

INAUGURAL SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
BHAGWAAN MAHAVIR LECTURE IN JAIN STUDIES

Anil Mundra

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Jain Engagement with Religious Others: Haribhadra as Philosopher, Comparativist and Pluralist?

This talk will explore the philosophical project of the pre-eminent Jain scholar-monk Haribhadra, whose corpus represents one of the most sustained, systematic and multifaceted engagements with religious difference in premodern South Asian intellectual history.

Haribhadra, as Anil Mundra will argue, offers a non-Western model for the comparative study of religion that is sensitive both to commonality and difference. Mundra will discuss Haribhadra's key teaching on non-one-sidedness (everything is complex and contains opposites), which seeks to retrieve agreement from the midst of disagreement, partly by refusing a false dichotomy between absolute sameness and particularity. Mundra will also treat Haribhadra's basic philosophy that surveys religious difference with common comparative principles. Finally, he will treat Haribhadra's polemics that disavow dogmatic partisanship in favor of critical rationality and outline his rules for debate that seek common ground in the face of basic identity disagreements.

Feb. 3, 2023, 5 pm CT

HUMA 117
HUMANITIES BUILDING

ZOOM

THE BHAGWAAN MAHAVIR LECTURE SERIES IN JAIN STUDIES IS INTENDED TO DEEPEN THE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING OF JAINISM AS A RELIGION AND CULTURE. THIS LECTURE IS ORGANIZED BY THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES DEAN'S OFFICE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSNATIONAL ASIAN STUDIES AND RELIGION AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THE JAIN COMMUNITY.



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