aseema Sinha, Wagener Chair of South Asian Politics, Claremont McKenna College
- ***Race, Caste, Hierarchy, Difference: Reflections on Isabel Wilkerson’s Caste***  
Vincent Wimbush, Director of Institute for Signifying Scriptures  
Amit Ahuja, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara



# UC SANTA BARBARA

## Academic Programs and Courses

### Jain Courses

Thanks to your support, we have been able to add new courses in Jain Studies and to expand our broader course offerings in South Asian religions. Despite the difficulties related to the pandemic, the Department of Religious Studies has been able to offer three quarters of Hindi the past two years, in 2019–2020 and 2020–2021, and in the coming year, 2021–2022.

#### Classes Scheduled for 2021 - 2022

##### **Introduction to Jainism (RG ST 162D)**

Instructor: Jackson Stephenson

This course provides an introduction to the texts, practices, philosophies, and living traditions of Jainism. Jainism is one of the world's oldest religions and has long been distinguished by its radical commitment to nonviolence. Throughout the course students grapple with key themes in Jain thought, including the intersections of worldview and lifestyle, the interconnectedness of all life, and the ways in which Jains have interpreted their responsibility to refrain from harming others. The course also focuses on the fortunes of Jain traditions in modern India, including Jain influences on Gandhi and the Indian independence movement and the applicability of Jain ideas to contemporary issues in environmentalism and ecology.



##### **Studies in Nonviolence: *Ahimsa* (अहिंसा) and Vegetarianism (RG ST 190NV)**

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

This course introduces students to the history of the South Asian religious ethic of *ahimsa* (nonviolence or nonharming) and its various expressions over time, ancient to modern. The course details the relationship between *ahimsa* and diet, specifically vegetarianism, the latter variously referring to an animal flesh-free diet or to lactovegetarianism (egg-free), and at times including avoidance of animal-derived products not consumed as food. The course surveys *ahimsa* and vegetarianism in Jain, Buddhist, Vedic, and Hindu traditions, including a consideration of critiques by figures internal to these traditions as well as by figures outside of the traditions, in particular Muslim and Dalit perspectives.

## UC SANTA BARBARA

### Elementary Hindi I (RG ST 11A)

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

This beginning course in Hindi provides a survey of grammar and includes exercises and readings drawn from Hindi literature, leading to mastery of grammatical structures and essential vocabulary and achievement of basic reading and writing skills.

### Elementary Hindi II (RG ST 11B)

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

Continuation of Hindi I.

### Elementary Hindi III (RG ST 11C)

Instructor: Sahaj Parikh

Continuation of Hindi II.

Courses taught in 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 are listed in Appendix II.

## Graduate Studies

More than forty graduate students at UC Santa Barbara, representing a range of disciplines, pursue research projects on topics related to South Asia each year. Many of them have conducted extensive fieldwork in the region, and almost all of them have South Asian languages as part of their research training. The Department of Religious Studies offers a graduate program in South Asian religions for M.A. and Ph.D. students. Our graduate program will be further enhanced once the holder of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies is in place.

## Undergraduate Studies

Students who pursue an undergraduate major in Religious Studies can focus on South Asian religions as their area of emphasis. Undergraduate students can also take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in India as part of the University of California Education Abroad Program. The Education Abroad Program supports a long-established program in New Delhi and a more recently established program in Mumbai.

## Conclusion

We are pleased to partner with you and the Jain community to enable students at the University of California, Santa Barbara, to explore the richness of the Jain tradition, with its focus on radical nonviolence and pluralism. The impact of the addition of Jain Studies extends well beyond the domain of religion to include vital issues on a global scale, such as environmental justice, business ethics, and sustainable lifestyles. Your investment is making a significant contribution to broader conversations on campus and in our community.

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## Appendix I

### *South Asian Studies Committee*

#### Faculty

##### **Amit Ahuja**

Ph.D., University of Michigan  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
South Asian Politics, Ethnic Politics,  
Comparative Politics

##### **Kum-Kum Bhavnani**

Ph.D., Cambridge University  
Professor of Sociology  
Women and International Development,  
Feminist Studies, Cultural Studies

##### **José Cabezón**

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison  
XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Chair in  
Tibetan Buddhism and Cultural Studies  
Professor of Religious Studies  
South Asian Religions, Tibetan Buddhist  
Traditions

##### **Juan E. Campo**

Ph.D., University of Chicago  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
South Asian Religions, Islamic Traditions

##### **Swati Chattopadhyay**

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Professor of History of Art and  
Architecture  
South Asian Architecture, British  
Colonialism, Postcolonial Theory

##### **Utathya Chattopadhyaya**

Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-  
Champaign  
Assistant Professor of History  
South Asian Social and Cultural History,  
Modern South Asia

##### **Debanuj DasGupta**

Ph.D., Ohio State University  
Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies  
South Asian Studies, Transgender  
Studies, Queer Theory, Sexuality Studies

##### **William Elison**

Ph.D., University of Chicago  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
South Asian Religions, Hindu Traditions,  
Subaltern Traditions

##### **Bishnupriya Ghosh**

Ph.D., Northwestern University  
Professor of English and Global Studies  
South Asian Literature, Postcolonial  
Theory, Global Media Studies

##### **Mary Hancock**

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania  
Professor of Anthropology and History  
South Asian Anthropology and History,  
Politics of Heritage, Gender Studies

##### **Gregory Hillis**

Ph.D., University of Virginia  
Continuing Lecturer in Religious Studies  
Sanskrit Language and Literature,  
Tibetan Language and Literature

##### **Barbara A. Holdrege (Committee Chair)**

Ph.D., Harvard University  
Professor of Religious Studies  
South Asian Religions, Hindu Traditions,  
Comparative History of Religions

## UC SANTA BARBARA

### **Mark Juergensmeyer**

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Professor of Global Studies and  
Sociology  
South Asian Religion and Politics,  
Religious Violence, Conflict Resolution

### **Anshu Malhotra**

Ph.D., SOAS, University of London  
Kundan Kaur Kapany Endowed Chair in  
Sikh Studies  
Professor of Global Studies  
South Asian History, History of the  
Punjab and Sikhs, Gender Studies

### **Scott Marcus**

Ph.D., University of California, Los  
Angeles  
Professor of Music  
South Asian Ethnomusicology, North  
Indian Music, Middle Eastern Music

### **Aashish Mehta**

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Associate Professor of Global Studies  
South Asian Economics, Developing  
Economies, Global Socioeconomics

### **Sameer Pandya**

Ph.D., Stanford University  
Assistant Professor of Asian American  
Studies  
South Asian American Literature,  
Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Literature

### **Bhaskar Sarkar**

Ph.D., University of Southern California  
Associate Professor of Film and Media  
Studies  
South Asian Cinema, Asian Cinemas,  
Postcolonial Media Theory

### **Satyajit Singh**

Ph.D., University of Delhi  
Professor of Political Science and Global  
Studies  
South Asian Politics, Development  
Studies, Environmental Politics

### **Vesna Wallace**

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Professor of Religious Studies  
South Asian Religions, Buddhist  
Traditions, Jain Traditions

## Affiliated Faculty

### **Rudy Busto**

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

### **Magda Campo**

M.A., American University, Cairo  
Continuing Lecturer in Religious Studies

### **Richard D. Hecht**

Ph.D., University of California, Los  
Angeles  
Professor of Religious Studies

### **Fabio Rambelli**

Ph.D., University of Venice  
International Shinto Foundation Chair in  
Shinto Studies  
Professor of Religious Studies and East  
Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

### **Erika Rappaport**

Ph.D., Rutgers University  
Professor of History

## UC SANTA BARBARA

### **Dwight Reynolds**

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania  
Professor of Religious Studies

### **Dominic Steavu**

Ph.D., Stanford University  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
and East Asian Languages and  
Cultural Studies

### **Peter Sturman**

Ph.D., Yale University  
Professor of History of Art and  
Architecture

### **Mayfair Yang**

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley  
Professor of Religious Studies and East  
Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

# UC SANTA BARBARA

## Appendix II

### *Jain Studies and Hindi Courses*

#### 2020-2021

##### **Introduction to Jainism (RG ST 162D)**

Instructor: Jackson Stephenson

Enrollment: 10

##### **Studies of Nonviolence (RG ST 190NV)**

Instructor: Jonathan Dickstein

Enrollment: 14

##### **Elementary Hindi I (RG ST 11A)**

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

Enrollment: 16

##### **Elementary Hindi II (RG ST 11B)**

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

Enrollment: 5

##### **Elementary Hindi III (RG ST 11C)**

Instructor: Maharshi Vyas

Enrollment: 3



#### 2019-2020

##### **Indic Civilization (RG ST 20)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

This course surveys the religious history of the Indian subcontinent, including an examination of the Indus Valley culture; the rise of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions; the arrival of Islam and Christianity; and the region's confrontations with modernity.

Enrollment: 49

##### **Introduction to South Asian Traditions (RG ST 190SA)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

This course provides an introduction to the classical religious traditions of South Asia, with particular attention to three major areas of South Asian religions and cultures: the ritual, moral and social order; philosophical perspectives and traditions; and traditions of mythology and devotion.

Enrollment: 2

## **UC SANTA BARBARA**

### **Introduction to Jainism (RG ST 162D)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

Enrollment: 14

### **Studies of Nonviolence (RG ST 190NV)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

Enrollment: 23

### **Elementary Hindi I (RG ST 11A)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

Enrollment: 14

### **Elementary Hindi II (RG ST 11B)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

Enrollment: 7

### **Elementary Hindi III (RG ST 11C)**

Instructor: Shivani Bothra

Enrollment: 7





## UC SANTA BARBARA

Office of the Chancellor

5221 Cheadle Hall, University of California  
Santa Barbara CA 93106-2030  
[chancellor.ucsb.edu](http://chancellor.ucsb.edu)

August 12, 2021

Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi  
4221 Hampstead Road  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011-3840

Dear Jasvant and Meera:

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies and the Bhagvan Vimalnath Lectureship in Jain Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

Your thoughtful investment is integral to the development of a visionary Jain Studies program, creating a new international model and adding further strength to our Department of Religious Studies. The Vimalnath Chair and Lectureship will advance the study of the Jain tradition and further popular understanding of its core principles that will help guide our society forward, including non-violence, non-attachment and respect for all opinions.

I greatly appreciate your commitment to Jain Studies and your partnership with our Department of Religious Studies. Your support will foster greater understanding and broader conversations on campus and in our community. Dilling joins me in sending our best wishes. We hope you are staying safe and well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry T. Yang".

Henry T. Yang  
Chancellor