

**PROGRAM**

# CONSCIOUSNESS

IN MODERN SCIENCE AND JAIN PHILOSOPHY

**Second International  
Conference on Science  
and Jain Philosophy (ICSJP)**

Virtual Conference | March 19-22, 2021

Organizers:

**Jain Studies Program**

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs  
Florida International University

**Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF)**

**Organizers:**

**FIU Jain Studies Program**  
**Steven J. Green School of International  
& Public Affairs**

**Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF)**

**Co-sponsors:**

**Mohini Jain Presidential Chair in Jain Studies**  
University of California, Davis

**Jain Vishva Bharati Centers**  
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**Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)**

**Jain Center of South Florida**

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**Spiritual Technology Research Foundation (Mumbai)**  
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**World Jain Confederation (Mumbai)**

ORGANIZERS



**Steven J. Green  
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# PROGRAM AGENDA

## FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

7:30 AM to 7:40 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 4:40 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 5:10 PM IST

**Welcome Address** Founding Dean John F. Stack, Jr.  
Florida International University

**Conference Overview** Iqbal Akhtar  
Florida International University

7:40 AM to 9:15 AM EDT | 4:40 AM to 6:15 AM PDT | 5:10 PM to 6:45 PM IST

### Theme: Soul and Consciousness in Jain Philosophy

Samani Chaitanya Pragma (Moderator)  
Florida International University

Acharya Vijaynandighoshisuri Maharaj  
*Is It Possible to Define Consciousness Scientifically?*  
Research Institute of Scientific Secrets from Indian Oriental Scriptures

Kanti Mardia  
*On Two Qualitative Jain Models of Consciousness*  
Leeds University and Oxford University

Chakravarthi Devakumar  
*Mati Jñāna and Cognitive Science*  
Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

9:15 AM to 10:15 AM EDT | 6:15 AM to 7:15 AM PDT | 6:45 PM to 7:45 PM IST

**Conference Address** Nathan Katz (Moderator)  
Florida International University

Muni Mahendra Kumar  
*Soul, Life, and Consciousness in Jain Philosophy*  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

**BREAK**

Note: Times are given for Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) and Indian Standard Time (IST)

**10:30 AM to 11:20 AM EDT | 7:30 AM to 8:20 AM PDT | 8:00 PM to 8:50 PM IST**

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**Salutatory Addresses** Samani Punya Pragya, *Benediction*  
President Mark B. Rosenberg, *Presidential Address*  
Florida International University  
David F. Skipp, *Miami-Dade County Proclamation*  
Florida International University  
Iqbal Akhtar, *FIU Jain Studies Program Video*  
Florida International University  
Message from His Holiness Acharya Mahashraman  
Samani Chaitanya Pragya, *Conference Introduction*  
Florida International University  
Dipak Jain, *Welcome Address*  
Jain Education and Research Foundation  
Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, *Address by Chief Guest*  
Embassy of the Republic of India in the United States  
Pratap Sanchetee, *Vote of Thanks*  
Executive Director, ICSJP2021

**11:20 AM to 12:00 PM EDT | 8:20 AM to 9:00 AM PDT | 8:50 PM to 9:30 PM IST**

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**Keynote Address** Jainendra Navlakha (Moderator)  
Florida International University  
Padmavibhusan Raghunath A. Mashelkar  
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

**BREAK**

**12:15 PM to 1:15 PM EDT | 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM PDT | 9:45 PM to 10:45 PM IST**

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**Conference Address** Dipak Jain (Moderator)  
Jain Education and Research Foundation  
Nathan Katz  
*Consciousness and the End of Life*  
Florida International University

**1:15 PM to 2:15 PM EDT | 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM PDT | 10:45 PM to 11:45 PM IST**

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**Conference Address** Narendra Bhandari (Moderator)  
Science and Spirituality Research Institute  
Vernon M. Neppe  
*How the Triadic Dimensional Vortical Paradigm (TDVP) Unifies Nature, Spirituality and Science*  
Pacific Neuropsychiatric Institute

## SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 6:00 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM IST

**Theme: Relative Economics – A New Model of Development based on Consciousness**

Ashok Bapna (Moderator)  
Malaviya National Institute of Technology

Atul K. Shah  
City University of London

Siddheshwar R. Bhatt  
Indian Council of Philosophical Research

Chain Singh Barla  
University of Rajasthan

Dayanand Bhargava  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Prabhat Pankaj  
Jaipuria Institute of Management

**BREAK**

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM EDT | 6:15 AM to 7:45 AM PDT | 6:45 PM to 8:15 PM IST

**Theme: The Biological and Spiritual Evolution of Consciousness**

Erik Larson (Moderator)  
Florida International University

Narayan L. Kachhara  
*Consciousness and the Doctrine of Karma*  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Ashok K. Jain  
*Consciousness in Ekendriya Jivas with Special References to Microorganisms*  
Jiwaji University

Jaipat Singh Jain  
*Animal Consciousness, Jainism and Science*  
Independent Scholar

**BREAK**

11:00 AM to 1:45 PM EDT | 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM PDT | 8:30 PM to 11:15 PM IST

**Theme: Neurological and Cognitive Theories of Consciousness**

Shekhar Bhansali (Moderator)  
Florida International University

Satish Kumar  
*Jain Science: Uniting Spirituality and Science*  
Schumacher College

Samani Chaitanya Pragya  
*Definition, Structure, Function and Cognitive Theories of Consciousness*  
Florida International University

Narendra Bhandari  
*Anekantavad in the Context of Quantum Physics*  
Science and Spirituality Research Institute

Bennett L. Schwartz  
*Monkey Metacognition*  
Florida International University

Andrew Bridges  
*Hegel and Anekāntavāda in a Wired Brain*  
California State University

Wolfgang Baer  
*The Soul and Life in Conscious Action Theory*  
Nascent Systems Incorporated

## SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

7:30 AM to 11:00 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 8:00 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM IST

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### Theme: Karma Theory and Development of Consciousness

Pratap Sanchetee (Moderator)  
Sanchetee Neurology Research Institute

Muni Siddha Kumar  
*Consciousness beyond Mind and Brain*  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Dharmchand Jain  
*Effect of Nāma-karma on Manifestation of Consciousness*  
Jainarain Vyas University

Sudhir M. Shah  
*Think of These Things: Soul, Consciousness and Science*  
Yale University

Anand Bhansali  
*Concept of Soul in Jainism*  
Independent Scholar

Helen Kaibara and Jimmy Triplett  
*Towards a Cultural Role for Jainist Belief in Modern World:  
Reconciling Soul of Jainism with Organismal Biology*  
Jacksonville State University

Jashvant Shah  
*Consciousness: Contrasting Oriental and Occidental Approaches*  
Indian Ministry of Education

Namramuni Maharaj Saheb  
*Consciousness in Fetal Development*  
Parasdham

Gary Francione  
*Cetanā: Animals, Plants, and the Ahimsic Imperative of Veganism and Ecological Preservation*  
Rutgers University Law School

Jeffery D. Long  
*The Nature of the Jiva: Consciousness as Intrinsic to Reality in Jaina Philosophy*  
Elizabethtown College

Surendra Singh Pokharna  
*Forty-seven Shakties of Aatma in Jainism and Analogous Ideas in Modern Science*  
Daulat Singh Kothari Institute for Research and Education

**BREAK**

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**11:15 AM to 2:30 PM EDT | 8:15 AM to 11:30 AM PDT | 8:45 PM to 12:00 AM IST**

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**Theme: Evolution of Consciousness in Jain and Western Perspectives**

Kirti Jain (Moderator)  
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Rupert Sheldrake  
*Morphic Fields and Biology*  
Institute of Noetic Sciences and Schumacher College

Acharya Kanaknandi  
Jain Acharya

Kalyan Gangwal  
Physician, Scholar and Activist

Christopher Chapple  
*Conscience and Consciousness*  
Loyola Marymount University

Brianne Donaldson  
*The Role of Consciousness in Jain Responses to Darwin*  
University of California, Irvine

Anand Vaidya (San Jose State University) and  
Purushottama Bilimoria (University of Melbourne)  
*Consciousness: A Cross-Cultural and Multi-Disciplinary Engagement between  
Jain Philosophy, Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenological Philosophy of Mind*

## **MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021**

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**7:30 AM to 9:30 AM EDT | 4:30 AM to 6:30 AM PDT | 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM IST**

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**Theme: Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence**

Neptune Srimal (Moderator)  
Florida International University

Muni Abhijit Kumar  
*Unleashing the Power of Consciousness through Spiritual Technology to  
Counter Future Threats from Artificial Intelligence and Others*  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Muni Jagrit Kumar  
*The Enigma of Consciousness*  
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute

Paras Mal Agrawal  
*A Multidimensional View of Consciousness in Context with One's Identity and Equanimity*  
Vikram University

Ratnakumar Shah  
*Wherefrom Life: Soul, Matter or Consciousness? The Jain Perspective*  
Fergusson College, Pune

Ram Gopal Jain  
*Consciousness, Conation and Knowledge as the Powers of the Soul*  
Independent Scholar

Shugan C. Jain  
*The Exchange of Information between Soul and Matter*  
International School of Jain Studies

Mahaveer Singh Sisodia  
*Consciousness: Cell-To-Cell Communication and Ahimsa*  
Jainarain Vyas University

Meenal Katarnikar and Jinesh Sheth  
*Denying the Binary of Dualism and Identity Theories: Jaina View on Consciousness*  
University of Mumbai

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**BREAK**

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**9:45 AM to 11:15 AM EDT | 6:45 AM to 8:15 AM PDT | 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM IST**

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**Theme: Origin and Evolution of Consciousness**

Nirmal Baid (Moderator)  
Jain Education and Research Foundation

Natalia Zheleznova  
*Mind Theory in Jain Context*  
Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences

Mehool Sanghrajka  
*Reflections on Consciousness in Jain Soteriological Thought*  
Institute of Jainology

Shyam Lal Godawat  
*Consciousness in Lower Organisms: Jain and Scientific Views*  
Rajasthan College of Agriculture

Pragati Jain  
*The Mathematics of Consciousness*  
Government College Manawar

Sushama Parekh  
*Jain Perspective – Known, Knowing and Knower in the Inner Consciousness Space*  
Williamette University

Christopher Miller (Loyola Marymount University)  
and Jonathan Dickstein (University of California, Santa Barbara)  
*Revisiting Veganism and the "Ahimsā Crisis":  
Raising Consciousness according to Karma and Science*



**BREAK**

**11:30 AM to 11:45 AM EDT | 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM PDT | 9:00 PM to 9:15 PM IST**

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**Organizers' Address** Iqbal Akhtar  
Florida International University  
  
Sapan Bafna  
Jain Education and Research Foundation  
  
Bipin Shah  
California State University, Fullerton

**11:45 AM to 1:30 PM EDT | 8:45 AM to 10:30 AM PDT | 9:15 PM to 11:00 PM IST**

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**Valedictory Addresses** Jain Community Youth  
*Closing Prayer*  
  
Erik Larson  
*Concluding Remarks*  
Florida International University  
  
Gulab Kothari  
*Address by Chief Guest*  
Rajasthan Patrika  
  
Erik Larson  
*ICSJP 2021 Award Ceremony*  
Florida International University  
  
Iqbal Akhtar  
*FIU Jain Studies Program Video*  
Florida International University  
  
Samani Chaitanya Pragya  
*Conclusion*  
Florida International University  
  
Nirmal Baid  
*Vote of Thanks*  
Jain Education and Research Foundation

## SPEAKERS



fields, as well as Jainism.

**Paras Mal Agrawal** is a physicist and has served as lecturer, reader, and professor in India and as a visiting professor and research professional in Oklahoma State University. He has published more than four books and seventy research papers in top-notch research journals in the fields of molecular dynamics and quantum mechanics. He has also written books on Jainism—*Soul Science*, Parts I, II, and III—and provided an English translation and explanation of *Samayasāra*. He has received various awards in scientific



His recent book, *Conscious Action Theory*, focuses on physical theories that encompass consciousness.

**Wolfgang Baer** holds a doctoral degree from the University of California-Berkeley. His PhD thesis included a physical analysis of his own role as a conscious observer while operating spectroscopic experiments. His interest led to the analysis of cognitive vision and consciousness. He is a regular contributor to conferences dealing with physics and consciousness, including science and nonduality (SAND), toward a science of consciousness (TSC), and foundations of mind (FoM). He studies cognitive systems development and macroscopic quantum effects with the aim of developing theories integrating subjective and objective experiences.



**Ashok Bapna** is an honorary professor of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT); emeritus professor of Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun; and research professor of the Jaipuria Institute of Management, Jaipur. He is president of the Society for International Development (SID), Rajasthan chapter, and the National HRD Network. Prof. Bapna is a former member of the State Planning Board, Government of Rajasthan, and has had an illustrious career as a professor of economics and a development professional.



in both international and national journals.

**Chain Singh Barla** is a retired professor of economics from University of Rajasthan, India. Before that, he taught at the University of Touloure, France, and at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. He has been a guest lecturer at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and the University of Paris. Prof. Barla has also worked as a consultant to projects of the World Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency. He has participated in various international and national conferences and has papers published



**Anand Bhansali** was born into a Jain family in India in which practicing the Jain way of life runs deeply. After completing his MBA, Law, and CA in India, he came to the United States on a Rotary Foundation Scholarship where he earned his LL.M. from the University of Miami Law School. His entire family regularly studies Jainism in the Jain group in Miami, and they have also learned a great deal from visiting Samanis from India. He is inspired by the rational approach of Jain religion toward life and living.



**Andrew Bridges** holds the Bhagwan Shantinath Lectureship in Jain Studies at California State University-Fullerton, where he teaches the course “Non-Violence, Animal Rights, and Diet in Jainism” and helps organize the annual “Peace and Religion Symposium.” His current research interests include metaphysics and epistemology, utopian studies, and religion and technology.



**Narendra Bhandari** is a space scientist. He is on the NASA team for gamma ray analysis of the OSIRIS-Rex sample. He also holds the chair at the Science and Spirituality Research Institute, Ahmedabad, and is president of the Jain Academy of Scholars. He has carried out research work at the University of California, San Diego, and has been a senior professor at the Physical Research Laboratory, Department of Space, Ahmedabad, chairing its Geocosmophysics Division. He started and chaired ISRO’s Planetary Sciences and Exploration (PLANEX) program and made pioneering contributions to India’s first missions to the moon, Chandrayaan-1; he was responsible for conceiving and defining its science objectives. He has authored and edited several books and has published more than 300 research papers.



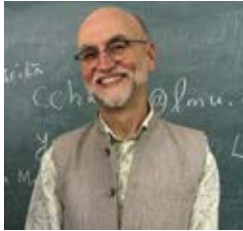
**Dayanand Bhargava** is professor emeritus at the Jain Vishva Bharati University, in Ladnun, India. He has been head lecturer in the Department of Sanskrit, Ramjas College, Delhi; reader in the Department of Sanskrit, University of Delhi; principal of Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Jammu & Allahabad; professor & head, Department of Sanskrit and dean of the Faculty of Arts, Education & Social Sciences at the University of Jodhpur, visiting professor at Rashtirya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, and chairman, Veda-Vijnana Peeth, J. R. Rajasthan Sanskrit University, Jaipur. He has also written more than 200 research papers.



**Siddheshwar R. Bhatt** is a philosopher and Sanskritist. He is a National Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Ministry of HRD, Government of India, and chairman of the Indian Philosophy Congress and the Asian-African Philosophy Congress. He is also editor (India) for the *Encyclopedia of Philosophers*. Prof. Bhatt has been professor and head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Delhi and chairman of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Government of India. He is internationally known as an authority on ancient Indian culture, Buddhism, Jainism, and Vedanta. He is a member of many national and international associations and on the editorial boards of many international journals.



**Purushottama Bilimoria** is a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar at Ashoka University and the India International Center, India (2019); principal fellow, Historical & Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia; permanent fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies; and distinguished senior fellow in Indian Philosophy, the Center for Dharma Studies, Graduate Theological Union at the University of California. He is the editor-in-chief of *Sophia*; APA leader in diversification of philosophy; coeditor-in-chief of the *Journal of Dharma Studies*; and principal investigator for the Indian Philosophy “Purushottama” Lab at RUND University and the Federal Ministry of Science & Education in Moscow.



**Christopher Chapple** is the Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology and founding director of the Master of Arts in Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He serves as adviser to multiple organizations, including the Forum on Religion and Ecology (Yale), the Jain Studies Centre (SOAS, London), and the International School for Jain Studies (New Delhi).



**Chakravarthi Devakumar** retired as the assistant director general from ICAR, New Delhi, after forty years of distinguished service in scientific research, teaching, and research management. Among his many accomplishments, his novel green chemical, neem-coated urea, is saving India about Rs 450 billion annually, in addition to reducing milk adulteration and environmental pollution. He has to his credit more than two hundred research papers, thirty book chapters, fourteen patents, and several books. He has been a consultant to GoI, UN-FAO, and other international organizations. His agamic discourse in Tamil exceeds 500 audios, and his bilingual book, *Bhagwan Bahubali*, is archived at [jainworld.com](http://jainworld.com).



**Jonathan Dickstein** is a PhD candidate in religious studies at the University of California-Santa Barbara. His work focuses on South Asian religious traditions, animals and religion, and comparative ethics. His dissertation project explores animal taxonomies and dietary regulations in Vedic, Dharma, and Yoga sources.



**Brianne Donaldson** is an assistant professor in religious studies and philosophy and the Shri Parshvanath Presidential Chair in Jain Studies at University of California, Irvine. She explores how implicit metaphysical beliefs inform social inclusion and ethical action toward plants, animals, and marginalized people. She is an author and editor of various publications.



**Gary Francione** is the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of Law at Rutgers University, New Jersey, and is visiting professor of philosophy at the University of Lincoln, UK. He has authored numerous books and articles on animal rights theory and is regarded as a leading scholar in the field of animal ethics and animal law. He has been a vegan since 1982 based on his acceptance of the principle of *ahimsā*, or nonviolence, and he rejects the use of all animal products, including silk and wool. He is a serious student of Jain philosophy and has written about Jainism and animal ethics.



**Kalyan Gangwal** is a physician as well as a selfless social worker, social thinker, and visionary. He has been a strong advocate for ethics, vegetarianism, and anti-addiction efforts for the last forty years. He has been the inspiration for more than forty lakh non-vegetarians to become vegetarian. For the past twenty years, he has been campaigning to end cattle sacrifice to the gods. He is a strict observer of many ethical principles of Jainism.



**Shyam Lal Godawat** for nearly forty years has taught and conducted research in agriculture and its extension. He was the head of the Department of Agriculture at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology and the dean of the Rajasthan College of Agriculture, both in Udaipur. He has guided many MSc (agriculture) and PhD candidates in developing their dissertations. Prof. Gogawat has extensively studied many Jain scriptures and is actively engaged in exploring the scientific nature of Jain philosophy. He is the recipient of many awards and titles, such as Vigyan-Shree, Dharm-Prabhavakar, Gyan-shree, and Gyan-Dani.



**Ashok K. Jain** is a retired professor of botany and the honorary director of the Institute of Ethnobiology of Jiwaji University in Gwalior, India. His fields of research include conservation, ethnobotany, taxonomy, and Jainism and science. He has a special interest in biological science and its relationship with Jainism and is trying to correlate *Ekendriya Jivas* and other *Sooksham Jivas* as described in ancient Jain scriptures with microorganisms as described in modern microbiology. He has published more than 120 papers in national and international journals and 20 articles in various Jain journals, books, and proceedings of Jain seminars. He has authored or edited seven books and has guided twenty-five PhD students and twenty-five MPhil students. He is the recipient of various prestigious awards and honors. In fact, a new plant *Geranium jainii* (Geraniaceae), found in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, has been named after him.



**Dharmchand Jain** has served as a professor of Sanskrit and as dean of the Faculty of Arts in Jainarain Vyas University, Jodhpur. His most significant work is on criticism of Buddhist epistemology and logic from the Jain point of view. He has written six books and edited thirty-four, participated in many national and international seminars, and guided three research projects. For his work in Prakrit and Sanskrit literature and Indian philosophy, he has received several awards. He has been editor of *Jinvani Monthly* for the last twenty-six years.



**Jaipat Singh Jain** practices law in New York City. He is a member of the board of directors of the New York City Bar Association and of the State Attorney Disciplinary Committee, First Department. He is an honorary trustee of Siddhachalam in New Jersey. He is an appellant before India's Supreme Court against a state High Court decision holding *santhara/ sallekhana*, the Jain practice of voluntary death, to be suicide.



**Pragati Jain** is the head of the Mathematics Department at Government College, Dhar, India. Her areas of interest include computational mathematics, fuzzy and rough set theory, differential equations, linear and abstract algebra, and the history and philosophy of Indian mathematics. She has written six books and more than fifty research papers that have been published in national and international journals. She has also guided three research scholars to earn their doctorate degrees. She is a life member of several esteemed organizations such as the Indian Science Congress Association and the Indian Mathematical Society and has received numerous awards.



**Ram Gopal Jain** is a Jain scholar based in Chicago. He is an adviser to the president of Digamber Jain Mahasabha and to the president overseas of Shri Digamber Jain Mahsamiti. He is also the vice president, USA & Canada, of Bharatvarshiya Digamber Jain Mahila Mahasabha and is a member of the Advisory Board of Rashtriya Digamber Jain Pratinidhi Mahasabha.



**Shugan C. Jain** is the founder-chairman of the International School for Jain Studies. Before that he worked as an information systems engineer-cum-consultant specialist. He has organized more than fifteen international seminars and delivered lectures at universities in the United States, Canada, Thailand, and India. He has translated and edited Jain texts into English, authored books on topics related to Jainism, and published more than fifty papers. He has also helped reform Jain education institutions like Parshwanath Vidhyapeeth Varanasi and four schools of the Jain Shiksha Pracharak society in Old Delhi.



**Narayan Lal Kachhara** is emeritus professor of the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute in Ladnun, India. He was formerly principal of the Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College (now National Institute of Technology) in Allahabad. He has authored or edited a dozen books and has published more than forty articles on Jainism in scientific contexts.



**Helen Kaibara** is an assistant professor of Asian history at Jacksonville State University (JSU) in Florida. She was a Fulbright-Hays fellow at Rikkyo University in Tokyo and has a PhD from Michigan State University. She has an interest in ecology and is currently conducting research on various environmental projects in Southern India.



**Acharya Kanakanandi** is a unique scholar. He is a master of thirty languages and is well versed in advanced topics such as cosmology, quantum theory, and the theory of black holes. He is also a scholar of astrology, mantral science, shakun science, Angsturan, politics, world philosophies, international law, supernatural mathematics, psychology, history, chemistry, physics, etiology, geography, economics, and mathematics. Acārya Kanaknandi has written more than 350 texts. He is currently the academic mentor for 20

Acāryas and the spiritual mentor for 300 Sadhus in the entire Nandi Sangh. The titles of Chakravarti, Kalakal's Akalanka, and Samantabhadra have been bestowed upon him.



**Meenal Katarnikar** is a professor in the Department of Philosophy and director of the Centre for Extra Mural Studies, University of Mumbai. She specializes in epistemology, Indian philosophy in general and Jainism and Buddhism in particular, and research methodology. She is part of a research project on Kautiliya Arthashasra and has edited and authored various books; she has, to her credit, more than forty research articles published in well-respected journals and publications. She has presented papers and

seminars in India, Germany, and Greece.



**Nathan Katz** is Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, in the School of International and Public Affairs, at Florida International University (FIU). He was the founding chair of the Department of Religious Studies, the Bhagwan Mahavir Professor of Jain Studies, the Kaufmann Professor of Global Entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration, an affiliated faculty in the College of Medicine, director of Jewish studies, and founder and director emeritus of the innovative Program in the Study of Spirituality.



**Gulab Kothari** is chief editor of the Rajasthan Patrika Group and one of the most celebrated and versatile journalists in India. Dr. Kothari is also ranked among the most academically accomplished editors in the country and is the only one in the media world to have been honored with the Bharatiya Jnanpith Moortidevi Award for Main hi Radha Main hi Krishna. He is the author of numerous works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.



**Muni Abhijit Kumar** is a profound thinker and a versatile scholar, with expertise in diverse disciplines, including philosophy, the life sciences, spirituality, parapsychology, and meditation. He is the first Jain ascetic to have earned a PhD in English: his thesis was titled "Doctrine of Gods in Jainism: A Critical Study." With his deep understanding of Jain scriptures and modern science, he has had a deep impact on scholars, scientists, and the masses. He bridges ancient wisdom with modern science through his pioneering

work on *Bhagwati Sūtra*. Being competent in multiple languages, he has created 100 Sanskrit verses in a single day. He has also traveled nearly 10,000 kilometers on foot.



**Muni Jagrit Kumar** is a Jain monk and disciple of *Ācārya* Shri Mahashraman. He is a versatile scholar, having mastery over various disciplines such as mathematics, philosophy, meditation, spirituality, memory, psychology, parapsychology, and the life sciences; he knows several languages including Sanskrit, Prakrit, and French. He has demonstrated *Avadhan-Vidya*, a rare ancient science of memory and mental mathematics, at several public gatherings. Currently, he is engaged in research on consciousness from the perspective of science and Jainism and in translating the ancient Jain scripture *Bhagwati Sūtra* into English. He has eulogized his *guru* by creating 100 Sanskrit shlokas in a day.



**Muni Mahendra Kumar** is a senior monk and convenor of Bahushrut Parishad of the Jain Shwetambar Terāpanth Order. He is a versatile scholar of diverse disciplines such as physics, mathematics, bioscience, philosophy (Indian, as well as Western), psychology, parapsychology, ancient history, and meditation. He is an honorary professor at the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute in Ladnun, India.



**Satish Kumar** is a former monk and has been a long-time peace and environment activist and ecologist. He is editor emeritus of *Resurgence* magazine and has been its longest-serving editor, from 1973 to 2016. He cofounded Schumacher College in South Devon, where he is a Visiting Fellow. He continues to teach and run workshops on reverential ecology, holistic education, and voluntary simplicity.



**Muni Siddha Kumar** (“Kshemankar”) is a young Jain monk who specializes in Jain philosophy; Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Hindi literature; the study of ancient scriptures, and the intersection of Jainology with the social sciences. He has authored poems and articles for several national magazines and blogs. He is currently engaged in the translation and interpretation of a 1,600-year-old scripture. Initiated into the monkhood eight years ago, he is devoting his life to meditation, spirituality, and discovering the true self.



**Jeffery D. Long** is the Carl W. Zeigler Professor of Religious Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. He is the author of *A Vision for Hinduism*, *Jainism: An Introduction*, *The Historical Dictionary of Hinduism* (first and second editions), and *Hinduism in America: A Convergence of Worlds*. He is the editor of the volume *Perspectives on Reincarnation: Hindu, Christian, and Scientific* and a coeditor of the Buddhism and Jainism volumes of the *Springer Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*, as well as *Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age*. In 2018, Dr. Long received the Hindu American Foundation’s Dharma Seva Award for his work in promoting accurate and culturally sensitive portrayals of Indic traditions in the U.S. education system and media. In 2019, he gave three presentations at the United Nations.





values, and principles.

His Holiness **Acharya Mahashraman** is the eleventh Acārya, supreme head of the Jain Śvētāmbara Terāpanth sect. He heads all activities functioning under the Terāpanth organization, most notably Anuvrat, Preksha Meditation, and Jeevan Vigyan (Science of Living). All the Terāpanth sub-organizations—notably, Jain Vishva Bharati and Terāpanth Mahasabha—work under his guidance. Despite being an Acārya of a religious order, his views are liberal and secular. He is firmly committed to promoting nonviolence, moral



**Kanti Mardia** is a Senior Research Professor of Statistics at Leeds University and Oxford University and an Emeritus Leverhulme Fellow. He is president of the Yorkshire Jain Foundation and chairman of the Jain Noble Truth Association. In 2014 he released an album “Aatma Ajar Amar Hai,” based on his Jain theory of 4 Noble Truths, in collaboration with the late Dr Ravindra Jain. He was a keynote speaker at the House of Commons on 2017 Ahimsa Day.



**Padmavibhusan Raghunath A. Mashelkar**, National Research Professor, has served as the director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, chairman of the National Innovation Foundation, and president of the Indian National Science Academy, the Global Research Alliance, and the Institute of Chemical Engineers (UK). In recognition of his pioneering research contributions in polymer science and engineering, he has been honored as a fellow of the Royal Society and of the U.S. National Academy of Inventors, a foreign fellow of the U.S. National Academies of Science and National Academies of Engineering, a foreign associate of the American Academy of Arts and Science, and a fellow of the US National Academy of Inventors. He has received honorary doctorates from forty-four universities from around the world. The more than sixty awards he has received include the prestigious TWAS-Lenovo Science Prize, the highest science prize given by the World Academy of Science; the *Business Week* (USA) award as a “Star of Asia,” given to him by former President George W. Bush; and the JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award, the only scientist to win it so far in three decades. Dr. Mashelkar, who was a member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister for more than thirty years, has also been honored with Padmashri, Padmabhushan, and Padma Vibhushan, three of the highest civilian honors.



**Christopher Miller** is the Bhagwan Mallinath Assistant Professor of Jain and Yoga Studies at Loyola Marymount University. His current research focuses on the ways in which Jain and yoga practices are translated into contemporary transnational yoga communities. He is the author of a number of articles and book chapters on Jainism, the history and practice of modern yoga, yoga and politics, and yoga philosophy and is a coeditor of the 2019 volume *Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age*.



**Vernon M. Neppe**, MD, PhD, Fellow Royal Society (SAf), BN&NP, DFAPA, MMed, FFpsych, DSPE, is director of the Pacific Neuropsychiatric Institute in Seattle. He is a Distinguished Fellow and Distinguished Professor of the Exceptional Creative Achievement Organization. Prof. Neppe is a dimensional biopsychophysicist, behavioral neurologist, neuropsychiatrist, psychopharmacologist, forensic specialist, psychiatrist, physician, phenomenologist, neuroscientist, epileptologist, consciousness researcher, philosopher, research methodologist, creativity expert, and playwright.



**Prabhat Pankaj** is the director of the Jaipuria Institute of Management in Jaipur. He also writes for the *Times of India* and *Economic Times*, leading dailies in India. He has been teaching economics at postgraduate and undergraduate levels for about thirty years in universities and business schools in India and abroad, including six years in Bhutan. He is a Harvard-trained leader in higher education and recipient of prestigious fellowships and assignments nationally and internationally. Prof. Pankaj is an international researcher on happiness and well-being and teaches a course on happiness to B-School students.



**Sushama Parekh** is an adjunct professor at the Claremont School of Theology, which offers a graduate program in Jain studies. She is also director of JAINA (Federation of Jain Associations in North America), which promotes Jain studies at academic institutions in the United States and Canada. She received her MSEE degree from Loyola Marymount University and has been working in the aerospace industry for the past forty years in various management and executive roles. She is currently a principal engineer at Moog Inc., responsible for research and development in innovative motion-control technologies used in commercial and military aircraft.



**Surendra Singh Pokharna** is the founder of the Science and Spirituality Research Institute, Ahmedabad, India, which conducts multidisciplinary research in science, Jainism, and Indian culture. He has been a scientist at the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and a lecturer and assistant professor of physics. He has written around 150 publications—including scientific notes, technical notes, and papers in national and international journals, newspapers, and magazines—in the fields of physics, operations research, general systems theory, remote sensing, sustainable development, Jainism, Indian culture, parapsychology, and spirituality. Recently he played an active role in launching the Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari Institute for Research and Education in Udaipur.



**Samani Chaitanya Pragya** is a senior disciple in the Jain Shwetamber Terāpanthi tradition. She is a visiting professor at Florida International University, Miami. She was the former head of the Department of JCRP at the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (JVBI) in Ladnun and is also the founding director of the Bhagawan Mahavira International Research Center at JVBI.



**Pratap Sanchetee**, MD, DM, is a consultant neurologist at the Sanchetee Neurology Research Institute in Jodhpur. He is also a visiting professor at Jain Vishva Bharti University in Ladnun, where he is pursuing scientific research to delineate the role of the brain and mind and the intricacies of the soul as defined in Jainism. He served in the Indian Armed Forces as physician and neurologist for twenty-four years and also has more than twenty years of teaching experience. He has published 110 original papers, chapters, and review articles in national and international journals and has been actively associated with editorial work.



**Mehool H. Sanghrajka** is the managing trustee of the Institute of Jainology, which he joined after earning his PhD in Jainism twenty years ago. As executive director, Mehool leads the development of [www.Jainpedia.org](http://www.Jainpedia.org), which now has more than one million page views annually. He represents the Jain faith at UK government events and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, where his papers—"The Role of Religions in Promoting Fraternal Love and Non-Violence for Global Harmony and Peace: A Jain Perspective" and "Religious Perspectives on Pandemic and Human Suffering: A Jain Perspective"—were published in *Pro Dialogo* during the current pandemic. Mehool is founder and CEO of Learning Possibilities, a global educational technology business.



**Namramuni Maharaj Saheb** is a revolutionary research-based Jain saint with extraordinary dynamism. He spent his initial years of ascetic life in research, spiritual practices, and religious disciplines for the realization of the self. He learned nineteen *agams* by heart and mastered the thirty-two *agams* (Jain scriptures) to unveil their deep secrets and philosophies. He is the founder of Parasdham, an Indian socioreligious organization with a global footprint, which has initiatives such as Arham (a humanitarian nonprofit youth wing) and Look 'N Learn (a moral education program-based school for children).



**Bennett L. Schwartz** is a professor of psychology at Florida International University. He has more than ninety professional publications, including books, journal articles, book chapters, and commentaries. His primary research interest is metacognition. His view that tip-of-the-tongue states are a window on active consciousness, as well as a case study in metacognition, is well known in the field of cognitive psychology. He has also conducted research on human and nonhuman primate memory. Prof. Schwartz is editor-in-chief of *New Ideas in Psychology* and associate editor of both *Metacognition and Learning* and *Acta Psychologica*. He is completely vegetarian and mostly vegan.



**Atul K. Shah** is a visiting lecturer in the Department of International Politics, School of Arts and Social Sciences, at the City University of London. He is a qualified chartered accountant and member of ICAEW. He is the founder of the global Young Jains movement and founding editor of *Jain Spirit* global magazine.



**Jashvant Shah** is a retired entrepreneur and founder-trustee of the Sthanakvasi Jain Trust in Vapi, Gujarat, India. He has a profound interest in the ancient languages of Prakrit and Apabhramsa, Jain philosophy, and Jain literature. He has translated various books on Jain philosophy from Gujarati or Hindi into English and presented numerous papers on Jain philosophy-related subjects in English, Hindi, and Gujarati.



**Ratnakumar Shah** served as a lecturer in mathematics and astronomy at Fergusson College, Pune, and later joined the Life Insurance Corporation of India from where he retired as executive director in 1995. He has written books on insurance, statistics, dynamics, and quantitative techniques. In 2007, he began his studies in Jaina mathematics and since then has published and presented nearly twenty research papers in international journals and conferences. He recently completed a research project on “Karma Mathematics” sponsored by Kundakunda Jñānapītha, Indore. He currently is editing and translating (into English) two *āgamic* works—*Anuyogadvārasūtra* and *Jambuddīvapannattisutta*—for Jain Viśva Bhārati, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India.



**Sudhir M. Shah** is a student of various spiritual traditions and is involved in educating youth in Jain philosophy and spirituality. A scientist, educator, and social entrepreneur, he has served JAINA as a board member, editor of *Jain Digest* magazine, a member of various committees, and an exhibition committee chair. Sudhir is committed to ushering in meaningful reforms in Jain societies and does not shy away from addressing controversial topics on various traditional practices. Active in interfaith communities, he has also conducted workshops at various temples, churches, mosques, and synagogues, as well as at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Barcelona, Toronto, and Salt Lake City.



**Rupert Sheldrake, PhD**, is a biologist and author of ninety technical papers and nine books, including *Science Set Free*. He is a fellow of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Petaluma, California, and of Schumacher College in Dartington, England. As a fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, he was director of studies in cell biology and was also a research fellow of the Royal Society.



**Jinesh Sheth** is currently pursuing his PhD as a UGC Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai. His research interests include Jaina philosophy, Indian philosophy, analytic philosophy, the philosophy of mind, and research methodology. He has presented papers at national and international conferences and has three papers published in conference proceedings and one in a peer-reviewed journal.



**Mahaveer Singh Sisodia** has been a Visiting Scientist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and at the Physical Research Laboratory in India. He was also head and professor of the Department of Geology and dean of the Faculty of Science at J. N. Vyas University, Jodhpur, India. He has 120 publications and has made thirteen educational films for national broadcast on Doordarshan. Dr. Sisodia has received various awards and honors during his illustrious career. He has a profound interest in Jain studies and regularly gives talks on the concepts of *anekāntavād* and consciousness.



**Jimmy Triplett** is an associate professor of biology at Jacksonville State University. He received his PhD from Iowa State University and completed a post-doc at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. His research focuses on plant hybridization and bamboo taxonomy, and he conducts fieldwork in both Southeast Asia and the United States.



**Anand Vaidya** is a professor of philosophy at San Jose State University in California and has served as director of the Center for Comparative Philosophy. He works on consciousness, perception, critical thinking, and business ethics in both Anglo-analytic and Indo-analytic philosophy. For the past ten years he has strongly advocated for the inclusion of Indo-analytic philosophy in contemporary philosophical education across the globe. With respect to Jainism, he is especially interested in Jain theories of causation in the philosophy of mind and how Jain epistemology can contribute to social epistemology in a pluralistic and diverse global culture.



**Acharya Vijaynandighosh Suri Maharaj** is the Chief Mentor of RISSIOS (Research Institute of Scientific Secrets from Indian Oriental Scriptures). He has conducted critical and innovative research in Jainism and science for the past forty years. He is an expert in *agamas* and various branches of modern science like physics, especially relativity, quantum mechanics, and astrophysics; astronomy; and microbiology, as well as astrology, metaphysics, acoustics of music, and mantra-yantra. He had published nearly a dozen books related to scientific concepts of Jainism.



**Natalia A. Zheleznova** is a senior research fellow in the Department of History and Culture of the Ancient Orient, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow where she is conducting research on Jainism. She has written several books on Jainism in Russian and is the recipient of the Kundakunda Puruskar Award and the Prakrit Jnanabharati International Award.

## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS Miami-Dade County recognizes the economic and cultural contribution of the Jain community to the cultural mosaic of Miami-Dade;

WHEREAS Jainism espouses nonviolence, respect towards all people, and the understanding of multiple perspectives to heal the divisions in our society;

WHEREAS Florida International University's Jain Studies program encourages an understanding of Jain history, culture, and religion as well as encouraging Indian and American international scholarly collaboration;

BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Daniella Levine Cava**, mayor of Miami-Dade County, Acting Chairwoman Rebecca Sosa, and the members of the board of county commissioners, on behalf of Miami-Dade County, and this community do hereby proclaim March 19, 2021 as

## **JAIN STUDIES PROGRAM DAY**

I call upon the good people of Miami-Dade County to join me in honoring the Jain community, whose traditions have helped to promote peace, non-violence, and mutual respect within and for our diverse community.



