



DEPARTMENT OF

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



BHAGWAN SUVIDHINATH ENDOWED CHAIR IN JAIN STUDIES

California State University, Long Beach
Presents a Conference in Jainism

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

The Jain Center of Southern California
8072 Commonwealth Avenue, Buena Park

MONDAY, APRIL 22, AND TUESDAY, 23, 2024

The Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center
California State University, Long Beach

**SAMAVASARAN :
THE ASSEMBLY OF
TIRTHANKARAS**

**NONVIOLENCE AND
ENVIRONMENT IN JAINISM**

APRIL 21 TO 23, 2024



Co-sponsored by

The Uberoi Foundation and The Jain Center of Southern California

In collaboration with EcoCiv

**DAY ONE
SUNDAY
APRIL 21**

**JAIN CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
BUENA PARK (CA)**

- 12:00 to 1:00 PM** Vegan Lunch
- 1:00 to 1:15 PM** Invocation & Welcome Jain Chorus Group
- 1:15 to 1:30 PM** Introduction of the Conference Theme:
"Samavasaran: The Assembly of Tirthankaras"
Dr. Samani Pratibha Pragya
Florida International University, Miami
- 1:30 to 2:30 PM** Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Kusum Jain**
Professor Ret., University of Rajasthan, India
Title: "A Philosophical Approach to Nonviolence in
the Jain Tradition"
- 2:30 to 3:15 PM** Presentation by Pathshala Students
Application of Nonviolence in Daily Life
- 3:15 to 4:00 PM** Meet and Greet
Tea and Snacks

EXHIBIT ON JAIN ARCHITECTURE & BOOKS

April 22 & 23
Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center
Long Beach



TASTY INDIAN VEGAN FOOD

April 21 to 23



**DAY TWO
MONDAY
APRIL 22**

ANNA W. NGAI ALUMNI CENTER AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

9:00 AM Registration and Breakfast

9:30 to 10:00 AM Inauguration Jain Prayer
Welcome speech by **Dr. Sophia Pandya, Chair**
Introducing the conference by **Dr. Shivani Bothra**

10:00 to 11:00 AM Introduction : **Dr. Nandini Mahtani**
Keynote Speaker : **Dr. Vasudha Narayanan**, Professor
University of Florida, Gainesville
Title: "Is Ahimsa the Highest Dharma in India?"

11:00 to 11:15 AM Tea/Coffee Break

PANEL ONE

11:15 to 12:30 PM Exploring Nonviolence in Jainism: Compassion to Death
Moderator - **Dr. Veena Howard**

1. **Dr. Brianne Donaldson**, Associate Professor
University of California, Irvine

Title: "Jainism, Solidarity, and Animals"

2. **Dr. Abhishek Jain**, Visiting Assistant Professor
Loyola Marymount University

Title: "Rethinking Jain Practice of Ahimsā."

3. **Dr. Miki Chase**, Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Title: "A Sermon for the Anthropocene: Harnessing the Power of Samavasaran as a Response to Environmental Grief."

12:30 to 1:30 PM Vegan Lunch

1:30 to 2:00 PM A few words by the **Honorable President, Jane Conoley**
A talk on Temple Architecture by **Dr. Nandita Punj**
Arizona State University, Tempe

PANEL TWO

2:30 to 4:00 PM Exploring Nonviolence in Jainism: Ethics to Devotion
Moderator - **Dr. Brianne Donaldson**

1. **Dr. Veena Howard**, Endowed Chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma
California State University, Fresno

Title: "Understanding the Jain Doctrine of Ahimsā: Not Just Literal Practice but a Philosophical and Ethical Worldview"

2. **Dr. Venu Mehta**, Assistant Professor
Claremont School of Theology

Title: "The Upasarga of the Jina Pārśvanātha and Protection by the Nāga Couple: A Narrative of Nonviolence"

3. **Abhinandan Banerjee**, Doctoral Candidate
University of California, Riverside

Title: "Nonviolent Manliness: Conceptualizing an Alternate Masculinity through Jaina Ethics"

5:00 PM Concluding Remarks

DAY THREE
TUESDAY
APRIL 23

ANNA W. NGAI ALUMNI CENTER AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

9:00 AM Meet and Greet at Breakfast

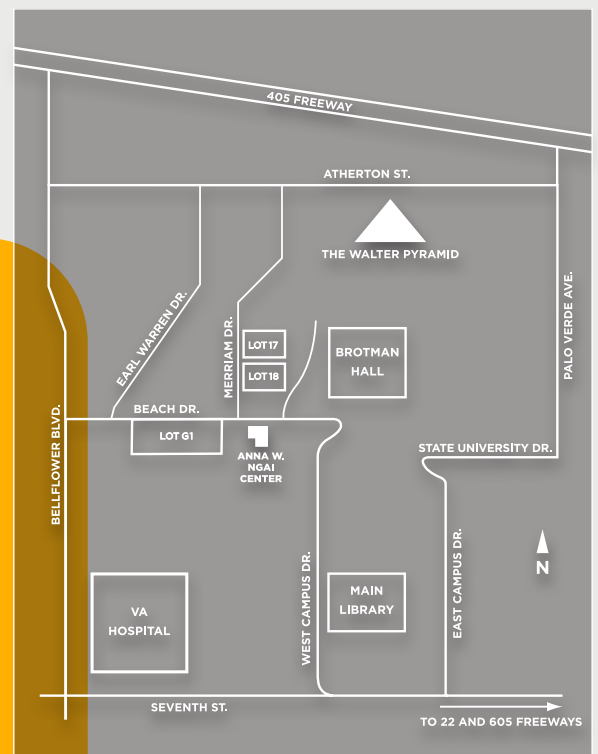
9:30 to 10:30 AM Introduction by **Dr. John Becker**
Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Christopher Chapple**,
Loyola Marymount University
Title: "Life Abounds: How Jaina Cosmology
Intersects Self and World"

PANEL THREE

11:00 to 12:30 PM Exploring Nonviolence by Future Torchbearers of Jainism
Moderator - **Dr. Venu Mehta**
1. **Laura Paulsell**, Loyola Marymount University
Title: "Overcoming Resistance to Death: Jain Lessons on
Accepting the End of Life"
2. **Thai Butterfield**, M.A. Religious Studies, CSULB
3. **Alexander Jordan**, Student, CSULB
Samavasaran Meditation Session by **Samani Punya Pragya**

12:30 to 1:00 PM Gratitude

1 to 2 PM Vegan Lunch



**ANNA W. NGAI
ALUMNI CENTER**
Please park in Lot G1