



ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

20 ANNUAL 24 REPORT

arihantainstitute.org

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

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



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S NOTE

We founded Arihanta Institute in April 2022 with a mission to share the timeless principles of *ahiṃsā* (non-violence) and *karuṇā* (compassion) with a global audience. As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride, heartfelt gratitude, and a renewed conviction in our shared purpose. In a world increasingly marked by violence, suffering, and erosion of ethical values, these teachings have never been more vital.



In 2024, we made significant strides in advancing Engaged Jain Studies through innovative programming and thought leadership. Enrollment in the M.A. in Engaged Jain Studies—offered by our partner, Claremont School of Theology (CST)—nearly tripled from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024. Many more students joined our graduate seminars. We also nearly doubled global enrollment in our growing portfolio of self-paced courses. Attendance at our conferences and speaker series also grew substantially. This indicates a rising worldwide interest in Jain thought and practice.

Our Vegan Studies Initiative (VSI) has evolved into a vibrant platform linking Jain wisdom with contemporary concerns such as food justice, animal advocacy, and environmental ethics. We are also seeing increasing engagement across our six core areas of learning. In 2024 alone, over 100 globally distinguished scholars contributed to our courses, speaker series, conference and more. Building on this momentum, we are excited to launch the Compassion Studies Initiative (CSI) and the Center for Study of Jain Yoga (CSJY) in 2025.

We are deeply grateful to our donors and supporters whose generosity fuels our growth. Thanks to their unwavering support, we proudly established the *Tirthankara Śreyāṃśanātha Endowed Professorship in Vegan and Animal Advocacy Studies* in 2025. This landmark achievement affirms our enduring commitment to scholarly excellence.

We are equally thankful to our volunteers, whose selfless services remain the backbone of Arihanta Institute during these formative years.

Our steadfast conviction that education is the most powerful catalyst for societal transformation, strengthens our resolve to offer innovative, accessible learnings grounded in ancient Jain wisdom—guiding individuals toward honorable, purposeful modern living.

Together, we are helping build a kinder, more compassionate society. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, student, faculty member, guest educator, or ally, you are a valued partner in this journey. Your support helps us empower individuals with the knowledge to cultivate a deep-rooted commitment to *karuṇā* and the transformative power of *ahiṃsā* in daily life. We are shaping a more conscientious and ethical world—one student at a time.

Parveen Jain.

— Dr. Parveen Jain, Founder & CEO, Arihanta Institute



ABOUT ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

Founded in April 2022 as an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit in California, Arihanta Institute is an academic institution committed to advancing education, scholarship, critical research, and the real-world application of Jain principles such as *ahimsā* (non-violence) and *karuṇā* (compassion).

Our mission is to empower individuals with the knowledge to apply these values to some of today's most urgent global challenges. As a leader in Engaged Jain Studies, Arihanta Institute bridges theory and practice through inclusive, accessible online education, dynamic scholarly events, and a pioneering Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies offered in partnership with Claremont School of Theology. Though not a religious organization, our platform connects students with the timeless wisdom of the *tīrthaṅkaras*, including Mahāvīra, offering transformative insights for modern life.

Arihanta Institute also offers flexible, self-paced courses across six key areas of human concern—philosophy and ethics, compassionate living, spirituality and yoga, animal advocacy, environmental justice, and social action—through three interdisciplinary initiatives: the Vegan Studies Initiative (VSI), the Compassion Studies Initiative (CSI), and the Center for the Study of Jain Yoga (CSJY). These initiatives foster rigorous scholarship, interfaith dialogue, and real-world application through non-degree courses, graduate concentrations, events, articles, and more—led by expert educators and global thought leaders.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

50+

ONLINE
SELF-PACED
COURSES

1.7K

COURSE
ENROLLMENTS

20+

STUDENT
COUNTRIES

11

MA-EJS
GRADUATE
STUDENTS

59

MA-EJS COURSE
ENROLLMENTS

1

HOSTED
CONFERENCE

24

SPEAKERS SERIES
SESSIONS &
WEBINARS
HOSTED

750

TOTAL EVENT
ATTENDEES

80

SCHOLARS
ENGAGED

10

PODCAST
EPISODES
RELEASED



VEGAN STUDIES INITIATIVE (VSI)



- **VSI launched in April 2024** as a multi-pronged educational effort centered on vegan studies, animal studies, environmental ethics, and food practices, all grounded in Jain principles.
- **New MA-EJS concentration** on “Veganism, Animals, and Ecology” launched with 3 custom courses.
- **4 online courses released**, featuring top global scholars.
- **“Voices in Vegan Studies”** 9-part speaker series.
- **Partnered with global orgs** including Climate Healers, Mercy for Animals, We Animals, and Pax Fauna.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF JAIN YOGA (CSJY)



- **CSJY launched in October 2024**, dedicated to advancing research and education in the tradition of Jain yoga and meditation. Building on the success of the global conference “Yoga in Jainism,” held in April 2024, CSJY seeks to illuminate Jain yoga’s unique contributions within the broader field of Yoga Studies.
- **New MA-EJS concentration** on “Yoga Studies” launched with 6 custom graduate seminars.
- **15 Self-paced and live public courses** through 2026.
- **Interdisciplinary research events and conferences**—upcoming “Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana” online conference scheduled for August 8–10, 2025—as well as educational and partner webinars.

COMPASSION STUDIES INITIATIVE (CSI)



- **CSI launched in November 2024** as a new educational initiative that inspires individuals to embrace human-to-human compassion as a transformative force for personal growth and the betterment of society.

Includes five key program pillars:

- **10 Self-paced online certificate courses** through 2025.
- **“Voices in Compassion Studies”** 10-part speaker series through 2025.
- **3rd Annual Engaged Jain Studies Conference "Compassion-in-Action"** online event in April 2025 uniting global voices on compassion.
- **MA-EJS curriculum** including focus on applications of compassion.
- **\$20k Uberoi Foundation grant** (Jan 2025) to fund 2025 project.



MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGAGED JAIN STUDIES

In partnership with Arihanta Institute, Claremont School of Theology offers a first-of-its-kind, fully online MA program in Engaged Jain Studies that equips students—Jains and non-Jains alike—to apply Jain philosophy and ethics to real-world challenges. Grounded in rigorous scholarship and taught by global experts, the program emphasizes the integration of Jain values—*ahiṃsā* (non-violence), *aparigraha* (non-possession), and *anekāntavāda* (pluralism)—into daily personal, professional, and social life.

With comprehensive coursework in Jain philosophy, ethics, anthropology, and interreligious studies—including yoga and other dharma traditions—students explore how timeless Jain principles can guide responses to contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, animal welfare, and business ethics. Through community engagement and applied learning, graduates are empowered to become agents of compassionate, values-driven change.

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS

“Dr. Miller is a tremendous resource of information. His style of teaching is helpful, conversational, and inclusive. I appreciate how he asked the class questions and **got us thinking in new ways**. I would highly recommend this course.”
– Graduate Student, TDT 3037/4047 | *Social Justice and Modern Yoga, Claremont School of Theology*

“Dr. Bohanec is the **rare breed of careful and diligent teacher who is also a determined and capable learning coach**. One is immediately caught up in his enthusiasm for the subject and his capacity to communicate it in ways that share that love. Indeed, as an instructor, this enables him also to be kind and generous in his teaching.”
– Jay TH., MA-EJS Graduate Student, TDT 3035/4035 | *Sanskrit II, CST*

“I appreciated the breadth and depth of the topic! More than any material I've yet consumed or classes I've taken, this course changed my ideas on what “vegan” means - for the better. I gained more cultural literacy and conversational competencies, which then created a direct positive effect on my daily and activist life. **This course is truly fantastic and I appreciated it a great deal.**”
– Graduate Student, TDT 3040/4040 | *Jain Veganism in the History of Global Veganism, CST*





FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Arihanta Institute has a distinguished and growing faculty, including 3 full-time professors, over 10 guest educators, and more than 25 subject-area experts. Thanks to the dedication of our students, supporters, volunteers, and staff, 2024 marked a year of remarkable academic growth and achievement. We expanded our online course offerings across all disciplines, enriched our graduate programs with new concentrations in Vegan Studies, Yoga Studies, and Language Studies (Sanskrit Gujarati, and Prakrit), and participated in numerous prestigious scholarly events. Our faculty advanced critical research, translation, and publication efforts, while our expanding global partnerships with universities and like-minded institutions have significantly broadened access to Jain Studies worldwide.

2024 FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

13

SELF-PACED &
MA-EJS COURSES
TAUGHT

2

BOOKS
PUBLISHED

6

BOOKS
FORTHCOMING

38

BLOG ARTICLES
PUBLISHED

19

PODCAST & MEDIA
INTERVIEWS

2

BOOK CHAPTERS
PUBLISHED

15

BOOK CHAPTERS
FORTHCOMING

14

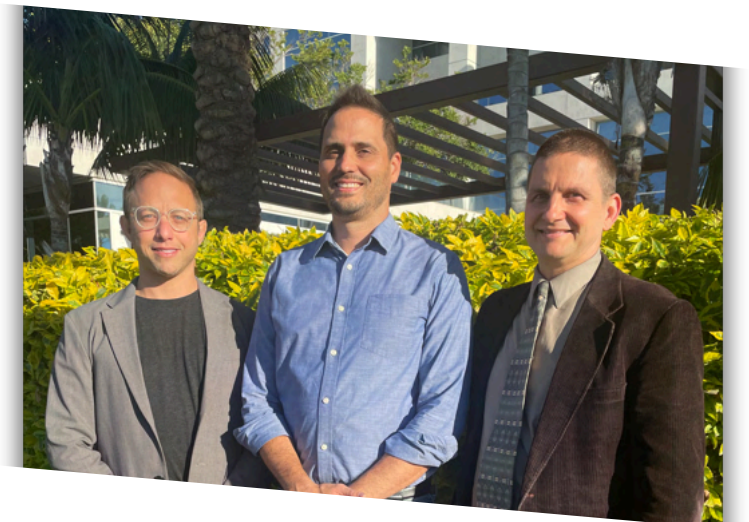
ACADEMIC
PUBLICATIONS
FORTHCOMING

39

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

9

EVENTS,
SPEAKER SERIES &
CONFERENCE
PANELS
ORGANIZED



CHRISTOPHER MILLER, PHD



VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR OF JAIN & YOGA STUDIES

Books Published & Forthcoming:

- *Embodying Transnational Yoga: Eating, Singing, and Breathing in Transformation*, 2024.
- *Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement*, Christopher Jain Miller & Cogen Bohanec, editors, 2025.
- *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Non-violence*, Patrick Felix Krüger, author. Marion Frenger and Christopher Jain Miller, translators, 2025.



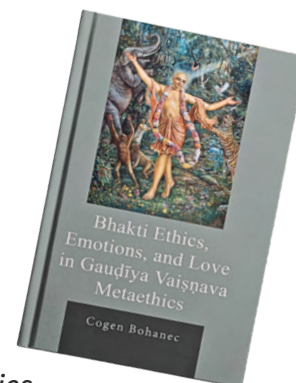
COGEN BOHANEC, MA, PHD



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN SANSKRIT & JAIN STUDIES

Books Published & Forthcoming:

- *Bhakti Ethics, Emotions, and Love In Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Metaethics*, 2024.
- *Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement*, Christopher Jain Miller & Cogen Bohanec, editors, 2025.
- *Mantra Jñāna: A Passage Through the Sūkṣma Śārīra*, based on the Writings and Discourses by Ācārya Sushil Kumar, Parveen Jain, author. Cogen Bohanec, editor, 2025.
- *Gujarati Śikṣaṇ: A Comprehensive Primer and Grammar*, 2025/2026.
- *The Life and Teachings of Śrīmad Rājcandra: The Profound Bhakti of a Modern Jain Ācārya*, 2025/2026.



JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD



TIRTHANKARA SHREYANSANATH ENDOWED ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF JAIN & VEGAN STUDIES

Books Published & Forthcoming:

- “Ahiṃsā,” in *The Vegan and Plant-Based Handbook: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Yanoula. Athanassakis, Renan Larue, and William O'Donohue, 2024.
- *From Cosmos to Slaughterhouse: Animals in Hindu South Asia*, Forthcoming.





OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors are Parveen Jain (Chair), Kamlesh Mehta (Board Secretary), and Members: Pramod Patel, Prem Chand Jain, Mohini Jain, Bhupendra Mookim, Dr. Jasvant Modi, and Bijal Vakil (General Counsel).



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Chairman



KAMLESH MEHTA
Board Secretary



PRAMOD PATEL
Board Member



PREM CHAND JAIN
Board Member



MOHINI JAIN
Board Member



BHUPENDRA MOOKIM
Board Member



DR. JASVANT MODI
Board Member



BIJAL VAKIL
General Counsel

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team includes Parveen Jain (CEO), Kamlesh Mehta (CMO & COO), Christopher Jain Miller, PhD (Vice President of Academic Affairs), Pramod Patel (Chief Academic Compliance Officer), Kavita Mahendra, Umesh Sagar, Pramod Khincha, Sunil Mehta, Biren Shah, Shobha Vora, Taina Rodriguez-Berardi, Opal Shah, and Leddy Stroud, along with a number of seasoned professionals with deep academic, marketing, business development, and corporate experience.

Learn More About Our Academic Programs & Partnership Opportunities:

study@arihantainstitute.org

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