



ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

ANCIENT *Wisdom* | **MODERN** *Living*

2023 ACADEMIC REPORT

Christopher Jain Miller, PhD
Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies,
VP of Academic Affairs

Cogen Bohanec, MA, PhD
Assistant Professor of Sanskrit &
Jain Studies

Jonathan Dickstein
Assistant Professor of Jain Studies



 ArihantaInstitute.org

Arihanta Institute is an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit California Corporation.



ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

Jai Jinendra and Greetings from the Arihanta Institute Team.

Three decades ago, Ācārya Sushil Kumar envisioned an institute in America dedicated to making the teachings of compassion and non-violence—*karuṇā* and *ahiṃsā*, the foundational elements of Lord Mahāvīra’s philosophy—widely accessible. His goal was to empower people around the world with the knowledge to build a kinder and gentler lifestyle in harmony with other living beings and nature. Inspired by his vision, we embarked on a mission to bring this dream to life. It took us 30 years, but in April 2024, we celebrated the second anniversary of the launch of Arihanta Institute. These past two years have been incredibly rewarding.

“Jñāna Dāna
(gift of knowledge)
is the most sacred
gift, as it empowers
individuals to succeed
and propels societal
prosperity.”

Arihanta Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit California Corporation, is a world-class online educational institution where students of all ages, backgrounds, and global locations can learn about the Jain tradition and its application to daily life. We offer certificate and graduate-level online learning with top scholars from around the globe, specializing in Jain Studies and related academic fields.

As a first-of-its-kind online educational institution, Arihanta Institute provides a platform for students to explore Jain philosophy based on the principles of non-violence, peace, and compassion. These principles are essential for building a kinder and gentler lifestyle in our complex world. The world is facing multifaceted issues such as animal mistreatment, climate change, wars, conflicts, mental health challenges, and social justice issues, each requiring urgent attention. For millennia, Jain tradition has engaged with these issues by creating awareness of their threats and illuminating pragmatic remedies—practices and lifestyle blueprints for harmonious living.

At Arihanta Institute, we bridge ancient wisdom with contemporary living through accessible, self-paced online courses, free events, and a unique Master of Arts program in Engaged Jain Studies. Echoing Ācārya Sushil Kumar's essential teachings, we truly believe in the profound impact of spirituality on society’s cultural, social, and political fabric. Only *ahiṃsā* and peaceful means can provide lasting solutions to the human disputes and environmental problems we currently face.

We are committed to democratizing Jain Studies to educate, empower, and connect individuals worldwide. Our online studies are designed for Jains and non-Jains alike, who share a passion for reimagining and co-creating a world where our values and actions converge. Through our efforts, we aim to build a global community dedicated to living in harmony with each other and the environment. We hope you join us in achieving this vision.

With sincere regards,

Parveen Jain
Founder & CEO, Arihanta Institute



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



6 LEARNING
AREAS

40
ONLINE
COURSES

COURSE
700
ENROLLMENTS

WITH
STUDENTS
IN MORE
THAN **20**
COUNTRIES

3 FULL-TIME
PROFESSORS
2023 COLLECTIVE
ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2 BOOKS PUBLISHED
- 6 BOOK CHAPTERS
- 3 ACADEMIC JOURNAL ARTICLES
- 36 ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS
- 3 GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CST
- 5 PUBLIC LIVE & SELF-STUDY COURSES

MA-ENGAGED JAIN STUDIES

33 ENROLLMENTS

- 2 TERMS | 3 COURSES
- NEW CONCENTRATIONS:
VEGAN STUDIES & YOGA STUDIES

2024 PROJECTS

- YOGA IN JAINISM CONFERENCE
- VEGAN STUDIES INITIATIVE
- VOICES IN VEGAN STUDIES
- AHIMSA VEGAN CONFERENCE '24
- ENGAGED JAIN STUDIES PODCAST

4 HOSTED CONFERENCES

- Perspectives on
Perspectivalism
- Defining Applied Jain
Studies

- Ahimsa Vegan
Conference:
Jain Voices in
Animal Advocacy
- Dialogues in European
Jain Studies





“2023 was an incredibly exciting & productive year for Jain Studies at Arihanta Institute.”

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This year we continued to establish a special place for scholars of the Jain tradition by creating unique opportunities for our professors and collaborators to truly focus on Jain Studies in ways they can do so nowhere else in the academic world.

At Arihanta Institute, I know that all my labor and time is going toward doing what I am most passionate about: the study of the Jain tradition.

All of our energies are indeed directed into Jain Studies at Arihanta Institute, with our three full-time professors managing to collectively publish in 2023 one complete book manuscript, one complete edited volume, four book chapters, three peer-reviewed journal articles, and more than fifteen publications for the public through various media outlets. We also collectively taught a number of public live and self-study courses and three graduate level courses in partnership with Claremont School of Theology (CST). It is difficult to achieve this level of publishing and teaching outcomes in a traditional setting in one short year, and all of our faculty are grateful to be able to concentrate on studying the Jain tradition without many of the distractions typically encountered in conventional academia.

Our work also looks outward to form mutually-enhancing relationships with our partners: In 2023, we successfully launched our graduate program and the subdiscipline of “Engaged Jain Studies” with our partners at CST to create new opportunities to study and amplify the Jain tradition’s message of non-violence and compassion. Following our successful public “Defining Applied Jain Studies” conference in April 2023, Professor Cogen Bohanec and I even signed a contract with State University of New York Press (SUNY) to publish a new, groundbreaking book titled *Engaged Jainism*.

In 2023 we have also created new opportunities for scholars to share their interdisciplinary work in our “Dialogues in European Jain Studies” speaker series, established in equal collaboration with our partners at Ghent University and the University of Birmingham. Scholars working on the Jain tradition in Europe now have a common platform to meet on a monthly basis to exchange ideas and share their latest research with public audiences around the world.

We have a number of new groundbreaking initiatives including our public Vegan Studies Initiative, graduate-level concentrations focusing on Veganism and Jain Yoga, graduate level language training in Sanskrit and Gujarati, new conferences, and new speaker series.

Thank you for all your support,

Professor Christopher Jain Miller, PhD
VP of Academic Affairs, Arihanta Institute



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023

CHRISTOPHER MILLER, PHD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs

“At Arihanta Institute, I do not feel constrained and can focus on preparing courses, teaching, researching, publishing, or performing administrative duties, knowing that all of my labor and time is going toward doing what I am most passionate about: the study of the Jain tradition.”

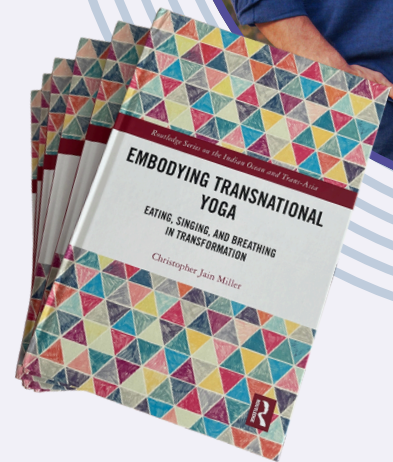


Teaching – MA Degree Courses (45 hrs):

- TDT 3033: Jain Philosophy (*TattvārthaSūtra*)

Book Publications & Chapters Published:

- *Embodying Transnational Yoga: Eating, Singing, and Breathing in Transformation* | Routledge
- “Shedding Light on the Humane Hoax through the Deeper Dimensions of Jain Ahimsā.” *The Humane Hoax: Essays Exposing the Myth of Happy Meat, Humane Dairy, and Ethical Eggs* | Edited by Hope Bohanec | New York: Lantern Books.
- “Contemplating Jivas: The Ecological Implications of Jainism's Elemental Meditations.” | *Contemplative Studies in Jainism: Prayer, Veneration, Ritual, and Meditation in Jainism* | Edited by Rita Sherma, Cogen Bohanec, and Purushottama Bilimoria | Routledge.
- “A Continuing Search for Light in our Shared Times of Darkness: Introduction and Response to a Special Review Section on Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age.” Special Issue on *Beacons of Dharma: Spiritual Exemplars for the Modern Age* | Edited by Christopher Jain Miller and Jeffery D. Long | *Journal of Dharma Studies* | Springer.



Professor Miller’s full faculty bio and publications can be found, [here](#).

1	1	7	18	1	3	3	6
Book Published	Book Forthcoming	Book Chapters Published & Forthcoming	Academic Articles & Conference Presentations	AI Blog Articles	Organized AI Conferences	Organized Conference Panels	Media Interviews

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

CHRISTOPHER MILLER, PHD

“My sincere gratitude for Prof. Miller’s invaluable guidance and support throughout the first semester of my MA program... [Miller’s] dedication to the field and commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of Jain philosophy among his students have not gone unnoticed. I am inspired ... and I look forward to continuing my studies under his guidance .

Chellamuthu Rajamani, Chennai
Graduate Student
MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“Heartfelt Gratitude for Your Guidance and Support.”

“I tremendously enjoyed my very first class, Jain Philosophy, taught by Professor Miller... We read religious texts like *TattvārthaSūtra* and I researched the application of Das Lakshan, Ten Qualities, in our day to day life particularly the first quality, Supreme Forgiveness, Uttam Kshama, to manage anger.

Komal Jain, Austin, Texas
Graduate Student
MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“It is a privilege to learn from scholars who are passionate about their fields. Professor Miller is deeply supportive of students and dedicated to sharing Jain philosophy and tradition. In this course we explored ancient teachings applicable to our individual lives and our societies.”

Jesse Weaver, Florida
Graduate Student
MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“Jain philosophy class was an enlightening experience that deepened my understanding of profound spiritual concepts. Dr. Miller’s insightful teachings and thoughtful explanations illuminated the intricate principles of Jainism, fostering a genuine appreciation for its rich traditions. I highly recommend this class to anyone seeking an enriching and enjoyable learning journey.”

Jessica Radicic, Pennsylvania
PhD Student, Claremont School of Theology



“The information that I have learned from this course [‘Yoga Sutra: The Classical Yoga of Patanjali’] has been invaluable to me as a Buddhist teacher... With amazing examples and insights from Dr. Miller, I have a deeper understanding of the material and it has allowed for deeper insight. I have enjoyed this course and look forward to taking many more...”

Reverend Kanjin Cederman, Seattle,
Graduate Student
Claremont School of Theology

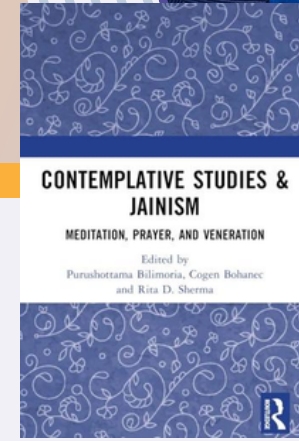


FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023

COGEN BOHANEC, MA, PHD

Assistant Professor of Sanskrit & Jain Studies

“I could hardly imagine a more supportive working environment, and I think my achievements, and those of my other AI faculty colleagues far exceeds those of average university professors because of that support. This is, of course, because of the vision, insight, and effective leadership of my superiors (Parveen Jain, Pramod Patel, and Christopher Miller) but also because of the support of our Board Members, Executive Team, donors, and the amazing community that Arihanta has galvanized, inspired by the visionary mission of this institute. If you are reading this, then you are likely counted as such, and to you, I am extremely grateful. Because of you, I am able to do my best work to ensure that the Jain tradition has a greater influence on our cultures and societies in the modern world.”



Teaching – MA Degree Courses (45 hrs):

- Research Sanskrit | The first of a two-semester graduate course that develops research skills of basic philology and translation | CST | Claremont, CA

Teaching – Self-paced Courses:

- Course 2010 | Research Sanskrit: Level 1 of 2
- Course 2007 | The Mokṣa-māḷā and the Movement of Śrīmad Rājcandra: Part 1
- Course 2008 | The Mokṣa-māḷā and the Movement of Śrīmad Rājcandra: Part 2

Book & Academic Publications:

- Co-Editor in Chief | *Volume 2: Contemplative Studies and Jainism: Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship* | Routledge
- “Pan-Dharmic Yoga: Comparative Meditative Praxis in the Jain Yoga-Śāstra of Hemacandra and the Hindu Yoga Sūtra of Patañjali” | *Contemplative Studies and Jainism: Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship* | Routledge
- “ŚrīCaitanya’s Implicit and Explicit Regard for Animals” | *Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies* | Vol. 32, No. 1 | Fall 2023
- “Book Review: *Māyā in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa: Human Suffering and Divine Play*. By Gopal K. Gupta” | *Journal of Hindu Studies*
- “A Theocentric Argument for Animal Personhood in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta” | *Journal of Dharma Studies* | Springer

Professor Bohanec’s full faculty bio and publications can be found, [here](#).

1
Book
Published

5
Books
Forthcoming

7
Book
Chapters
Published &
Forthcoming

17
Academic
Articles &
Conference
Presentations

3
AI Blog
Articles

6
Conferences
Attended

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

COGEN BOHANEK, MA, PHD



“We are immensely fortunate to have Dr. Bohanec as our Professor of Sanskrit at the Arihanta Institute. His teaching style is truly exemplary, making the intricacies of Sanskrit grammar remarkably accessible and understandable. As students, we have found his methods to be incredibly effective. Looking ahead to the next semester, we earnestly request to continue our Sanskrit classes under Dr. Bohanec’s guidance. Additionally, we express a keen interest in expanding our linguistic horizons by learning Prakrit. Given the abundance of Jain ancient literature in Prakrit, particularly authored by revered figures like AcharyasreeKundaKunda, we believe that acquiring proficiency in this language would greatly enrich our understanding of these invaluable texts. We wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Bohanec’s teaching prowess and eagerly anticipate further opportunities to learn from him. His dedication and expertise undoubtedly contribute to the academic excellence of the Arihanta Institute.”

Chellamuthu Rajamani, Chennai, Graduate Student, MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“Professor Bohanec’s love of Sanskrit is unrivaled. As challenging as the subject is, he kept us motivated through his passion, expertise, and clear commitment to student success.”

Jesse Weaver, Florida, Graduate Student, MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“Dr. Cogen Bohanec takes a digestible but careful approach to Sanskrit, breaking the language into easy-to-absorb units of memorization (e.g., declension charts) and conscientiously guiding his students through the process of translation. The natural linguist and the not-so-natural linguist (I locate myself in the latter class) will find his program helpful. Additionally, Dr. Bohanec possesses a great grasp of dharmic traditions, often placing the Sanskrit in its many pre-modern and contemporary contexts. Finally, Dr. Bohanec displays an exceptional interest in the success of his students, making himself available to a degree rarely seen in the academy. I highly, highly recommend both him and his course.”

Reese LeBlanc, PhD Student, Claremont School of Theology

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023

JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD

Assistant Professor of Jain Studies

“Service extends well beyond university walls—brick or digital—and the Jain principles of *ahiṃsā*, *dāya*, and *aparigraha* continue to motivate my participation in local food recovery and distribution programs. In 2023, I continued working with Food Not Bombs West Philadelphia, an international movement of local, independent collectives serving donated produce, freshly prepared vegetarian or vegan meals, and healthcare supplies to anyone in need or want. As a volunteer and organizer, I perform various tasks such as produce pickup and transport, sorting and packing, cooking and distributing, cleaning, and general equipment maintenance. Looking forward to 2024, I intend to increase my academic activity, institutional service, and community outreach. In short, to live a fully engaged life in thought, speech, and action.”



Teaching – MA Degree Course (45 hrs):

- Introduction to Jainism: Nonviolence as a Way of Life

Teaching – Self-paced Courses:

- Course 1011 | Jain Approaches to Animal Sentience

Book Publications & Academic Publications:

- Forthcoming. “Panjrapoles Old and New: The Case of Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary.” | *Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Approaches to the Study of Jain Social Engagement* | Edited by Christopher Jain Miller and Cogen Bohanec | Albany: SUNY Press.
- Forthcoming. “Consider the Loka: The Jain Sentient Universe and Environmental Ethics.” | *Ecology & Indian Philosophy: Hindu, Jain, and Yoga Perspectives on Climate and Environmental Mitigation* | Edited by Rita D. Sherma and Christopher Jain Miller.
- Forthcoming. “Ahiṃsā.” In *The Vegan and Plant-Based Handbook: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* | Edited by Yanoula Athanassakis, Renan Larue, William O’Donohue | Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

Professor Dickstein’s full faculty bio and publications can be found, [here](#).

1
Book
Forthcoming

3
Book
Chapters
Forthcoming

5
Academic
Articles &
Conference
Presentations

2
AI Blog
Articles

1
Media
Interview

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD



“His way of bringing the reference materials of animal advocacy for our reading is not only kindling our interest to know about the subject but also it is heart touching. We are always astonished by his in-depth knowledge while his method of teaching is very interactive and easy to understand. We would like to have more classes from him in our future semesters.”

Chellamuthu Rajamani, Chennai, Graduate Student, MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“The 'Introduction to Jainism: Non-violence as a Way of Life' class at Arihanta Institute was a transformative experience for me. The course seamlessly blended intellectual depth with spiritual wisdom, providing profound insights into the essence of Jainism. Professor Jonathan Dickstein's expertise and passion for South Asian religion was truly exceptional, he made each class a captivating exploration. Professor Dickstein's teaching style, marked by a genuine desire to help students grasp complex concepts, made the learning experience both enriching and thoroughly enjoyable. I am very grateful for this enlightening journey with Arihanta Institute and Claremont School of Theology. “

James Taylor, Texas, Graduate Student, MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“I've had the pleasure of taking two courses with Arihanta Institute: Social Justice and Modern Yoga with Professor Miller and Engaged Jainism and Animal Advocacy with Professor Jonathan. Both courses significantly broadened my knowledge and perspective on these important topics. Even though I'm based in India, the course exposed me to new ideas, information, insights and practices I hadn't encountered before. Both professors are incredibly knowledgeable and encouraging, guiding us expertly through the material. The course structure, including readily accessible online resources and thoughtfully chosen readings, is making my learning truly engaging.”

Priten Bangdiwala, Mumbai, Graduate Student, MA – Engaged Jain Studies



“Professor Dickstein's course was my first introduction to the Jain religion, and it has been one of the best classes I have taken during graduate school. Professor Dickstein organized a course that included very thoughtful and approachable reading selections, engaging assignments that really helped guide us into a deep dive of the Jain religious tradition, and very constructive, fruitful class discussions all semester. I was surprised by how much ground we were able to cover in a single class while also engaging a deep exploration of various philosophical questions, both ancient and modern. I also really appreciated that in our final project of the semester, Professor Dickstein gave us the chance to explore Jainism in the context of our own personal interests--this is not an opportunity that all professors always think to grant, and I know many of us were grateful for the practicality that was designed into our final project. Finally, I will say that on a personal level, I felt that Professor Dickstein genuinely cared about us as students. I had the chance to speak with Dr. Dickstein one-on-one on numerous occasions, and in my experience, he embodies a kind of openness, care, and compassion that seems to exemplify the very values that are at the core of the Jain religion itself. My experience with this class and professor was first-rate--very grateful for the opportunity!”

Anonymous, PhD Student, Claremont School of Theology



ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

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GRADUATE DEGREE

Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies in partnership with Claremont School of Theology



CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Live & Self-Paced Online Courses for All Ages



SCHOLARLY EVENTS

Conferences, Webinars, Podcasts & Research Platform

ABOUT ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

At Arihanta Institute, we bridge ancient wisdom with contemporary living through accessible, live and self-paced online courses, scholarly events and conferences, and a first-of-its kind Master of Arts program in Engaged Jain Studies.

- **World-Class Education:** Leading institute for Jain studies beyond India.
- **Our Mission:** Promote non-violence & compassion via online education.
- **Our Team:** Renowned professionals and scholars committed to Jain principles.
- **Foundation:** An IRC(c)(3) nonprofit California Corporation founded in April 2021.



Value-based Educational Institution



Leading Edge Technology



Worldwide Reach



Globally Renowned Faculty

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