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.