The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
Annual Report 2018

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Message from the Director

This year marks our twentieth anniversary. In this time, we’ve made significant strides in our four main areas: publishing, research, education, and outreach.

In publishing, we’ve established two book series with Routledge (Archaeology and Religion, Hindu Studies), established the Journal of Hindu Studies in collaboration with Oxford University Press (with 32 issues in just 10 years), facilitated the publication of 150 books by our fellows and postgraduates, and published a grand total of 280 peer-reviewed research papers.

Underlying this immense output is the research being done at the Centre. We’ve launched successful projects with our six major international conferences: projects such as Shakta Traditions, Bengali Vaishnavism, Archaeology and Religion, Indian Philosophy, Bhagavata Purana, and the Goswami Project. These attract scholars from around the globe – we’ve had 77 visiting fellows, including luminaries such as Patrick Olivelle and M. Narasimhachary. This year alone, the Shivdasani Fellowship and the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellowship have enabled us to host two visiting fellows every term. These scholars bring the OCHS ethos with them as they return to their academic institutions abroad, building those crucial international relationships that take the OCHS beyond Oxford.

We’ve endeavoured to make our research accessible and relevant through educational and outreach programmes. We’ve had over 300 students (18 being D.Phil. graduates), enrolled over 3000 students in our flagship online classes (730 this year alone), and have delivered 1500 lectures (a third of which are available online). We have become the go-to place for Hindu Studies.

And beyond our role as an academic centre, we strongly believe in engaging with the community. This focus is exemplified by outreach programmes such as the Bhumi Project and Dharmic investment guidelines.

All of this has been made possible by our friends, supporters, and volunteers who have supplied energy and resources to this endeavour. With them, we’re on track to carry the same vigour, creativity, and success that has characterised our first 20 years into the future.

With very best wishes,
Shaunaka Rishi Das
1. The academic year 2017–18

Teaching
Research
Publication
Visiting fellows’ reports
Conference papers and lectures by Research Fellows
Conferences
Awards for Students
In the academic year 2017-18 the research and teaching of Hindu Studies at OCHS has seen a significant growth. With four full-time academic appointments in the past year, as well as the two visiting fellowships the OCHS is able to offer each term, the Centre's research projects have now found a very firm footing and have made the OCHS a vibrant centre for the study of Hindu traditions that continues to attract scholars internationally.

After an extended search, the appointments committee re-appointed Prof. Gavin Flood FBA as the academic director of the OCHS, and Dr Jessica Frazier, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen – who had all been involved with the OCHS in various capacities in the past – were appointed as Research Lecturers and have now joined the OCHS faculty full-time. Besides offering teaching to the University of Oxford, each of these scholars is involved in a major research project at the OCHS and collaborating with other individual researchers and research institutions abroad.

These research projects have all blossomed in the past year. The OCHS now has two visiting fellowships every term – the Shivdasani Fellow and the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow – and each term we have invited scholars working in the same area of Hindu Studies, to encourage collaboration and to develop our research projects. Thus, in Michaelmas Term we hosted two scholars contributing to the Sākta Traditions Research Project (Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder); in Hilary Term two scholars contributing to the Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period (Prof. Amiya Sen and Dr Santanu Dey); and in Trinity Term two art historians contributing to the Bhāgavata Purāṇa research project (Prof. Daniel Ehnbom and Dr Neeraja Poddar).

To develop these research projects further, the OCHS has hosted one major international conference – The Building of Vṛndāvana, which officially launched the Gosvāmī Era Research Project – one other international conference on empathy, and five one-day symposia for the Sākta Traditions Project, Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇavism Project, and the new Themes in Indian Philosophy Project. As a result, the OCHS has become a very dynamic research centre, and has attracted scholars from across the globe who have attached themselves to the various research projects of the OCHS.

With the new appointments, the OCHS has also been able to expand and consolidate the teaching it offers to the University of Oxford, and the visiting student programmes, such as that with Aarhus University, Denmark. The Continuing Education Department has also been expanding, with regular new day schools and summer schools in London and Oxford being launched, and the development of new online courses continuing.
Teaching

2017-18 saw the Oxford University Philosophy Faculty’s first teaching on Hindu Philosophy, bringing great systematic thinkers into conversation with perennial questions about truth, change and identity, being, consciousness, logic, language, ethics, and aesthetics. In Trinity term Dr Jessica Frazier and Dr Jan Westerhoff taught a series of Graduate seminars on Indian Philosophy which were well-attended and well-received by students across disciplines.

The Centre contributed to the Theology Faculty’s new course introducing all First Years to religions across traditions. Dr Jessica Frazier taught four classes for the first years, exploring themes in Hindu worship, divinity, and pilgrimage. Along with Drs Lutjeharms and Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. Flood continued to tutor students across Classical, Medieval and Modern Hinduism, and also assisted with Further Studies research, Dissertations, and Master’s and Doctoral work.

Professor Gavin Flood continued to supervise twelve D.Phil. students and convened the weekly seminar ‘Readings in Phenomenology’. He also organised a graduate conference on Soteriology in Hinduism.

Dr Jessica Frazier taught Indian Philosophy in the Philosophy Faculty, tutored undergraduates for the Hinduism I and II papers, and helped in the running of the M.St. in the Study of Religions.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms gave the lectures for Hinduism I and II in the Michaelmas and Hilary terms, tutored undergraduates for the Hinduism I and II papers, co-supervised DPhil students, and had regular tutorials with other DPhil students.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen taught Sanskrit Prelims for Theology and Religion students, tutored undergraduates for Hinduism I, and co-supervised DPhil students as well as continuing to teach on the Aarhus visiting student programme.

Research

OCHS has a number of research projects, each of which continued to develop in significant ways.

The Śākta Traditions Research Project

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

The project continues to grow with a number of colleagues in the research network. The Śākta project had two visiting scholars in Michaelmas Term 2017, Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Shivdasani Visiting Fellow from Heidelberg University) and Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder (J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow from Leipzig University). Most significantly Dr Wernicke-Olesen established a research and study centre in Kathmandu that will focus on manuscript collection and preservation as well as being a centre for fieldwork in the environs for research on Śākta traditions. An MoU was established with Nepal Sanskrit University, the first outcome of which is a Sanskrit Summer University course in Kathmandu in 2018 for students from Oxford and Nepal. During the year Dr Wernicke-Olesen organised two symposia and one workshop on the Śākta project with invited scholars from Scandinavia and Germany in particular.

Output

- Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Silje Lyngar Einarsen completed the first Danish translation of the Haṭhapradīpikā with an extensive introduction, essays, and illustrations.
- Ph.D. candidate (Northumbria) Janaki Nair produced a documentary on the use of mudrās in dance and the Śrīvidyā tradition in South India.
- A new website (saktatraditions.org) for the project was launched by two project interns from Aarhus University.
Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period

Project leaders: Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong

The Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period project has had another busy year. Project leaders Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong have been preparing an edited volume entitled ‘The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal’ for Routledge’s Hindu Studies Series. The volume is based on material presented at the project’s successful inaugural workshop and is due for publication in 2019. In Hilary term 2018, Prof. Amiya Sen (Jami Millia Islamia) and Dr Santanu Dey (Ramakrishna Vidyamandir) joined the OCHS as Visiting Fellows with the aim of working toward the objectives of the project. During this period, Dr Sardella and Wong organised a project related symposium, in which, in addition to the Visiting Fellows, scholars from Finland, Sweden, and Oxford presented and discussed their latest research on the subject of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal. The material presented at the symposium forms a cohesive and valuable body of research that Prof. Sen and Wong will prepare for publication. Another outcome of the symposium was the decision to begin work on an ambitious collaborative translation project relating to the array of Bengali-language Vaiṣṇavism-related journals that appeared in Bengal from the late nineteenth century. This undertaking, which will be co-ordinated by Dr Dey, aims to make available for the first time in the English language a substantial representative selection of these important sources that shed light on a central aspect of Bengali religious life in the colonial period. Work has already begun to collate and digitise these sources. To facilitate their work for the project, Prof. Sen and Dr Dey were made Research Fellows of the OCHS.

The Gosvāmī Era Research Project

Project leaders: Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Kiyokazu Okita

The early modern period in North India was one of the most socially turbulent and yet culturally vibrant times in its history. It saw the rise of several new religious groups and devotional theologies, such as the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition inaugurated by Kṛṣṇa Caitanya and developed by his principal disciples, the Gosvāmīs. This project, managed by Dr Kiyokazu Okita (Sophia University, Tokyo) and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies), aims to research the Sanskrit theological, ritual, and poetical works of the first followers of Caitanya in order to better understand how the tradition came to define and represent itself in relation to other traditions in this seminal period.

The research project was officially launched in September 2017 with a two-day conference held in Oxford on the theme ‘The Building of Vṛndāvana’. The conference brought together scholars from India,
America, Australia, Europe, and Japan to explore how Vṛndāvana, a relatively minor place of pilgrimage before the sixteenth century, became the focus of several traditions (including the Gauḍīyas) and was ‘built’ into a place of pilgrimage not just through the building of temples, but also through ritual, music, art, and theology. Speakers included Guy Beck, Måns Broo, David Buchta, Shrivatsa Goswami, David Haberman, John Stratton Hawley, Barbara Holdrege, Rembert Lutjeharms, Kiyokazu Okita, Cynthia Packert, and Heidi Pauwels. We are currently preparing a publication based on the conference with the Brill Indological Library.

Dr Kiyokazu Okita published a book chapter and a journal article, both of which explore 16th century Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava thinker Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Ujjvala-nilāmani* (see Fellows’ Publication, below). Currently he is working on a monograph tentatively entitled *God as Paramour: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Theology in Early Modern South Asia*, which analyses the content and the historical impact of Rūpa Gosvāmī’s *Ujjvala-nilāmani*. Together with Dr Satoshi Ogura (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), Dr Okita has been digitising the microfilms created by the Matsya Project. This project was funded by the Smithsonian Museum in the 1980s, and it microfilmed important books and manuscripts on Vaiṣṇava traditions. The project microfilmed the total of 1679 works, which are catalogued in *A Catalogue of Vaiṣṇava Literature* edited by Prof. Charles White (Motilal Banarsidass, 2004). Out of those microfilmed works, 326 titles have been digitised this year.

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms has also completed a book on Kavičārapūra, an important Gauḍīya poet of this period. The book, entitled *A Vaiṣṇava Poet in Early-Modern Bengal: Kavičārapūra’s Splendour of Speech* will be published later in 2018 by Oxford University Press. In addition, he has also edited a book the Prof. Joseph O’Connell was working on at the time of his untimely passing entitled *Caitanya Vaiṣṇavism in Bengal: Social Impact and Historical Implications*, which deals with the social implications of the (mostly early) Gauḍīya tradition. The book will be published by Routledge in the OCHS’s Hindu Studies Series.

Finally, in Trinity Term 2018, Dr Måns Broo (Åbo Akademi, Finland), who was a visiting fellow at the OCHS last academic year, joined the research project as a Research Fellow. Dr Broo is currently working on a critical edition and translation of the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa* of Gopāla Bhaṭṭa Gosvāmī, the most important ritual text of the Gauḍīya tradition.

**The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project**

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

The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project continued to make steady progress during the 2017 – 2018 academic year. We accomplished the following:

We have collected, revised, and submitted papers from the 2017 Bhāgavata Purāṇa Conference (Chennai) that will comprise two special issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies*, to be published later this year.

Dr Neeraja Poddar and Dr Daniel Ehnbom, visiting fellows at the OCHS in Trinity term, assumed responsibility to catalogue, evaluate, and where possible, digitise illustrated manuscripts of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa. Dr Poddar will lead the Illustrated Manuscripts section of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Project.

Collaboration is ongoing with the Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai. The Department is beginning a translation of the *Eknāthi Bhāgavata* from Marathi to English. Furthermore, Vrushali Potnis is beginning a Ph.D. on mysticism in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa under the supervision of Dr Shakuntala Gawde and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta.

Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari continues her research on Madhusūdana Sarasvatī’s commentary on the first verse of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa. She has written an article on the commentary and is
presently working on a translation. She has submitted a proposal for further research on this theme to the OCHS.

Dr Kenneth Valpey continues work on producing a documentary on the Bhāgavata Purāṇa for pedagogical applications, using video interviews taken at the Bhāgavata conference in Chennai. A video trailer for the documentary has been completed.

Finally, Prof. Ravi M. Gupta has published an article on Bhāgavata translation methods in the International Journal of Hindu Studies and has presented a paper on Śrīdhara Svāmī’s commentary at the World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver.

### Themes In Indian Philosophy

**Project Leader: Dr Jessica Frazier**

This project will produce conferences and volumes exploring key themes in philosophy through Indian perspectives, bringing Indian sources into dialogue with global issues. It will: (1) use conferences to establish a network of cross-disciplinary scholars interested in the substantive exploration of Indian Ideas as resources for philosophy and theory on a global scale; (2) continue a planned series of volumes in the ‘Dialogues in South Asian Traditions’ Routledge series edited by Laurie Patton and Brian Black; and (3) contribute to the integration of Indian Philosophy – its concepts and debates – into global scholarship and teaching on Philosophy, dovetailing with programmes of teaching on the subject.

The project aims to explore the dialogue of Indian philosophical ideas as a scholarly resource for doing philosophy. By exploring the intellectual dialectic of the traditions, and the conceptual insights afforded along the way, Indian intellectual ideas are treated on a par with histories of Classical Greek, Chinese, and contemporary Western philosophy. It will seek to strengthen the template for an Indian ‘History of Ideas’ by doing philosophy in a way that is rooted in rigorous textual and historical scholarship but engages directly in sophisticated current philosophical debates. The over-arching goal is to facilitate multi-cultural philosophising, bringing Indian thought to the global stage as a resource for thinkers in every tradition.

### Publication


### Journal of Hindu Studies

In 2017, the *Journal of Hindu Studies*, which the OCHS publishes in partnership with Oxford University Press, enjoyed its tenth year of publication and also saw the addition of a new editor. Dr James Madaio, a fellow at the OCHS and the Oriental Institute in Prague, joined the editorial team, which includes Professor Gavin Flood, Dr Jessica Frazier, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms.

In the academic year 2017-18, two issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies* were published:

- Volume 10, Issue 2 (August 2017), a special issue on Tamil Saivism and Saiva Siddhanta.
- Volume 10, Issue 3 (November 2017), containing articles on *bhakti* (devotion) from across South Asia – about the performance of the Tamil poetry of the āḷvārs, the non-dualism of Assamese Vaiṣṇava theologians, and the practice of *kīrtana* in early twentieth-century Bengal.
Hindu Studies Book Series
This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture, and society of Hindus living in India and abroad. The following new volume appeared in the last year:
• Modern Hindu Traditionalism in Contemporary India: The Śrī Math and the Jagadguru Rāmānandācārya in the Evolution of the Rāmānandī Sampradāya, By Daniela Bevilacqua

The following titles were published in paperback in the last year:
• Textual Authority in Classical Indian Thought: Ramanuja and the Vishnu Purana, By Sucharita Adluri
• Bhakti and Embodiment: Fashioning Divine Bodies and Devotional Bodies in Krsna Bhakti, By Barbara A. Holdrege
• The Death and Afterlife of Mahatma Gandhi, By Makarand R. Paranjape
• Hindu Pilgrimage: Shifting Patterns of Worldview of Srisailam in South India, By Prabhavati C. Reddy
• Hinduism and Environmental Ethics: Law, Literature, and Philosophy, By Christopher G. Framarin
• A Woman’s Ramayana: Candrāvatī’s Bengali Epic, By Mandakranta Bose, Sarika Priyadarshini Bose
• Re-figuring the Ramayana as Theology: A History of Reception in Premodern India, By Ajay K. Rao

Archaeology and Religion in South Asian Book Series
Himanshu Prabha Ray, Archaeology and Buddhism in South Asia
This Series reflects on the complex relationship between religion and society through new perspectives and advances in archaeology. It looks at this critical interface to provide alternative understandings of communities, beliefs, cultural systems, sacred sites, ritual practices, food habits, dietary modifications, power, and agents of political legitimisation. The books in the Series underline the importance of archaeological evidence in the production of knowledge of the past. They also emphasise that a systematic study of religion requires engagement with a diverse range of sources such as inscriptions, iconography, numismatics and architectural remains.

In the past academic year, the following new book was published in the series:
• From Temple to Museum: Colonial Collections and Umā Maheśvara Icons in the Middle Ganga Valley, By Salila Kulshreshtha

The following titles were published in paperback in the last year:
• Negotiating Cultural Identity: Landscapes in Early Medieval South Asian History, Edited by Himanshu Prabha Ray
• Archaeology and Religion in Early Northwest India: History, Theory, Practice, By Daniel Michon
• Women and Monastic Buddhism in Early South Asia: Rediscovering the invisible believers, By Garima Kaushik
Fellows Publications

Prof. Mandakranta Bose

• Nartana: A Quarterly Journal of Indian Dance (Hyderabad: Sahrdaya Trust) brought out a special issue (Volume XVII, No.3, July-September 2017) on my work on dance literature in Sanskrit, including a selection of my articles in the field.


Prof. John Brockington


Mary Brockington


Prof. Francis X. Clooney


• How To Do Comparative Theology: European and American Perspectives in Dialogue. Edited by Francis X. Clooney, SJ and Klaus von Stosch. Fordham University Press, 2018

• ‘Comparative Theology’s Difficult, Near Other: Reading Ritual in the Garland of Jaimini’s Reasons (III.5),’ in How To Do Comparative Theology, 206-228.


Prof. Gavin Flood


Prof. Ravi Gupta

• ‘Translators’ Troubles: Seeking a Method that Suits the Bhagavata Purana’ in International Journal of Hindu Studies 11.1.


Dr Sanjukta Gupta-Gombrich


Prof. Dermot Killingley


Dr Natalia Lidova


Prof. Julius Lipner

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

Prof. Patrick Olivelle
Dr Brainerd Prince


Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray


Dr Kenneth Valpey


Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Visiting fellows’ reports

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas Term: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

Thanks to the generous support of the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellowship, I spent Michaelmas term 2017 at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. This fellowship was granted on account of my affiliation with the Śākta Traditions Project led by Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen.

My own research focuses on the Tripurārahasya (TR), a Sanskrit work of South Indian origin, probably composed between the 12th and 16th century CE, and associated with the Tantric, Śākta religious tradition of the Śrīvidyā. The aim of my research is to produce a monographic study on the Tripurārahasya, which will be chiefly devoted to the doctrinal features of this work.

As a part of my obligations as a visiting fellow, I gave two lectures at the OCHS. The first lecture – ‘Is Yogic Suicide Useless? The Practice of Utkrānti in Some Tantric Vaiṣṇava and Śaiva Sources’ – dealt with the practice of yogic suicide as it occurs in some Vaiṣṇava Pāñcarātra sources, as well as in the Śaiva Mālinīvijayottaratantra. In the second lecture, ‘The Poetry of Thought in the Theology of the Tripurārahasya’, which I gave within the Śākta Traditions Symposium, I had the opportunity to present some preliminary outcomes of my study on the Tripurārahasya and discuss them with some of my colleagues in the Śākta Traditions Project.

I also pursued my own research on the Tripurārahasya, and specifically I have been working on a chapter of my study concerning the reformulation, to be found in the Tripurārahasya, of the Pratyabhijñā doctrine of reflection (ābhāsavāda). I presented a paper on this topic during the Second International Śākta Conference in Oxford in 2018.

As far as my affiliation with the Śākta Traditions Project is concerned, this sojourn in Oxford allowed me to talk at length with colleagues involved in the project, particularly with Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda, who was the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow. We discussed the research questions, methods, goals, context, and implications of our research project, and we made plans for the future, such as the organisation of the Second International Śākta Conference.

Moreover, holding a Bodleian Library card – which I obtained thanks to my affiliation with the OCHS – I have been able to find, consult, and scan important material, most useful for my work, thus taking full advantage of the opportunity of spending a period of study in Oxford.

I also had the chance to participate in the academic and social activities of the Centre, where there are always opportunities to talk with colleagues, exchanging information and ideas.

I explored also other scholarly and social activities taking place in Oxford during my stay. I attended several lectures at the Oriental Institute, particularly those organised by Prof. Richard Gombrich in the field of Buddhist Studies. I have learned much by attending the classes of Prof. Diwakar Acharya, who kindly gave me permission to assist his readings of portions of the Kiraṇatantra and of the Vijñānabhairavatantra. And a weekly appointment that I never missed was the Sanskrit Lunch at the Balliol College on Mondays, a unique occasion of encounter with scholars, where, as a newcomer, I felt welcomed among equals.

To conclude, I greatly enjoyed this period in Oxford. Thanks to the open, friendly and intellectually stimulating and pleasant aspect of my sojourn in Oxford. I attended all the OCHS lectures and participated in the Readings in Phenomenology led by Prof. Gavin Flood.

Besides all these, I never missed the Wednesday lunches! These lunches, enhancing a sense of community, offer a good opportunity to meet scholars, students, and people generally interested, or personally involved, in Indian culture, and to chat in a relaxed setting.

Since I was given a desk in the office of a colleague, I spent many fruitful and pleasant hours working there, and appreciating the intellectually lively and friendly atmosphere of the Centre, where there are always opportunities to talk with colleagues, exchanging information and ideas.

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To conclude, I greatly enjoyed this period in Oxford. Thanks to the open, friendly and intellectually
stimulating atmosphere of the OCHS, I felt encouraged and motivated in pursuing my own research, fully appreciating the support of a group of colleagues engaged in an ongoing, mutually enriching exchange of experiences and ideas.

**Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas Term: Dr Rajan Khatiwoda**

I was very excited when my friend Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen informed me that I was selected as the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) for Michaelmas 2017.

It was October when I arrived and the autumn’s yellow leaves were all over the Oxford streets. Bjarne and Tanja kindly let me share their house which is located conveniently, just a short walk to OCHS, Oxford University Press, and the city centre. Nearby there is a beautiful river and walking path. We went there several times for walks and scholarly discussions.

On the first morning I met the wonderful people working for the OCHS, Shaunaka, Nandana, Lal Krishna, and Rembert. The OCHS provided me with a nice working desk, computer, and other necessary equipment. I was delighted to begin my stay in Oxford with a short tour around the libraries organised by Rembert. Bjarne kindly showed me around the OCHS, introduced me to the students and other staff, and informed me about the facilities. On that first day he also showed me a bit of Oxford city centre. I was happy to hear I could work at the office anytime from early morning until midnight and I fully enjoyed this facility.

The OCHS encouraged me to participate in academic, historic, and cultural events in the faculties, departments, and colleges. Almost every day there would be several lectures, giving scholars the opportunity to talk about their research and findings. I was particularly happy to present my own research at the OCHS. The feedback on my paper given by Prof. Diwakar Acharya, Prof. Sondra Hausner, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and others was remarkable.

After the first week, I also started meeting with Prof. Gavin Flood to work on the Netratantra project. Gavin, Bjarne, and I went through the 7th chapter of the Netratrantra on which Gavin and Bjarne have been working patiently and carefully for some years now. It was a great experience to read the text together with such a renowned professor of Hindu philosophy, Gavin Flood, and such a great scholar of Shaktism, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen. It was exciting for me when Gavin proposed that we should collaborate on a critical edition and translation of the text and make Diwakar Acharya a consultant of our Netratantra Project.

The next big achievement during my stay at the OCHS was working out the future establishment of an OCHS Kathmandu office with Bjarne. This will bring a lot in terms of exchanging intellectual knowledge between Oxford and Nepalese scholars.

The OCHS financially helped me to make this visit. I am extremely grateful to OCHS and its staff from whom I acquired much more than I had expected. Finally, many thanks are due to Mr Azad Shivdasani who established this fellowship at the OCHS. His financial contribution has helped a number of international scholars to develop their career.

**J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term: Dr Santanu Dey**

At the outset I would like to thank the Academic Planning Committee of the OCHS for inviting me as the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow for Hilary 2018. This visit gave me the opportunity to take an eight-week long break from my teaching schedule at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira College, Belur Math, India (an autonomous College of Calcutta University), and begin the long-pending work of redrafting my D.Phil. on Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period into a publishable book proposal.

The visit also enabled me to present sections of my work at the OCHS and receive valuable feedback from fellow scholars and participants. I gave a talk on the *Gobindadaser Karcha* and the public life of a contested Vaishnava text in colonial Bengal’ and a short presentation on ‘Investigating the Contours and Agendas of Vaishnava Journals in Colonial Bengal’ at the 2nd Workshop on Bengali Vaisnnavism in the Modern Period at the Centre. Both presentations drew upon my DPhil thesis and enabled me to discuss issues connected to modernising processes of religious traditions in South Asia.

Preliminary discussions held with fellow scholars including Dr Amiya Sen, Dr Ferdinando Sardella, Dr
Mans Broo, Lucian Wong, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms seem to highlight the possibility of academic collaboration on the Bengali Vaiṣṇava Project at the Centre. This project would enable us to explore the genre of Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodicals at a wider and deeper level through documentation, preservation, translation, and analysis of modes of religious propagation through periodical literature. I am grateful to Shaunaka Rishi Das, the Director at OCHS for his support and inspiration for this project during our discussions.

During the course of my visit I was able to access some of the archival materials related to my field of study at the Bodleian Library. I am thankful to Rembert, the Librarian at the OCHS, for facilitating my visit and membership at the Bodleian and for letting me have free access to the well-stocked book and journal collections held at the Centre. I was also assisted by him in gaining scanned copies of portions of certain journals. I found in the Bangla Reading classes at the Centre and at the Oriental Institute with Imre Bangha a unique way of focusing on Middle Bengali texts and teasing out their linguistic and etymological features.

This visit enabled me to soak myself in the vibrant academic and cultural life of Oxford by attending talks, musical recitals, and operas during the term. The Wednesday lunches organised at the Centre enabled interaction with a wide number of students at Oxford. Of course, Oxford’s rich artefact collections housed at the Ashmolean, Pitt Rivers, and Natural History Museum drew my historical interest. The evening strolls in the University Parks and Port Meadow is something I will miss.

Finally, I am grateful to all the members of the OCHS especially Lucian, Rembert, Nandana, Lal, and Manish for their help and support. Nandana was instrumental in facilitating a meeting with Swami Dayatmananda during our visit to the Vedanta Centre at Bourne End. I must also confess that Lucian has contributed to my academic ventures in more ways than he may recall. I fondly look back to the several addas (informal discussions) at the OCHS kitchen and at various cafes with Amiyada and Lucian – and how can I forget to mention our joint cooking ventures! On the whole, spending the Hilary term at OCHS was an academic and cultural bonanza that I have cherished being part of.

Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term: Prof. Amiya P. Sen

The OCHS kindly invited me to spend Hilary term, 2018, with them as Shivdasani Fellow. This proved to be a happy coincidence as I am presently under contract with OUP, Delhi, to write a biography of Chaitanya which I have named Chaitanya, A Life and Legacy. As with works of a similar nature that I have published in the past, this biography is meant to be an accessible work for readers who might be generally interested in understanding the life and work of a historical figure without being drawn into either insider perceptions or struggling under the weight of scholarly citations.

Work on this project began in 2015–16 while I was a Visiting Fellow at the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg. While Heidelberg offered me many relevant secondary sources, it was understandably poorer than Oxford in offering primary sources in either Bengali or Sanskrit related to Gaudiya Vaishnavism. It is simply fortuitous that at the OCHS I had the privilege of consulting some rare sources, mainly in the Bengali language, which I could not have obtained at Delhi where I am mainly located. I heartily thank the Librarian and the Director for making these texts available to me.

While at the OCHS, I also tried to pursue to the best of my opportunity, two other projects that I hope to take up soon. One of these is closely related to my present project on Chaitanya. Over time, I have been immensely drawn to the idea of studying and critically commenting upon the modern Bengali discourse surrounding Chaitanya, more specifically, in the nineteenth and the early twentieth century. In very general terms, I wish to understand how varying images and understandings of Chaitanya were constructed during this period in the Bengali press and literature. I do realise that this can turn out to be an ambitious project and hence, a more realistic step would be to begin with an examination of such discursive writing in contemporary Vaishnava journals and periodicals alone. As I see it, this has the potential to grow into a larger project wherein I could also be looking at such image building in non-Vaishnava journals. My second project is to produce a religious history of colonial Bengal and, given my limitations, I shall be constrained to focus exclusively on Hinduism alone. Such a work has not been attempted in the last fifty years, at least not seriously or comprehensively. The OCHS, as I have come to realise, would be an excellent place to carry out this work too.
During my tenure as Shivdasani Fellow, I had the opportunity to give two successive presentations on the theme of ‘Conceptual Nuances of Reform and Revival: The Hindus of British India’. These lectures were appreciated with constructive feedback from my audience which enabled me to re-think some of the vital issues associated with the theme. I was particularly happy with the close interaction I had with some graduate students of Oxford who happened to be working on themes of mutual interest.

The two lectures were followed by a shorter presentation at the workshop convened at the OCHS under the theme ‘Vaiṣṇavism in Modern Bengal’. My own presentation, albeit a very brief one, was provocative enough to produce a flurry of questions and comments at the end. Without meaning to sound self-assured or self-righteous, I can now say that there is some cause for re-examining afresh some of the theoretical questions that I managed to raise in the context of socially or theologically defining Gaudiya Vaiṣṇavism. In the least, it might have led some participants to review some of their settled opinions on the subject. I consider this to be a tribute to my late revered friend, Joseph O’Connell, who was a leading light in the matter of Gaudiya Vaiṣṇava studies.

I would be greatly remiss if I did not thank the OCHS for their warm hospitality, for their open invitation to sumptuous Wednesday lunches, endless cups of tea and biscuits at the pantry, for producing the right environment for creative gossip, and for helping a technologically challenged academic in every possible way. I have very much enjoyed my stay at the Centre and so, I trust, will other Fellows to follow.

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term: Prof. Daniel Ehnbom

My time as the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow at The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies has truly been one of the most enriching experiences of my professional life, and it has been an honour to be one of the first two art historians to hold fellowships at The Centre, the other being my wonderful younger colleague Neeraja Poddar.

Let me comment on the Centre itself. I have never been welcomed so warmly and included so immediately in an academic institution. The Centre is a cheerful, happy place where everyone is on board to the same end – the continuation and propagation of studies specifically and broadly related to Hindu culture. Everyone here is respected and supported in a positive environment that encourages interaction and productivity. Shaunaka Rishi Das runs The Centre efficiently but with a light hand and unfailing good humour. Faculty, staff, and students have all been good and intellectually stimulating company. And the Wednesday vegetarian lunches have become the highlight of my week! They are an unbeatable combination of stimulating collegiality and excellent food.

My lecture at OCHS, ‘A Persistence of Vision: The Development and Spread of Illustration of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa in North India from the 16th to the 18th Century,’ provided me with much good feedback that will help me as I move forward and that assisted me in preparing a more general lecture on the material I presented at a symposium at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Perhaps one of the most important developments is that Neeraja and I have been able to focus on a project dear to both our hearts, the creation of a digital archive of illustrated Bhāgavata Purāṇa manuscripts and series and of sculpture of the Krishna story. We hope to collaborate with the Centre and The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project in this endeavour which ultimately will provide unprecedented access to a rich body of Krishnaite illustration from the earliest examples to the present.

My time outside The Centre has been very productive for research. Mallica Kumbera Landrus at The Ashmolean Museum and Gillian Evison at the Bodleian Library have been unstintingly generous in providing full access to restricted manuscript material in both collections. My colleague Andrew Topsfield, Keeper Emeritus of Eastern Art at The Ashmolean provided many happy hours of discussion over fine points of Indian art history, and with his wife Helen generously invited me to lunches and dinners with them. My access to the manuscript material has not only helped me helped clarify my thoughts on material I have seen before but has given me ideas for further research on material that was new to me that includes some of the earliest pictures of Vishnu known to have come to Europe, including an early representation of a Ram Lila performance. These are just a few of the people and events to have enriched my time here at
Oxford and the OCHS. I’m becoming an international ambassador for the OCHS, and look forward to long association with it in the future.

Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term: Dr Neeraja Poddar
The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to further my research on illustrated manuscripts of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, with particular reference to works produced in Nepal, in an idyllic academic environment with access to the best possible resources. It has enabled me to complete all the research and much of the writing related to an article on a Nepali Bhāgavata manuscript that will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. I have also taken the time to explore Oxford’s parks, canals and colleges, soaking in the springtime beauty and joie de vivre of this picturesque historic town.

The OCHS has an excellent library and Rembert Lutjeharms has helped me locate a number of articles and monographs that are crucial to my research. The Sackler, not too far away, is among the best art history libraries in the world where I managed to find, alongside a host of other important material, a book about an illustrated 17th century Bhāgavata from Mewar that has eluded me these past two years.

The museums in Oxford and London, with their wonderful collections and exhibitions, are an art historian’s delight. Mallica Kumbera Landrus, Keeper of the Eastern Art Department at the Ashmolean Museum, has been extremely generous, allowing me unlimited access to the collections in storage. I viewed many exquisite paintings, including a few that I hope to write about. I also visited the British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Tolkien exhibition at the Bodleian, and attended the opening of the exhibition ‘Splendours of the Subcontinent’ at The Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace. The lecture I delivered at OCHS raised a number of important questions, my presentations for Imre Bangha’s students have helped me look at paintings with fresh eyes, and my talk for the Friends of OCHS gave me the opportunity to interact with a wonderful community of OCHS supporters in Leicester.

Innumerable conversations with excellent scholars – many of which were engendered by the fantastic Wednesday lunches – have enriched my days at Oxford. Diwakar Acharya, Imre Bangha, Shailendra Bhandare, Crispin Branfoot, John Brockington, Daniel Ehnborn, Gavin Flood, Jessica Frazier, Mallica Kumbera Landrus, Rembert Lutjeharms, Partha Mitter, Yuthika Sharma, Andrew Topsfield, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Lucian Wong and are just a few names on a long list. Shaunaka Rishi Das, Lal Krishna and Nandana Nagraj have provided tremendous support in myriad ways; it is the energy and enthusiasm of the associated people that makes OCHS the wonderful and unique place it is.

Visiting student report

Jesper Moeslund Poulsen, MA student in Religious Studies, University of Aarhus.
As a visiting student, my time at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies has been unique. The OCHS not only guided and supported me in my studies, it helped me find my place in academia.

In Denmark we have a word, ‘dannelse’, similar to the German word ‘bildung’: a personal education where you learn character and personality as much as you learn your subject. This is exactly what I find so special about the OCHS – that they focus on the individual dannelse of the person and that they are able to secure that through a highly professional and competent centre.

The community around the Centre is a highlight. From the everyday activities to the big Wednesday lunches and conferences, the OCHS always has a feeling of familiarity. From the first day, I felt welcome and felt a part of the Centre even though I was just visiting from Denmark. This inclusiveness is for me the most important feature of the OCHS. I felt at home and it allowed me to think big, something that is uncommon at my home university. I find that this community is the foundation for the dannelse and it is what makes the OCHS special. They not only create good scholars, they create thinking and reflective people.
Conference papers and lectures by Research Fellows

Prof. Mandakranta Bose
- ‘Nṛttaratnāvalī: A Historical View of Jayasenāpati and the aesthetics of presentation,’ at a seminar on a 13th century writer on music and dance, Jāyasaṃāpati and his work Nṛttaratnāvalī, Hyderabad, India, October 2017.
- Two lectures as a Distinguished Professor at the Central University of Hyderabad: ‘The Idea of Dance in theory and practice of Sanskrit tradition,’ and ‘Rabindranath and his Poetic Heritage of Bhakti,’ in the Department of Dance, Central University of Hyderabad.
- ‘Rabindranāth and his Vaishnavi imagination,’ lecture at Bankura Women’s College, West Bengal, 28 October 2017.
- ‘Debatable Devotion: Candrāvatī’s Rāmāyaṇa,’ lecture in the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Calcutta, 6 November 2017.
- ‘Bharata’s Nāṭyaśāstra and his concept of Dance,’ Guest lecture in a class on the Performing Arts of India and Indonesia, The University of British Columbia, 18 May 2018.

Prof. Ravi Gupta
- ‘Who Owns Religion? A Hindu Perspective on being a Disciple-Scholar,’ Invited Lecture at the Maxwell Institute, Brigham Young University, October 2017.
- ‘Trees in Trouble, Humans in Need: Competing Environmental Priorities in the Bhagavata Purana.’ Conference on Sustainable Societies: Interreligious and Interdisciplinary Approaches, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. April 2017. This paper was also delivered at conferences on Hinduism and environment at Ruia College, Mumbai, and Jadavpur University, Kolkata, in December 2017.

Dr Natalia Lidova

Prof. John Brockington

Mary Brockington
• ‘Populism and Power: An Indian Case-Study’, The British Academy (June 2017).
• ‘Hindu image-worship and its multiple relationships’, OCHS (June 2017).
• ‘Ethno-Religious Nationalism in India’, on behalf of the Centre for the Study of Religion in Plural Societies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (November 2017).
• ‘Religion, Society and Politics’, on behalf of the Centre for the Study of Religion in Plural Societies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (November 2017).
• ‘Countering Fundamentalism - Dharmic and Abrahamic Perspectives’, to the Hindu Educational Board, Singapore (January 2018).
• ‘The Philosophy and Theology of Image Worship - Hindu Perspectives’, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary (March 2018)
• ‘Naming the Classical: Roots and Routes of the Classical with Illustrations from Hinduism’, The Peter Craigie Memorial Lecture, to the University of Calgary (March 2018).

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

Dr Brainerd Prince

Dr Ferdinando Sardella
• Co-organiser with Prof. Ruby Sain of the international conference ‘Vaishnavism: Theory and Practice’ at the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society at the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. December 18-19, 2017
• ‘Modern Reception of the Bhagavata Purana in India’, Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai. July 5, 2017.
1. The academic year 2017–18


Dr Kenneth Valpey
• ‘Cow Care in Indian Tradition’, Institute of Global Ethnology and Anthropology, Minzu University, Beijing, 8 March 2018.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen
• ‘Models of the Human in the Netratantra, Kubjikāmatatantra and the Haṭhapradīpikā’, Haṭhapradīpikā Translation seminar, OCHS, 12th June 2017.
• ‘Yogic Theoria cum Praxi: Embodied Memory in the Śākta Anthropology of Kuṇḍalinīyoga in Medieval India’, Śākta Traditions Symposium I, OCHS, 27th November 2017.
• ‘Linking the yogic individual with the larger tradition: Text, ritual, imaginaire and body amongst contemporary Śākta ascetics in Nepal’, SAR workshop on Ritual, Text and Body Within the Study of South Asian Religion, OCHS, 22nd January 2018.
• ‘Yoga and tantra in the Kathmandu Valley’ (‘Traditionel tantra, yoga og Kathmandudalens mysterier’), Danish-Nepalese Society, Dokk1, Aarhus, Denmark, 25th April 2018.
Conferences

This year OCHS held the following conferences and workshops:

The Building of Vṛndāvana – convened by Dr Kiyokazu Okita and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

The small town of Vṛndāvana is today one of the most vibrant places of pilgrimage in northern India. Throngs of pilgrims travel there each year to honour the sacred land of Kṛṣṇa’s youth and to visit many of its temples. Though the neighbouring city of Mathurā has a much longer history, the development of Vṛndāvana and the wider region of Vraja as a place of pilgrimage for Kṛṣṇa devotees as we know it today occurred mostly in the sixteenth century. The establishment of Vṛndāvana and the surrounding sacred sites was accomplished by a variety of Vaiṣṇava groups originating in different parts of South Asia, writing not just in different languages (both Sanskrit and various vernaculars), but also reflecting different regional devotional traditions and their distinct theologies, ritual practices, and aesthetics. As such, Vṛndāvana was not just built in stone, but also in theology, poetry, meditative and ritual practice, and art.

This two-day conference held in Oxford explored the complex history of Vṛndāvana’s early modern origins – from the late fifteenth century until the reign of Aurangzeb, when several of the traditions of Vṛndāvana moved further west due to political instability. As a part of the OCHS research project ‘The Gosvāmī Era’, this workshop brought together scholars from across the disciplines to examine Vṛndāvana’s history, architecture, art, ritual, theology, and literature, the performing arts in this pivotal period, and how these various disciplines were used to create, develop, and map Vṛndāvana as the most prominent place of pilgrimage for devotees of Kṛṣṇa.

Śākta Traditions Symposium I – convened by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

This Śākta symposium is a contribution by a number of scholars to the Śākta Traditions project and its endeavour in tracing developments in the history of goddess worship among the orthoprax brahmans, among the tantric traditions and at village level in South Asia. Thus, the symposium acts as a historical exploration of distinctive Indian ways of imagining God as Goddess (and goddesses), a survey of important origins and developments within Śākta history, practice, and doctrine in its diversity, as well as an insight into the fascinating Śākta religious imaginaire and ritual practice that may be considered distinctive and thus sets ‘Śāktism’ apart from other forms of South Asian religion.

Empathy in Hinduism: Ritual, Drama, Aesthetics – convened by Dr Natalia Lidova

The sphere of emotions lies at the heart of Hindu religious experience. Numerous ancient Indian texts dwell on the complex sphere of human response to various revelations of beauty and divine presence in the world whether expressed in the material form, through sound, devotional poetry or realised on stage in theatrical performance. The arrangement of the ritual and the adoration of gods was itself deeply rooted in the field of emotional engagement and presupposed a very nuanced system of possible reactions and feelings of the devotees from a mere contemplation via an ecstatic state of rasa to the experience of supreme love towards a personal god (bhakti). This conference is the first attempt to analyse this complex way of human interaction with the divine in Hinduism based on various forms of emotional engagement, which is not limited to the contemporary and profane understanding of senses. The papers presented at the conference will cover a wide range of topics and approach the general theme of religious empathy from different perspectives, including material culture, textual evidence, literature, ritual, sacred imagery, iconography, and theatrical performance.

SAR workshop on Ritual, Text and Body Within the Study of South Asian Religion – convened by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Marianne Fibiger

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss new research and insights into the relationship, overlap, and interplay between ritual performance and the uses of texts and body within South Asian religions in historical and contemporary time and in South Asia and beyond (e.g. in diaspora). In particular, we would like to focus on the conferred authority or ‘meaning providers’ given to the text compared to the ritual
performance in a given religious community and in what way the body (embodiment, corporality) plays in this relation. In other words, we would like to discuss the triple interrelationship between text-ritual-body both on an ontological and a performative level. Focus can be on elite and laypeople, local- and pan-South-Asian traditions, esoteric practices and the exoteric temple cults, the relationships between generations, between gender, between keeping up tradition and reinventing tradition, between the institutional and the individual level, and between orthodoxy and orthopraxy. Thus, we are interested in discussing new research with the possibility of reframing the relationship between text and ritual taking the body into account as well. We therefore welcome papers having theoretical, methodological as well as empirically grounded considerations.

**Graduate Conference: Soteriology in Hinduism – convened by Professor Gavin Flood**

It is a common claim of Indic philosophical texts that salvation from suffering, suffering envisaged as a repetition of non-identical births in this and other worlds, is the text’s purpose. This may often simply be an expected rhetorical trope for some texts, but it is a serious concern for others. Furthermore, practices of asceticism and yoga have been central to religious traditions focused on different deities, whose explicit purpose is liberation from the cycle of suffering. The metaphysical claims behind such a broad conceptualisation are varied, such as whether liberation is through effort or through the grace of a putative theistic reality. The aim of this conference is to raise some of the issues in the history of Hinduism. To what extent is ‘soteriology’, a term developed in the context of Christian Theology, an appropriate translation of the ‘science of liberation’ (?)? Can we distinguish this science of liberation from the path to liberation (?)? Is Martin Reisebrodt’s characterisation of religion as ‘the promise of salvation’ accurate with regard to Hinduism? What is the relation between soteriology and politics in the Indian context? To what extent is Dumont’s distinction between the householder concerned with duty and responsibility (dharma) and the renouncer concerned with liberation (mokṣa) accurate? Is it fair to say that Hinduism has soteriology, which is individual, but no eschatology, which is collective? What are the values regarding the world (environment) and human transaction implied by the idea of Hindu soteriology? The conference is intended for graduates to present their research orientated to some of these questions.

**Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period – convened by Lucian Wong & Dr Ferdinando Sardella**

Vaishnavism inspired by the Bengali Krishna devotee Chaitanya (1486–1533) has been a central feature of the religious and cultural landscape of Bengal. It has also had significant impact on other regions of the subcontinent, such as Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, Bihar, and present-day Bangladesh, and more recently has assumed a global presence. While critical study of the tradition is by no means a recent phenomenon, much of this scholarship pertains either to the tradition in its earlier phases (e.g. the works of the Gosvāmīs) or later global developments (e.g. ISKCON). Recent years have however seen increasing scholarly interest in the tradition, in its manifold forms, during the ‘modern’ period (roughly, mid-eighth to mid twentieth century), a time that was witness to well-known pivotal developments in the region: the consolidation of British power, the arrival of the press, new forms of education, an emergent middle class, and nationalism, to name but a few. This is certainly an important area of study, not simply for facilitating a more complete picture of the Bengali Vaishnava tradition, but also for enriching our understanding of religion in modern South Asia more broadly, for while much critical attention has been given to modern figures and currents of religious ‘reform’ and ‘revival’ during this period – e.g., Rammohan Roy and the Brahmo Samaj, Dayananda Saraswati and the Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Bankim Chandra Chattopahyay – relatively little has been paid to the roles of and developments within sampradāyas or traditional religious communities in this context.

This symposium follows the successful inaugural 2015 workshop of the Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period project. It will showcase the current research of scholars working in this area, allowing ample time for discussion and interaction, as well as the planning of possible avenues for longer term collaborative research projects in this area.
Śākta Traditions Symposium II - convened by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen.

The Śākta symposia series at the OCHS include state-of-the-art contributions by a number of scholars to the Śākta Traditions project and its endeavour in tracing developments in the history of goddess worship among the orthoprax brahmans, among the tantric traditions, and at village level in South Asia. Thus, the symposia act as historical explorations of distinctive Indian and Nepalese ways of imagining God as Goddess (and goddesses) contributing to a survey of important origins and developments within Śākta history, practice and doctrine in its diversity as well as offering an insight into the fascinating Śāktism religious imaginaire and ritual practice that is distinctive and sets ‘Śāktism’ apart from other forms of South Asian religion. The symposia will also include contributions on the reception history of Śākta and tantric elements in global religious history and diaspora Hinduism.

Awards for Students

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1. The academic year 2017–18
2. Library
The way the OCHS Library is used by students has changed dramatically in the past academic year. With the new reading room, which was created last year, and a new dedicated tutorial room at the OCHS, the reading rooms of the Library have seen a lot more use in the past academic year. The new reading room is now nearly always occupied by students, and several students have also made the main reading room their primary work area. This has been a very good development, indeed, and has changed considerably the way the Library is now used. Whereas in the past students would come to the Library to pick up a particular book, which they would borrow to read elsewhere, now students use the collection more as a reference library and browse our growing collection more freely. It has also created a stronger sense of community among students pursuing degrees in Hindu Studies.

With the tremendous amount of books we have acquired in the past years, the main focus of the past academic year for the Library has been to prepare to integrate those new books into the OCHS collection. Cataloguing has been ongoing – especially thanks to Rachna Bahl, who volunteered regularly to help out with cataloguing – but a lot of attention has also been given to organisation of the Library. Now that the Library collection of 25,000 is spread throughout three rooms, and with the increase of books in areas we had little on so far, we’ve had to rethink how to structure our collection in the physical spaces we have available and make it as friendly as possible to the readers looking for books on a particular topic.

This year, the Library received donations from Guy Beck, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Jessica Frazier, Prema Goet, Shrivatsa Goswami, Martin Gurvich, John Stratton Hawley, Nanditha Krishna, V. V. Ranade, A.V. Srinivasan, Tony K. Stewart, the Tamil Heritage Centre, Kapila Vatsyayana, and Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen.
3. **Continuing Education Department**

- Online enrolments
- Course development
- Classroom-based courses
- Publications
- Website
- Tutoring, course developers, and management
Four new courses, including Introduction to Sanskrit which alone took 125 students in one term; eight new courses in active development; and a publishing deal. These are a few of the highlights of this year’s Continuing Education Department.

**Online enrolments**
This year we had 734 enrolments on our online courses, a 15% increase on the previous year.

As well as being a great contribution to our core aim of making Hindu Studies matter, our online courses are making a useful contribution to our finances helping to sustain our research, teaching, and publishing work.

**Course development**
We currently have 12 courses available online. New courses released this year are Introduction to Hindu Philosophy; Introduction to Sanskrit; Hindu Temples; and Hindu Devotional Music and Chant. Eight more courses are in active development, including part two of the Sanskrit course; God in the Gita; History of Yoga; and Hinduism and Ecology.

A significant development in our online courses has been the broadening of the tutor pool and the course development team. Previously all course development was done by Dr Nick Sutton. This year’s newest courses were developed Zoë Slatoff, a yoga teacher and Ph.D. candidate from New York; Dr Layne Little of UC Davis; and Prof. Guy Beck from Tulane University, USA. Another eight course developers are also working on new courses.

**Classroom-based courses**
This year we ran three Day Schools in London and one in conjunction with YogaLondon. Our Oxford Summer School was a success and will be repeated in 2018 along with a similar event planned for the Winter.

**Publications**
Publication of Dr Nick Sutton’s well-regarded translation and guide to Bhagavad-gita and his Yoga-sutras saw a doubling in sales this year to produce a modest income for the Centre. Our Hindu Chaplaincy book is also now available on Amazon.

This publication programme was experimental but its success has led to discussions with Mandala Publishing, an imprint of Insight Editions. As well as making these excellent titles more widely available, this arrangement will add greatly to the visibility of the Continuing Education Department.

**Website**
Improvements to the site last year continue to pay dividends in terms of security and stability with no downtime reported this year. But of course there is no resting on the internet and our friend, David Smith of Washington DC, is re-designing our backend to further secure and solidify the site.

**Tutoring, course developers, and management**
Our online tutoring team this year has been: Prof. Guy Beck, Dr Layne Little, Dr Ramesh Pattni, Tushar Shah, Daniel Simpson, Zoë Slatoff and Dr Nick Sutton. The CED is managed by Lal Krishna.

**Development**
The Development Planning Committee has identified the Continuing Education Department as needing additional resources if it is to grow strongly. Until 2015, the CED was a small side-project of the OCHS, but it has since grown to become a very useful way to engage scholars (as tutors and course developers) and part-time students (from around the world). Attempts to significantly expand our offerings have tended to run into the same problems of lack of people to do the work. We are looking at ways to overcome this.
4. **Development activities and achievements**

- Development activities and achievements
- Development Planning Committee
- Media
- Outreach
- Chaplaincy
- Awards
- Internet
- Bhumi project
- Volunteers and donations in kind
Development Planning Committee

The Development Planning Committee supplies planning and operational support to the OCHS through charting the development agenda of the Centre and overseeing operational matters. It meets monthly as a PMO (Project Management Office) by teleconference and in person.

The Committee has taken a leading role in establishing the OCHS on a firm footing both financially and structurally.

Activities include:

• Working with a fundraising agency;
• Focussing energies on the Continuing Education Department (CED) as an income source;
• Clarifying and establishing partnerships with other institutions and scholars;
• Funding academic staff positions;
• Clarifying the Centre’s budgeting and financial reporting;
• and identifying other ways to fund the Centre’s operational costs.

With these interim goals achieved, the OCHS will be in a much better position to continue its endowment campaign and its effort to establish the Centre’s finances on a permanent basis.

Media

OCHS Director Shaunaka Rishi Das’s media output this year included:

• Met with journalist from NY times.
• Did an interview for RTE, a popular Irish television station, which aired in November.
• Did interview for the BBC World Service Radio broadcast called ‘After Suicide’.

Outreach

This year, the Director continued his busy outreach programme which included:

Presentations at Conferences and Symposia

• Presented to the World Governance Expedition run by Vision India Foundation, made up of policy makers, academicians, and professionals from India.
• Gave a presentation at the Wildlife Trade Symposium on engaging with religious groups (held at St Catherine’s College, Oxford).
• Gave a talk at a meeting organised by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation and the UN Environment Programme at Zug, Switzerland, on the topic of Hindu views on impact investing and faith consistent investing. Shaunaka Rishi was selected to join follow-up committees convening in the UN building in New York and then in London in June (to launch an investment platform in October). This ongoing program that the Centre is involved is temporarily titled ‘the Faith Consistent Investing Alliance’.
• Attended a two-day environmentalism conference in Wada at the Govardhan Eco Village, with representatives from Harvard University and Columbia University.
• Attended a Vaishnava-Christian conference in Tirupati.

Speaking Engagements

• Gave at talk for a delegation from Mumbai.
• In June, gave a talk at the Deloitte Leadership Charter in London called ‘Reflections from a Hindu Perspective’.
• Gave a presentation to students at the North London Collegiate School on issues of Hinduism and Interfaith Relations.
• Gave a presentation on creativity and leadership to a group of business executives from the Dutch executive training organisation, Avicenna.
• Spoke at the One World Festival held at the Ashmolean Museum.
• Gave a talk at Young Presidents’ Organisation (YPO) in Mumbai on leadership principles in the Bhagavad-gita.
• Gave a talk to the Mumbai University Sanskrit Faculty on Bhakti poets and how they imagined Bhakti.
• Spoke at the MOHAN Foundation in Chennai on issues of organ donation in Hindu culture.
• Spoke at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi on the topic of spirituality and palliative care.
• Gave a talk at the Harvard club in Delhi called ‘Leadership from Indian Sources’.
• Gave a talk at St Mary’s school in Ascot.
• Delivered the Roger Hooker memorial lecture in Birmingham.
• Gave a talk to a group from Religious Education Today on approaches to teaching Hinduism in British schools.
• Gave a talk about Hinduism to a visiting group from Florida.
• Spoke about Hinduism to a visiting group from Florida.
• Gave a talk to students from St James School, London.
• Spoke at the Anoopam Mission in London.

Other Outreach
• Attended the Oxford University Hindu Society alumni dinner in London.
• Supported an Anglican-Vaishnava dialogue that’s been meeting at Christ Church College with representatives from the Anglican Church and the Vaishnava community. To date, all Vaishnava participants have been associated with the OCHS.
• Facilitated a visit to the OCHS from the Cumnor CoE Primary school.
• Invited by Jesus College Chaplain to lead meditation sessions each term at Jesus College.
• Met with Nalin Surie, a former Indian high commissioner and ambassador to UK.
• Hosted many monks through the year, including Radhanath Swami, Paramtattva Swami, Swami Sarvasthananda along with three senior Ramakrishna Monks from India, Swami Saksatkrtananda Sarasvati, and Sri M.

Chaplaincy
• OCHS, in partnership with students who approached the Centre, formed a Hindu environment working group and a Hindu leadership working group.
• Held weekly Bhagavad-gita study sessions during the term for students.
• Celebrated Diwali at the OCHS with over 130 students.
• Hosted meetings of the Oxford University Hindu Society on a weekly basis.
• In response to increasing demand for Diwali celebrations, formed a working group to help develop partnerships across the university to coordinate Diwali celebrations.
• As always, a steady stream of students came in to meet Shaunaka for personal consultations.
• Held a Holi aarti at the Centre in February.

Awards
Thanks to generous donors, the OCHS was able to award just over £13,000 to students this year. The donors and their awards are:

- Anonymous AKU Bursary
- Atul Mishra Amit Mishra Bursary
- Pyarelal and Saroj Patel Bharat Patel Bursary
- Anonymous Gupta Dan Bursary
- Jayesh Popat Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary
- Anonymous Hanuman Bursary
- Dr Ravi & Mrs Amrita Gupta Jiva Goswami Bursary
- Leicester FOCHS Leicester Friends Bursary
- Dr Kiyokazu Okita Okita Bursary
4. Development activities and achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anonymous Patel Book Grant</th>
<th>Prof. Mandrakanta Bose Prof. Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Ananthi Al Ramiah</td>
<td>Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyarelal and Saroj Patel</td>
<td>Ramlal B. Patel Bursary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Gnanananda Giri Peetam</td>
<td>Swami Haridasa Giri Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Internet**

The OCHS website’s (www.ochs.org.uk) core audiences are prospective students, academics wanting more information about the Centre, students of Hinduism worldwide, and potential supporters of the Centre.

Our outreach to the wider community of academic and public interest in Hindu Studies has involved making audio of more than 500 OCHS lectures and seminars since 1998 available on the OCHS website. We also have a successful podcast of lectures and seminars and the internet has become a major focus of our Continuing Education classes.

The internet is one of our main avenues for publicising our forthcoming lectures and seminars. Since our foundation, the OCHS web presence has been expertly overseen by David Smith of Washington DC.

**Bhumi project**

**SHINE work**

The Bhumi Project is a partner of the renewable energy campaign Shine (www.shineinvest.org). The campaign aims to mobilise Hindus to invest in distributed renewable-energy solutions for energy-poor parts of the world. The campaign was formally launched at the annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum in Lisbon, Portugal in May 2018. As part of the campaign, the Bhumi Project is working on the first ever major report on how Hindu institutions in India are adopting and advocating for renewable energy. This report will be published in August 2018.

**Zug guidelines**

In October 2017 Bhumi Project worked with other OCHS staff to develop Hindu investment guidelines that were launched at a meeting in Zug, Switzerland convened by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation and the UN.

**Attendance at climate negotiations: COP23**

In December 2017 Bhumi Project attended the annual UN climate change negotiations, which were held in Bonn, Germany. This was the 3rd year running that Bhumi has attended these talks. We participated in the launch of a new multi-faith initiative (see below) and had one-to-one meetings with a number of important NGOs.

**Promoting sustainable lifestyles**

At COP23 we led the launch of ‘Living the Change’ – a new multi-faith initiative to help promote sustainable lifestyles.

**Prana initiative**

After two years of sending Hindu medical students on placements to hospitals in India, we have decided to no longer continue this initiative. After consulting with the initiative’s steering committee, we decided that in order to scale the initiative would require human and financial resources which we currently do not have.

**UN work**

Our work of engaging with the UN continues to grow. In April 2018 Bhumi Project attended a meeting in New York convened by the UN that brought together all the major faith-based organisations (FBOs) the UN works with. Of the 40 FBOs in attendance, the Bhumi Project was the only Hindu organisation.
GreenFaith India
The Bhumi Project has become a founding member of GreenFaith India – a new multi-faith initiative in India that will address issues relating to energy, water, and food security. Other founding members are Islamic Relief and EcoSikh.

GEV conference
In December 2017, the Bhumi Project helped organise a conference at the Govardhan Eco Village outside of Mumbai on the topic of Hinduism and Ecology. Other conference organisers were the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology and Prof. David Haberman of the University of Indiana.

US development
We continue to forge relationships with notable institutions and Hindu communities in America. We are currently working with the following colleges, each of which has a strong Hindu presence on campus:

- Yale
- Georgetown
- Princeton
- University of Southern California

Communities with whom we are working are:

- Houston
- Detroit
- San Francisco
- New Jersey

Volunteers and donations in kind
In keeping with our tradition of encouraging voluntary service and keeping costs down, we are safeguarding the true charitable nature of the OCHS. The OCHS Director and other administrative staff continue to work on a voluntary basis or at reduced rates.

Other friends and businesses have been kind to the Centre by charging greatly reduced rates for services. These include our accountants, Wenn Townsend.

As always, special thanks are due to David Smith, Washington DC, who funds and maintains our web server. Since 2002 David has been responsible for keeping us online in hardware and software, saving us considerable expense and effort.

Our intern this year was Nimai Agarwal from Washington DC, a multi-talented young man who assisted in all aspects of the Centre’s management at a very hectic time. He provided invaluable support in the production of this report including taking responsibility for any mistakes.

Ajay Khaitan and Ramesh Venkataraman gave significantly of their time and expertise on our Development Planning Committee.

Other significant voluntary service has been very gratefully received from Kirk Ott (audio editing), Dev and Rachna Bahl, and Sanjay Gadhvi (mobile phone contract).

The Continuing Education Department has been greatly assisted by Suresh Lakshminarayan who assisted in marketing and Musaret Siddiqi who has been an invaluable asset to the Continuing Education Department (proof-reading, cataloguing international scholars of Hinduism, and advertising research).

Our Wednesday lunches saw excellent attendances again this year. Managed by Anita Desai, this was greatly assisted by numerous helpers. The BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden has come forward as a major sponsor of this programme.

Raj and Raam Chauhan helped relocate much of our archive, and special thanks to Hemant Patel for fulfilling our photocopy and print needs.

All these contributors save us considerable time, effort, and expense. Their service has been an invaluable and heartfelt offering to the cause of good education; thousands of pounds have been saved and donated to the OCHS by their thoughtfulness and commitment.
5. **Accounts and Finance**
The audited accounts for 31 March 2018 have been prepared by Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Oxford.

The Board has been successful in maintaining the sound financial management of the Centre and is pleased to report a continued increase in the overall reserves of the Centre.

This increase has been as a result of the Board continuing the initiatives from previous years which have borne fruit with ongoing donations and endowments being made to the Centre to cover long term academic-staff and administrative costs.

**Summary Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>300,923</td>
<td>269,680</td>
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<td>Charitable Activities</td>
<td>78,546</td>
<td>79,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Activities</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>1,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Loss)/Gains on Investment</td>
<td>(1,143)</td>
<td>6,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>379,042</td>
<td>577,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>351,716</td>
<td>276,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase in Funds for the Year</td>
<td>27,326</td>
<td>280,815</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **Appendix One: Organisation**

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

**Administration**
- **Director**
  - Shaunaka Rishi Das
- **Academic Director**
  - Prof. Gavin Flood FBA
- **Development Administrator**
  - Lal Krishna
- **Financial Officer**
  - Manish Thakrar
- **Librarian**
  - Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
- **Office Manager**
  - Nandana Nagraj

**Research Fellows**
- Prof. Mandakranta Bose
- Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria
- Dr Måns Broo
- Dr Santanu Dey
- Prof. Daniel Ehnbom
- Dr Natalia Lidova
- Dr Kiyokazu Okita
- Dr Neeraja Poddar
- Dr Brainerd Prince
- Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray
- Dr Ferdinando Sardella
- Prof. Amiya Prosad Sen
- Dr Kenneth Valpey

**Senior Fellows**
- Prof. Francis X. Clooney, SJ
- Prof. Madhav Deshpande
- Prof. Gavin Flood FBA
- Dr Sanjukta Gupta
- Prof. John Hinnells
- Prof. Dermot Killingley
- Prof. Julius Lipner FBA
- Peggy Morgan
- Prof. Patrick Olivelle
- Prof. Thomas Hopkins

**Fellows**
- Prof. John Brockington
- Mary Brockington
- Anuradha Dooney
- Dr Gillian Evison
- Dr Jessica Frazier
- Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
- Dr Bjarne Wernicke Oleson
- Dr Nicholas Sutton
6. Appendix one: Organisation

Continuing Education Department
Dr Nicholas Sutton
Prof. Guy Beck
Richard Coldman
Anuradha Dooney
Dr Jessica Frazier
Lal Krishna
Dr Salila Kulshreshtha
Dr Layne Little
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Danny MacGregor
Karen O’Brien Kop
Dr Ramesh Pattni
Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray
Patricia Sauthoff
Tushar Shah
Musaret Siddiqui
Daniel Simpson
Chirayu Thakkar
Zoe Slatoff-Prime
Dr Christopher Wood

Patrons Council
Amitabh Bachchan
Dr Karan Singh
HE The Indian High Commissioner

Academic Planning Committee
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Dr Jessica Frazier
Prof. Gavin Flood FBA (Chair)
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Dr Bjarne Wernicke Olesen
Lucian Wong

Development Planning Committee
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Ajay Khaitan
Lal Krishna
Manish Thakrar
Ramesh Venkataraman

Friends of OCHS

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

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

USA
Robert Cohen
Shaunaka Rishi Das
Dr S. Bhattacharyya-Ford
Todd Wahlstrom

Academic Council
Prof. Diwakar Acharya
Prof. John Brockington
Dr Gillian Evison
Dr Jessica Frazier
Prof. Gavin Flood FBA
Dr Ravi Gupta
Prof. Sondra Hausner
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms
Peggy Morgan
Prof. Joel Rasmusseun
Prof. G.C. Tripathi
Dr Bjarne Wernicke Olesen
Lucian Wong
7. Appendix Two: Lectures and Seminars

Michaelmas Term 2017

Hinduism 1: Sources and Formation
    Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Sanskrit Prelims I
    Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Phenomenology
    Prof. Gavin Flood

Lecture of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow

Is Yogic Suicide Useless? The Practice of Utkrānti in Some Tantric Vaiṣṇava and Śaiva Sources
    Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

Lecture of the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow

Was the Muluki Ain of 1854 the first codification of Nepal a strategy of Hinduisation?
    Dr Rajan Khatiwoda
    Other lectures

Soma, haoma, and ayahuasca
    Dr Matthew Clark

The Cult of Pūjā and the Genesis of Hindu Iconography
    Dr Natalia Lidova

The Pañcāyatanapūjā and the Problem of Aniconism
    Prof. Mikael Aktor

Śākta Traditions Symposium

The Representational Spectrum of the Goddess: Anthropomorphism, Aniconism, Physiomorphism
    Prof. Mikael Aktor

The Poetry of Thought in the Theology of the Tripurārāhasya
    Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

Śākta-narratives in 19th-Century Nepalese Chronicles
    Dr Rajan Khatiwoda

Yogic Theoria cum Praxi: Embodied Memory in the Śākta Anthropology of Kuṇḍalinī yoga in Medieval India
    Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen

Hilary Term 2018

Hinduism 2: Hinduism in History and Society
    Dr Rembert Lutjeharms

Sanskrit Prelims
    Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Phenomenology
    Prof. Gavin Flood

Readings in Middle Bengali Texts
    Lucian Wong

Buddhist Sanskrit
    Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Lecture of the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow

Conceptual Nuances of ‘Reform’ and ‘Revival’: The Hindus of British India
    Prof. Amiya P. Sen

Lecture of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow

Gobindadaser Karcha and the Public Life of a Contested Vaishnava text in Colonial Bengal
    Dr Santanu Dey

OCHS Graduate Conference: Soteriology in Hinduism
    Convenor: Prof. Gavin Flood

Bengali Vaisnavism in the Modern Period Symposium
    Convenors: Lucian Wong & Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

A Gaudiya Vaishnava Swami at War
    Dr Måns Broo (Åbo Akademi)
Investigating the Contours and Agendas of Vaishnava Journals in Colonial Bengal
Dr Santanu Dey (Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira)

Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and the Vaishnava Revival in Colonial Bengal
Prof. Amiya P. Sen (Jamia Millia Islamia)

The Dilemmas of Sacred Space: Controversies about the Two Birthplaces of Caitanya
Prof. Ferdinando Sardella (Stockholm University)

Vaishnavas and Varna-dharma in Colonial Bengal
Dr Martin Fárek (University of Pardubice)

Trinity term 2018

Sanskrit Prelims
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Readings in Phenomenology
Prof. Gavin Flood

Lecture of the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow
Battle of the Gods: A Comparative Study of Narrative Techniques in Nepali Painting
Dr Neeraja Poddar

Lecture of the J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow
A Persistence of Vision: The Development and Spread of Illustration of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa in North India from the 16th to the 18th Century
Prof. Daniel Ehnbom

Graduate Seminars in Indian Philosophy

Is language eternal? The Mīmāṃsā theory of an objective word-referent relation
Dr Jan Westerhoff

Do persons exist? The ancient Indian controversy about the existence of an ātman
Dr Jan Westerhoff

Is there a nature of the world? Madhyamaka’s radical anti-foundationalism
Dr Jan Westerhoff

Does matter exist? The Yogācāra denial of the external world
Dr Jan Westerhoff

What is consciousness? Mind, reason, and phenomenology in Vedānta and Sāṃkhyā
Dr Jessica Frazier

What is identity or essence? Attributes, Modes, and Meaning in Parināma-vāda
Dr Jessica Frazier

Is there a ‘Fundamental Ontology’? Being and change in Vedānta
Dr Jessica Frazier

What is value? Natural Law and Affective Judgement in Dharma and Nāṭya Śāstras
Dr Jessica Frazier

Śākta Traditions Symposium 2
Welcome by Professor Gavin Flood (Oxford)

Mapping Śākta Traditions
Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen (Oxford)

Tamil Śākta traditions in Europe
Professor Knut Jacobsen (Bergen)

Durgā and the Kings of Nepal
Dr Astrid Zotter (Heidelberg)

The Doctrinal Teachings of the Tripurārahasya
Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder (Leipzig)

Modern Śākta Identities in a Global Context
Dr Julian Strube (Heidelberg)

Philosophy as a Meta-language in Tantric Studies
Jesper Moeslund (Aarhus)
8. **Appendix Three: Visiting Fellows**

**J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas Term: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder**

Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder has lectured in the past at the Leopold-Franzens-Universität in Innsbruck and at the University Ca’ Foscari in Venice, and is presently Research Associate at the Institut für Indologie und Zentralasienwissenschaften of the University of Leipzig. Her interests focus on the Tantric religious traditions of the Śrīvidyā and of the Pāñcarātra, specifically on the philosophical and theological doctrines expressed in the relevant South Indian Sanskrit textual traditions. She has also translated into Italian texts from the Sanskrit narrative and devotional literature, for editions aimed at a general readership. She is affiliated with the Śākta Traditions project at the OCHS led by Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen.

**Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas Term: Dr Rajan Khatiwoda**

Dr Rajan Khatiwoda has a PhD in South Asian Studies (Heidelberg University) and MA in Classical Indology (Nepal Sanskrit University, Balmeeki Vidyapeeth). Dr Khatiwoda has been a Research Assistant and Cataloguer at the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project (NGMCP) at the Nepal Research Centre (NRC) in Kathmandu for 10 years (2003-2013) and is affiliated with the Śākta Traditions project at the OCHS led by Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen. His interests span widely from Śaivism to Indian Philosophy, Buddhist Logic, Manuscriptology and Epigraphy with a focus on Ancient Nepalese History, law, and Śākta literature.

**J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term: Dr Santanu Dey**

Dr Santanu Dey is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira (A residential autonomous College affiliated to the Calcutta University) located at Belur Math near Kolkata, India. He did his PhD on the topic ‘Resuscitating or Restructuring Tradition? Issues and trends among Gaudiya Vaishnavas in late Nineteenth and early Twentieth century Bengal’ from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. His areas of research interest include Vaishnava Studies, Religion and Colonial Modernity and literary history of Bengal.

**Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term: Prof. Amiya P. Sen**

Prof. Amiya P. Sen is by training a historian with special interest in the intellectual and cultural history of colonial India. Prof. Sen took his undergraduate and graduate degrees in history from St. Stephen’s College, University of Delhi and thereafter went on to do research under Prof. Sumit Sarkar, again at the University of Delhi. After a brief career in the civil services, he served the Universities of Delhi and Visva Bharati (as Tagore Professor at Rabindra Bhavan) and is currently professor of modern Indian history at the Department of History & Culture at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Prof. Sen was Agatha Harrison Fellow at the University of Oxford, Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, and at the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi, and held the Zimmer Chair, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg. To date, Prof. Sen has produced 12 books, mostly published by Oxford University Press, Delhi, Penguin Viking and Permanent Black.
J.P. And Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term: Prof. Daniel Ehnbom

Prof. Ehnbom is Associate Professor at the McIntire Department of Art of the University of Virginia. He is the author of Indian Miniatures: The Ehrenfeld Collection (1985), articles on painting and Indian architecture, and contributions to various exhibition catalogues. He was with the Macmillan/Grove Dictionary of Art (1996) in London as a contributor and consultant from 1984 and as South Asia Area Editor for Painting and Sculpture from 1988. His recent publications include Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century (Charlottesville: The Fralin Art Museum at the University of Virginia, 2014).

Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term: Dr Neeraja Poddar

Dr Neeraja Poddar received her Ph.D. in Art History from Columbia University. She was the Andrew W. Mellon – Anne d’Harnoncourt Postdoctoral Fellow in South Asian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is now Curator at The City Palace Museum, Udaipur. Poddar’s publications and research focus broadly on South Asian illustrated manuscripts; she is particularly interested in the materiality of books, the relationships between text and image and the transmission and circulation of narratives. She also studies the painting traditions of Nepal with particular emphasis on Vaiṣṇava imagery. Poddar co-curated the reinstallation of the South Asian galleries at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is currently working on a book project related to illustrated manuscripts of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa as well as a catalogue of The City Palace Museum, Udaipur’s silver collection.
9. **Appendix Four: New Students**

**Riya Bhatt**  
UK  
Merton College

**Ranjamrittika Bhowmik**  
India  
Hertford College

**Natasha Chawla**  
UK  
Regent’s Park College

**Tanja Louise Jakobsen**  
Denmark  
OCHS

**Harrison Jones**  
UK  
Pembroke College

**Sudhanshu Kaushik**  
UK  
Wolfson College

**Kamala Lucas**  
UK  
Pembroke College

**Sasheenie Moodley**  
UK  
Wolfson College

**Valters Negribs**  
UK  
Wolfson College

**Jesper Moeslund Poulsen**  
Denmark  
OCHS

**Samuele Rizzoli**  
Italy  
OCHS

**Elizabeth Leat Rosendahl**  
Denmark  
OCHS

**Lotte Scheel**  
Australia  
Wolfson College

**Chirayu Thakkar**  
India  
Pembroke College

**Arthur Vickers**  
UK  
Trinity College

**Anaterina Zhelenkova**  
Russia  
St Benet’s Hall