



# ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

# 2024 ACADEMIC REPORT

arihantainstitute.org

**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, PhD**

*Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed*

*Assistant Professor of Jain & Vegan Studies*

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

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



## ABOUT ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

Arihanta Institute, founded in February 2022, is a 501(c)(3) academic nonprofit dedicated to sharing Jain philosophy, history, culture, and language through world-class online education. Guided by non-violence (*ahiṃsā*) and compassion (*karuṇā*), we bridge ancient wisdom with modern living through accessible courses, scholarly events, and a pioneering Master of Arts in **Engaged Jain Studies** (EJS) program offered by our partner Claremont School of Theology (CST), where Arihanta Institute faculty, serving as Adjunct Faculty at CST, teach accredited graduate-level seminars.

While not a religious organization, our platform connects students to the timeless wisdom of the *tīrthaṅkaras*, including Mahāvīra, offering insights for today's world. As the global leader in Engaged Jain Studies, we empower individuals to apply Jain values to promote personal and societal well-being, addressing contemporary challenges with courage and compassion. Our key initiatives include the **Vegan Studies Initiative (VSI)**, **Compassion Studies Initiative (CSI)**, and **Center for the Study of Jain Yoga (CSJY)**, each offering specialized events, live and self-paced courses, concentrations within the MA program at CST, and more. These initiatives explore veganism and Jain principles, human compassion, and Jain yogic practices, led by esteemed scholars and leading experts worldwide.

## 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

60

SELF-PACED  
COURSES  
PUBLISHED

1.7K

SELF-PACED  
COURSE  
ENROLLMENTS

20+

SELF-PACED  
STUDENT  
COUNTRIES

7

EJS GRADUATE  
SEMINARS  
AT CST

59

EJS GRADUATE  
SEMINAR  
ENROLLMENTS AT CST

1

HOSTED  
CONFERENCE

3

HOSTED  
SPEAKERS  
SERIES

8

WEBINARS  
HOSTED

10

PODCAST  
EPISODES  
PUBLISHED



## LETTER FROM THE VP OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thanks to the dedication of our students, supporters, volunteers, and staff, 2024 was another year of remarkable growth and achievement for Arihanta Institute in the academic realm.

This year, as the global leaders in Engaged Jain Studies and Jain Yoga Studies, we launched the **VSI**, **CSI**, and **CSJY**. We also added two new concentrations to our collaborative graduate program focusing on **Vegan Studies** and **Yoga Studies**.

We expanded our online course offerings across all academic disciplines, enriched our graduate programs with new concentrations in Vegan Studies and Yoga Studies, and organized and participated in manifold prestigious scholarly events.

Our faculty continued their critical research, translation, and publication of groundbreaking academic works, while the expansion of our global partnerships with universities and like-minded organizations has significantly broadened access to Jain Studies worldwide.

In the following pages of this report, you will find further details on these milestones, along with highlights of our academic successes, the ongoing growth of our global academic community, and the continued evolution of our initiatives in support of a more multiculturally sensitive and compassionate world.

Thank you for all your support. Jai Jinendra!

**Christopher Jain Miller, PhD**

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Arihanta Institute





## Faculty Achievements 2024

### Christopher Jain Miller, PhD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs



“2024 was a truly transformative year for me at Arihanta Institute. As Vice President of Academic Affairs, my leadership role carried significant responsibility, and I am profoundly grateful to our faculty and team for their unwavering commitment of time, talent, and energy, which has been pivotal to the Institute’s growth and success. Their support enabled me to accomplish my research and teaching goals, participate in numerous academic conferences, contribute to academic translation work, interview colleagues for our new podcast, and launch new educational initiatives and courses.

A particular highlight was witnessing the impact of my first book, *Embodying Transnational Yoga*, as it came to life in the classroom, at academic conferences, and through enthusiastic book reviews. I was also proud to see our edited volume, *Engaged Jainism*, submitted to SUNY Press, marking a key step toward its publication.

Most importantly, my ongoing mentoring and engagement with our global community of graduate students have been a constant source of inspiration, motivating me to strive to be the best professor I can be as we continue to nurture the next generation of Jain scholars.”

## 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

5

TOTAL  
COURSES  
TAUGHT

1

BOOK  
PUBLISHED

1

BOOK  
FORTHCOMING

7

BOOK  
CHAPTERS  
FORTHCOMING

4

PUBLICATIONS  
FORTHCOMING

17

BLOG  
ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED

3

SPEAKERS  
SERIES  
ORGANIZED

2

CONFERENCE  
PANELS  
ORGANIZED

11

PODCAST &  
MEDIA  
INTERVIEWS

15

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

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



## COURSES TAUGHT & STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

### **TDT 3037/4047 “Social Justice & Modern Yoga” (Spring ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

- “Dr. Miller is a tremendous resource of information. His style of teaching is helpful, conversational, and inclusive...I would highly recommend this course.” – Graduate Student, CST

### **TDT 3041/4041 “Jain Yoga” (Fall ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

- “Dr. Miller's way of teaching is a wonderful way to learn, allowing the information to be relevant to each of the students in their course of study.” – Graduate Student, CST

### **1014 | “Jainism, Veganism & Engaged Religion,” Co-taught with Prof. Jonathan Dickstein (Vegan Studies Initiative, Arihanta Institute)**

- “[This course] is a remarkable example of the transformative power of aligning nonviolence, or ahimsa, with daily living. Profs. Miller and Dickstein expertly highlight the Jain tradition, sparking essential conversations about animal agriculture, spiritual practice, and ethically navigating climate collapse. If you're seeking a compassionate path forward, I highly recommend this course...Thank you, Arihanta Institute!” – MA-EJS Graduate Student, Arihanta Institute

### **3007 | “Ancient and Classical Jain Yoga” (Center for the Study of Jain Yoga, Arihanta Institute)**

### **3006 | “Embodying Transnational Yoga” (Cross-listed in collaboration with YogicStudies.com)**

- “Provided an honest, sobering conversation regarding how practitioners may be performing ancient practices without taking into account contemporary pressing issues, such as food quality, pollution, etc., worldwide. It has inspired me to search for new ways in which to “engage with the Anthropocene” while continuing to pursue practices leading to my spiritual growth. – Gisele R., Yogic Studies

## BOOKS PUBLISHED & FORTHCOMING

### ***Embodying Transnational Yoga: Eating, Singing, and Breathing in Transformation* | Routledge**

- “Highly beneficial for scholars examining transnational religious movements and serves as a source of encouragement and guidance for emerging scholars interested in Yoga Studies. Overall, the book provides a compelling account that will inform and inspire both scholars interested in the anthropology of religion and South Asian religions, as well as Yoga practitioners interested in eating, singing, and breathing within transnational yoga communities.” – Katie Khatereh Taher, McGill University
- “This groundbreaking book issues an urgent call to widen the scope of modern yoga scholarship by amplifying marginalized facets of practice and adopting more inclusive theoretical frameworks.” – Agi Wittich, YogaResearch.org, July 1, 2024.

### ***Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement* | Christopher Jain Miller & Cogen Bohanec, editors | SUNY Press | Forthcoming 2025**

## BOOKS TRANSLATIONS FORTHCOMING

### ***Jainism: An Indian Religion of Non-violence* | Patrick Felix Krüger, author. Marion Frenger and Christopher Jain Miller, translators. | Routledge | Forthcoming 2025**



## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

**“New Books in Modern Yoga Studies”** - Author participant for reviewed book (Patton Burchett, William and Mary, reviewer), *Embodying Transnational Yoga*, at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit, San Diego, CA, November 23.

**“Jain Yoga: Ahimsā as the Foundation of Yoga Practice”** - Invited presentation at the Yogavidyā conference at [yogicstudies.com](http://yogicstudies.com), October 12.

**“From Practitioner to Practitioner-Scholar, From Yogin to Engaged Jain Yoga”** - Invited paper circulated for the “We Should Know Better” workshop hosted by the University of Victoria’s Center for Studies in Religion and Society organized by Paul Bramadat and Rachel Brown, Victoria, Canada, September 26-29.

**“When Traditional Knowledge Fails: Yoga, Ecology, and the Case of Practicing Purifying Prāṇāyāma in South Asian Air Pollution”** - Conference paper at the 21st Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions: “Nature, Ecology, and Religious Responses to Climate Change,” Gothenburg, Sweden, August 22.

**“Alternative Career Paths in Religious Studies: Roundtable Discussion with Scholar-Entrepreneurs in the Field of Yoga Studies”** - Roundtable participant at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit, Summer Online Session, June 27.

**“Yoga in the Contemporary Context”** - Author participant for reviewed book (reviewed by Jonathan Dickstein), *Embodying Transnational Yoga*, at the “Yoga Studies Symposium,” Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal at the invitation of Daniela Bevilacqua and Lucy May Constantini, June 23.

**“Puruṣa bound from within / without looking on’: Gurani Anjali’s Sāṃkhya-Yoga Music on Long Island, New York”** - 3rd International Academic Conference: Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana, University of Hamburg, May 22-25.

**“The Future of Jain Studies: Engaged Jain Studies and Engaged Jainism”** - Dialogues in European Jain Studies speaker series, co-organized with Tine Vekemans (Ghent University), and Marie-Hélène Gorisse (University of Birmingham), May 13.

**“Jain Yoga on the Berlin Wall: Narendra Kumar Jain’s Seven Stages of Enlightenment”** - 2nd Annual Engaged Jain Studies Conference, “Yoga in Jainism,” Arihanta Institute, April 20.

**“Contesting Freedoms at the Berlin Wall’s East Side Gallery: Translating the Visual Message of Narendra Kumar Jain’s mural, the Seven Stages of Enlightenment”** - South Asian Studies Assoc. Academic Conference, California Institute for Integral Studies, March 2.





## Faculty Achievements 2024

**Cogen Bohanec, MA, PhD**

**Assistant Professor in Sanskrit & Jain Studies**



“In 2024, I contributed to the academic community through peer review activities, reinforcing my reputation as a leading scholar in Jain studies and related fields. Invitations from esteemed journals, including the Journal of Dharma Studies, to review manuscripts and evaluate book proposals reflect my recognized authority in the field. These engagements also fostered valuable relationships with academic journals and scholars, enhancing my professional development and the institution's prestige. Additionally, I edited a book review for the Journal of Dharma Studies, further demonstrating my commitment to academic service.

For Arihanta Institute, 2024 was a year of significant achievement and growth. The unwavering support of our Board Members, Executive Team, Donors, and supporters has been essential in advancing our mission. Through innovative programs, research, and community engagement, we have expanded our global reach and strengthened our academic standing. Our commitment to preserving South Asian linguistic traditions, promoting interdisciplinary learning, and advancing ethical living has enriched our students and the broader community. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to furthering our mission, inspired by the collective efforts and shared vision of our institution. I extend my deepest thanks to all who have contributed to our success and look forward to another year of collaboration in support of Arihanta Institute.”

## 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

**6**

**TOTAL  
COURSES  
TAUGHT**

**1**

**BOOK  
PUBLISHED**

**4**

**BOOKS  
FORTHCOMING**

**1**

**BOOK  
CHAPTER  
PUBLISHED**

**4**

**BOOK  
CHAPTERS  
FORTHCOMING**

**8**

**ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS  
FORTHCOMING**

**11**

**BLOG  
ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED**

**1**

**CONFERENCE  
ORGANIZED**

**2**

**PODCAST &  
MEDIA  
INTERVIEWS**

**14**

**CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS**

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



## **COURSES TAUGHT & STUDENT TESTIMONIALS**

### **TDT 3034/4034 “Sanskrit I” (Fall ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

- “I just completed a year of Sanskrit under Dr. Bohanec, who has devised an accessible approach to the language even the densest aspiring linguist (me) can utilize. He also, almost reflexively, situates the language in its broader dharmic settings, giving students a historical, cultural, and theological education in addition to the Sanskrit itself. Finally, he's just a righteous dude. I highly, highly recommend this [course].” – Reese L., Graduate Student, CST
- “Prof. Bohanec is an immense mind and I feel privileged to have had a course with him...[his] encouragement, kindness, sense of humor, and vast body of knowledge in South Asian studies, ethics, and exegesis are incredible. I also appreciated how encouraging he was at every stage...This is the most difficult course I've taken and Prof. Bohanec is to be commended for "data compressing" such difficult material, and providing such a positive and constructive environment. – Graduate Student, CST
- “There were so many helpful things about this course! In-class translation work with other students was wonderful. The best advice given by the instructor was to do what it took to enjoy the material itself. This “enjoyment” emphasis was often in direct conflict with class expectations (see next answer), but over the break I continue to study and emphasize finding enjoyment in those studies. This has ended up changing my entire outlook on the MA program in general, and Prof. Bohanec cannot be over-thanked for this suggestion; simple as it is, it has been very impactful.” – Graduate Student, CST

### **TDT 3035/4035 “Sanskrit II” (Spring ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

- “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 T.H., MA-EJS Graduate Student, CST

### **DS 343/443 | “Pāṭi Direct Study Course” (Fall ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

**2010 | “Research Sanskrit I” (Arihanta Institute)**

**2011 | “Research Sanskrit II” (Arihanta Institute)**

**2012 | “University Sanskrit I” (Arihanta Institute)**

## **BOOKS PUBLISHED & FORTHCOMING**

### ***Bhakti Ethics, Emotions, and Love In Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Metaethics* | Lexington Publishing**

- “This excellent study exemplifies both skillful scholarship and the author’s depth of experience with the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition. It thoroughly refutes the outmoded notion that practitioners within a tradition cannot view it from a sufficiently critical stance to do serious, rigorous reflection on its ideas. With this work, Cogen Bohanec advances our understanding of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava worldview. – Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College, 2024.

***Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement* | Christopher Jain Miller & Cogen Bohanec, editors | SUNY Press | Forthcoming 2025**

***Mantra Jñāna: A Passage Through the Sūkṣma Śārīra*, based on the Writings and Discourses by Ācārya Sushil Kumar | By Parveen Jain | Edited by Cogen Bohanec | Forthcoming 2025**

***Gujarati Śikṣaṇ: A Comprehensive Primer and Grammar* | Forthcoming 2025/2026**

***The Life and Teachings of Śrīmad Rājendra: The Profound Bhakti of a Modern Jain Ācārya* | Forthcoming 2025/2026**





## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

**“The Legitimizing and Cautionary Functions of Jain Siddhis and Śrīmad Rājendra”** - Dharma Academy of North America at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November.

**“The Life & Teachings of Śrīmad Rājendra”** - Modern Jain Acharyas Lecture Series, Arihanta Institute, September.

**“Moral Affect Theory: Healing Through the Metaethics of Love in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism”** - Annual Uberoi Meeting, Berkeley, CA, August.

**“Methodologies in Engaged Jain Studies”** - Presentation for Dialogues in European Jain Studies speaker series, May.

**“Interfaith Orientation of the Yoga Systems of Haribhadra and Hemacandra”** - Conference paper at the 3rd International Academic Conference: Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana, University of Hamburg, May 22-25.

**“Mahātmā Gandhi and the ‘Three A’s’ of Jain Dharma”** - Conference paper presented at the South Asian Studies Assoc. Academic Conference, California Institute for Integral Studies, March 2.

## ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**“Vegan as a Spiritual Practice: What Dharma Traditions Teach Us About Non-violence”** - Sonoma County VegFest, Santa Rosa, CA, September.

**“Q&A Session Regarding Daily Spiritual Practice”** - Professor Vijay Gondaliya, September.

**“Jain Ecotheology & Healing the Natural World”** - Young Jains of America Convention, Atlanta, GA, July.

**“Mahātmā Gandhi and the ‘Three A’s’ of Jain Dharma”** - Young Jains of America Convention, Atlanta, GA, July.

**“The Importance of Jain Philosophy in Modern Times”** - Pathshala Class for the Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC), Online, March.



## Faculty Achievements 2024

### Jonathan Dickstein, PhD

#### *Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed Assistant Professor of Jain & Vegan Studies*



“The year 2024 has been a highly productive and fulfilling period in my role at Arihanta Institute, marked by significant contributions in teaching, research, and service. I developed and taught two graduate seminars for the MA program in Engaged Jain Studies in collaboration with Claremont School of Theology. I designed and implemented the “Veganism, Animals, and Ecology” MA concentration, which has expanded the program’s interdisciplinary scope and contributed to student recruitment. My research and publications have advanced meaningfully. I completed and submitted a book chapter on Jainism and animal sanctuaries for an upcoming volume with SUNY Press, published an entry on ahimsā in The Vegan and Plant-Based Handbook, and had an article on Jain environmental ethics accepted for publication in a leading journal. I am also in the process of preparing a book proposal for Columbia University Press based on my dissertation research. Beyond teaching and scholarship, I led the development of the Vegan Studies Initiative (VSI) at Arihanta, overseeing online courses, speaker series, and panel discussions. Additionally, I represented the institute at key academic and Jain community events, including the AAR Annual Meeting, Young Jains of America Convention, and special programs at the Jain Center of Southern California. I look forward to continuing this momentum in 2025 and further strengthening Arihanta’s impact in the fields of Jain Studies, animal ethics, environmental justice, and social change.”

## 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

3

**TOTAL  
COURSES  
TAUGHT**

1

**BOOK  
PROPOSAL  
(UNDER DEVELOPMENT)**

1

**BOOK  
CHAPTER  
PUBLISHED**

4

**BOOK  
CHAPTERS  
FORTHCOMING**

2

**ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS  
FORTHCOMING**

10

**BLOG  
ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED**

6

**PODCAST &  
MEDIA  
INTERVIEWS**

3

**EVENTS ORGANIZED  
(SPEAKER SERIES + PARTNER  
ROUNDTABLE + CONFERENCE PANEL)**

10

**CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS**

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



## COURSES TAUGHT & STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

### **TDT 3036/4036 “Engaged Jainism & Animal Advocacy” (Spring ‘24, MA-EJS, CST)**

- “Everything is really excellent.” – Graduate Student, CST
- “Excellent course and engagement by professor.” – Graduate Student, CST

### **TDT 3040/4040 “Jain Veganism in the History of Global Veganism” (Fall ‘24, MA-EJS, 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, CST
- “All the materials and assignments were interesting, I looked forward to this course a great deal every single week. I appreciated the global and historical perspective and I think this course would be a fantastic introduction for anyone interested in animal studies, veganism, animal rights, and/or cultural foodways.” – Graduate Student, CST

### **1014 | “Jainism, Veganism, and Engaged Religion,” Co-taught with Prof. Christopher Miller (Vegan Studies Initiative, Arihanta Institute)**

- “[This course] is a remarkable example of the transformative power of aligning nonviolence, or ahimsa, with daily living. Profs. Miller and Dickstein expertly highlight the Jain tradition, sparking essential conversations about animal agriculture, spiritual practice, and ethically navigating climate collapse. If you're seeking a compassionate path forward, I highly recommend this course...Thank you, Arihanta Institute!” – MA-EJS Graduate Student, Arihanta Institute

## BOOK CHAPTERS PUBLISHED

**“Ahimsā” | *The Vegan and Plant-Based Handbook: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Yanoula Athanassakis, Renan Larue, and William O'Donohue. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2024**

## BOOK PROPOSAL UNDER DEVELOPMENT

***From Cosmos to Slaughterhouse: Animals in Hindu South Asia* | Jonathan Dickstein | Forthcoming**

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

**“More Limits in Jain Environmental Ethics.” *Philosophy East & West (Digital)* 2025**

**“Engaging Animals’ Lives: Jainism and Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary” | *Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement* | Christopher Jain Miller & Cogen Bohanec, editors | SUNY Press | Forthcoming 2025**



## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

**“The Trash Mārga: Preliminary Thoughts on a Freegan Jainism”** - Panelist for “Religion and Veganism: Critical Perspectives” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November.

**“There’s ‘God’ and Then There’s God: Still debating Sāṃkhya-Yoga Theology”** - Paper presented at the Dharma Academy of North America, at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November.

**“Embodying Transnational Yoga”** - Discussant with author Christopher Jain Miller at The Yoga Studies Symposium: Celebrating 20 Years of Academic Engagement, CRIA, online, June.

## ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**“The Yoga(s) of the Yoga Sūtra”** - Lecture at The Iyengar Yoga Institute of New York, New York, December.

**“Consumption Beyond Veganism”** - Presentation at the Vegan Climate Summit 2024 hosted by Project Animal Freedom, online, September.

**“Ahimsā in Classical Yoga”** - Lecture at Kula Yoga SoHo, New York, July.

**“Walking the Walk: Living Shared Jain Values”** - Presentation for The Young Jains of America Convention, Atlanta, GA, July.

**“We’re All Animals: Compassionate Thinking and Living”** - Presentation for the Young Jains of America Convention, Atlanta, GA, July.

**“A Unifying Vegan Horizon”** - Voices in Vegan Studies speaker series, Arihanta Institute, online, May.

**“Compassion to Animals”** - Lecture delivered to the Jain Center of Northern California, March.



# ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

## 2024 ACADEMIC REPORT

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**Contact Us:**

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

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