



# Arihanta Institute

## Academic Report 2025

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

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

ARIHANTAINSTITUTE.ORG



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# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

Greetings! We proudly present the 2025 Annual Academic Report of Arihanta Institute with deep gratitude.

At Arihanta Institute, we continue to advance our founding vision of making Jain wisdom accessible worldwide. In less than four years, we have 12 MA-EJS (MA in Engaged Jain Studies) students, 123 MA-EJS course enrollments, over 70 short courses, students from 25 countries, and over 1,700 short-course enrollments globally. These milestones reflect the growing recognition that Jain Studies speaks directly to today's ethical and ecological challenges.

We are truly grateful for the steadfast support of our donors, Board members, students, and community, along with the dedication of our faculty, executive team, volunteers and partners. Remarkably, the academic work highlighted in this report has been delivered by our academic team of just three faculty members — their scholarship and commitment continue to shape our programs in extraordinary ways.

In 2025, with a transformative \$1 million gift from Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi and Dr. Namrata Patel, we established the Tirthankara Śreyāṃśanātha Endowed Professorship in Vegan and Animal Advocacy Studies. Professor Jonathan Dickstein holds this endowed professorship. We also gratefully acknowledge the Uberoi Foundation for research grants supporting our Compassion Studies Initiative (2025) and Engaged Anekāntavāda studies (2026).

Looking ahead, our first MA-EJS student, Chellamuthu Rajamani, will graduate in May 2026 — a proud milestone for our young institution. Guided by the conviction that knowledge must serve compassion and ethical living, we will continue to grow through our 4th Annual Earth Day Conference, the inaugural Graduate Student Colloquium, and the steady expansion of all our academic initiatives including our forthcoming Center for South Asian Languages. We are methodically fulfilling our mission of democratizing Jain Studies globally. Thank you!

Warm regards,

Parveen Jain, PhD  
Founder, Chairman, and CEO





# ABOUT ARIHANTA INSTITUTE

Arihanta Institute is a 501(c)(3) academic nonprofit dedicated to advancing the study and application of Jain philosophy, history, culture, and languages through rigorous, accessible online education. Guided by the foundational Jain values of non-violence (*ahiṃsā*) and compassion (*karuṇā*), Arihanta Institute bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary life through university-level courses, scholarly research, publications, and global academic programming.

In 2025, Arihanta Institute continued to expand its academic footprint through the fully online Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies (MA-EJS), offered by Claremont School of Theology, where Arihanta Institute faculty serve as Affiliated Faculty and teach accredited graduate seminars. During this period, Arihanta Institute further advanced its global leadership in Engaged Jain Studies by strengthening graduate-level language instruction, expanding research-driven curricula, and supporting a growing international student community.

Throughout 2025, Arihanta Institute advanced its three core academic initiatives: the Vegan Studies Initiative (VSI), the Compassion Studies Initiative (CSI), and the Center for the Study of Jain Yoga (CSJY). These initiatives broadened interdisciplinary scholarship at the intersection of Jain thought, ethics, ecology, animal advocacy, yoga, and lived non-violence through new courses, public lectures, conferences, and collaborative academic programming.

While not a religious organization, Arihanta Institute connects learners worldwide with the intellectual and ethical traditions rooted in the teachings of the tīrthaṅkaras, including Mahāvīra, fostering critical inquiry alongside contemplative and applied learning. Through its expanding academic ecosystem, Arihanta Institute continues to empower students, scholars, and practitioners to apply Jain principles toward personal transformation and constructive engagement with the ethical and social challenges of the modern world.



## GRADUATE DEGREE

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



## COURSE CATALOGUE

70+ Live & Self-Paced  
Online Courses  
for All Ages



## SCHOLARLY EVENTS

Academic Platform  
for Conferences,  
Webinars, Podcasts &  
Critical Research



# ARIHANTA INSTITUTE 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

6

Graduate seminars taught for the Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies (MA-EJS) track.



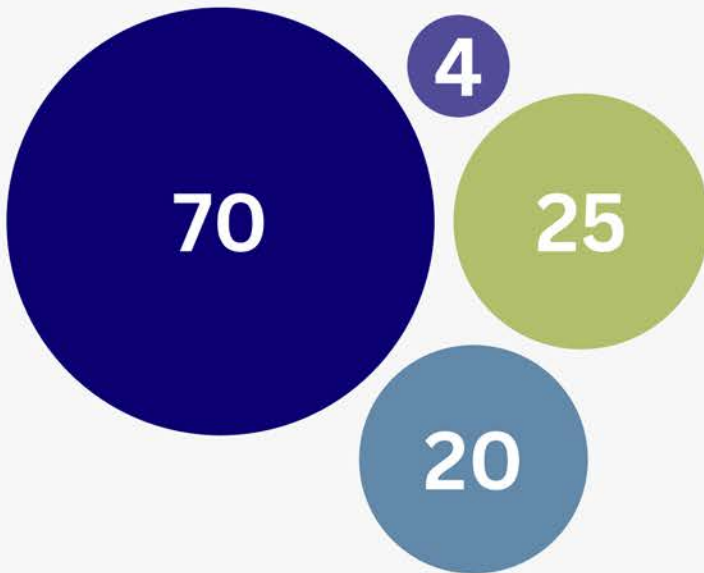
12

total number of graduate students enrolled in the MA-EJS track.

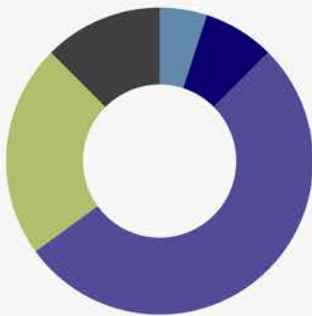


123

cumulative enrollments over 6 semesters in the MA-EJS track seminars.

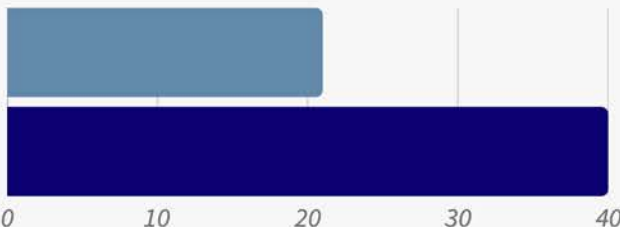


- 4 new self-paced courses taught in 2025 by full-time faculty on the Arihanta Institute online platform.
- 20 new self-paced courses taught in 2025 by all faculty on the Arihanta Institute online platform for lifelong learning with 217 enrollments.
- 70 self-paced courses available on the Arihanta Institute online platform for lifelong learning with 1.7k cumulative enrollments 2022-2025.
- 25 countries represented by our self-paced course students.



- 2 hosted global conferences.
- 3 hosted online speaker series.
- 21 presentations.
- 9 conferences, speaker series, event, and panels organized.
- 5 additional invited panels and speakers events.

EJS Podcast



Blog Articles

- 21 Engaged Jain Studies Podcast episodes released.
- 40 Arihanta Institute blog articles published.



# LETTER FROM THE VP OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2025 was a troubling and difficult year for many around the world, marked by routine violence on human and non-human animals and the environment. As those involved in Engaged Jain Studies know, these issues are intimately intertwined and their resolution requires careful interdisciplinary understanding of the mechanisms of power and knowledge production that enable them.

In anticipation of these difficulties, we significantly expanded our *Compassion Studies Initiative* in 2025 with the support of the Uberoi Foundation. These offerings included new courses, a speaker series, podcast episodes, a "Compassion in Action" conference, and rigorous graduate-level training at our partner Claremont School of Theology (CST) - all focused on encouraging the cultivation of human compassion in global society.

In the *Vegan Studies Initiative*, we hosted new graduate seminars, certificate courses, speakers, and podcast episodes with an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars. Meanwhile, the *Center for the Study of Jain Yoga* hosted a summer conference and launched new courses to continue to bring Jain Yoga into the field of Yoga Studies globally.

Finally, our language studies also expanded significantly through both introductory graduate-level and advanced graduate-level training in Sanskrit and Gujarati, thereby giving students around the world direct access to Jain scriptural wisdom.

In the report that follows, you will find further details on our Initiatives and CST's collaborative MA in Engaged Jain Studies graduate program, as well as each of our faculty's teaching, research, and publishing achievements in 2025.

As our troubling and difficult times continue to unravel at rapid speed, we will continue to educate and encourage the core Jain principles of compassion and non-violence as society's most viable and desirable path forward. We thank you for your continued support of our educational mission.

Jai Jinendra!

Christopher Jain Miller, PhD  
Vice President of Academic Affairs, Arihanta Institute





# 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—*ahimsā* (non-violence), *aparigraha* (non-possession), and *anekāntavāda* (non-one-sidedness)—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 rights, and business ethics. Through community engagement and applied learning, graduates are empowered to become agents of compassionate, values-driven change.

2025 saw the program continue to grow in both enrollment and scholarly depth — a momentum that carried into February 2026, when the program convened its first Graduate Student Colloquium, a milestone gathering that showcased the intellectual rigor and community the program has cultivated. 2026 will mark another historic moment: the graduation of the program's first MA candidate, a testament to the vision and persistence of everyone who helped bring this pioneering program to life.

*"I have completed my first year in the Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies program and it has been remarkably transformative. I chose this program to delve into South Asian religions while enhancing my language skills. The courses on Jainism are fantastic and multifaceted. Jain Yoga and Research Sanskrit courses were particularly enriching, offering deep insights into the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of Jainism. Additionally, exploring contemporary Jainism and its connections to vegan culture has broadened my perspective on ethical living.*

*This journey has not only deepened my understanding of Jain metaphysics but also strengthened my commitment to living out these values.*

*I am grateful to Arihanta Institute for the opportunity and all their encouragement throughout my learning."*

*– Gopal Soni, Graduate Student, Master of Arts in Engaged Jain Studies, Claremont School of Theology*



## VEGAN STUDIES INITIATIVE (VSI)

2025 marked VSI's first full calendar year of programming — four new online courses and eight podcast episodes that laid the intellectual groundwork for the field.

- "Animal Sanctuary: Solutions in Nonviolence" (Jonina Turzi, co-founder of Lancaster Farm Sanctuary) examined farm animal sanctuaries as both ethical practice and political intervention.
- "Veganism & Pop Culture" (Christopher Sebastian) explored how media shapes moral sensibilities around animals and veganism.
- "Foundations of Animal Ethics" (Jishnu Guha-Majumdar, PhD) tackled a deceptively simple question: why is the way humans treat animals morally wrong?
- "Gender, Animals, and Veganism" (Laura Wright, PhD, who coined the term "Vegan Studies") brought an intersectional lens to the field, challenging stereotypes of veganism as white, elitist, and feminized while examining how gender, power, and embodiment entangle human and animal oppression.

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF JAIN YOGA (CSJY)

2025 was a year of deep scholarship and community gathering for the CSJY — six courses spanning ancient texts, living languages, and contemplative practice, alongside a landmark conference.

- "Light on the Dark Age of Jain Yoga" (Corinna May Lhoir) illuminated an understudied chapter in the history of Jain contemplative traditions.
- "Yogabindu and Yogadṛṣṭisamuccaya: The Yogas of Haribhadrasūri" (Christopher Jain Miller, PhD) guided students through two seminal texts by two significant teachers of early Śvetāmbara Jain yoga.
- "Samayasāra and Jñānārṇava: The Yogas of Kundakunda and Śubhacandra" (Christopher Jain Miller, PhD) explored two foundational Jain texts and their insights into inner transformation.
- "University Sanskrit 2 Live" and "Sanskrit 3: Translation and Reading of Jain Sanskrit Texts" (Cogen Bohanec, MA, PhD) continued CSJY's commitment to building primary-source literacy in classical Sanskrit.
- "Foundations of Jain Yoga Studies" (Christopher Jain Miller, PhD) grounded graduate students in the history, philosophy, and methodologies of Yoga Studies through the lens of Jain yoga's dialogue with other traditions across time.
- The 2025 Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana Conference at Arihanta Institute drew more than 400 registrations, reflecting the growing scholarly and practitioner interest in Jain yoga as a living tradition.

## COMPASSION STUDIES INITIATIVE (CSI)

2025 was a landmark year for the Compassion Studies Initiative, made possible in part by a grant from the Uberoi Foundation — with ten courses launched, 340+ registrants at the 3rd Annual Engaged Jain Studies Conference: "Compassion-in-Action," and nine free public sessions through the Voices in Compassion Studies speaker series, together demonstrating the breadth and momentum of compassion as a field of serious study.

- "Jain Teachings & Practices of Compassion" (Jeffery D. Long, PhD), "Buddhism, (Non)Action & Compassionate Responsibility" (Anna Halafoff), "Sikh Teachings & Practices of Compassion" (D.P. Singh, PhD), and "Devotional (Bhakti) Approaches to Compassion" (Eileen Goddard) grounded the initiative across four rich contemplative traditions.
- "Compassionate Food Systems for Planetary Healing" (Sailesh Rao, PhD) and "Human Security as Compassion: Jain Perspectives on Global Challenges" (Melanie Barbato, PhD) extended compassion ethics into urgent global questions.
- "Forgiveness as Compassion" (Venu Mehta, PhD), "Spiritual Approaches to Cultivating Compassion" (Frank Rogers, PhD), and "Interreligious Approaches to Compassion in Action" (Nitin Shah, MD) explored compassion as both personal practice and interreligious dialogue.
- 8 • "Compassion to Self & Others in Jain Householder Life" (Shivani Bothra, PhD) grounded compassion in the everyday ethical demands of lay Jain practice.



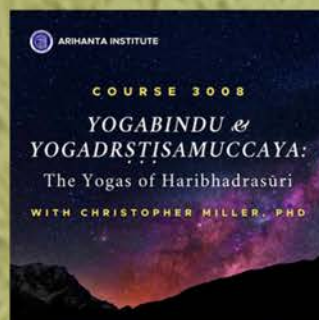
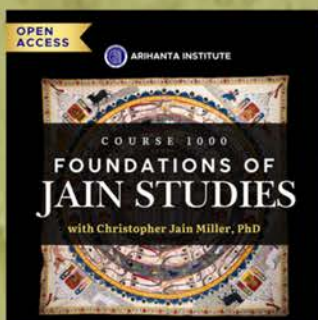
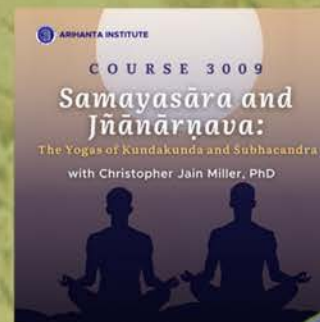
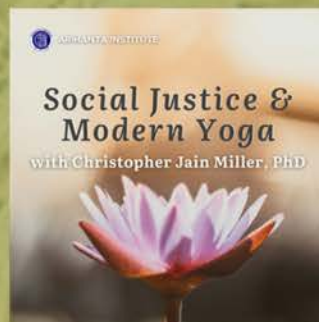
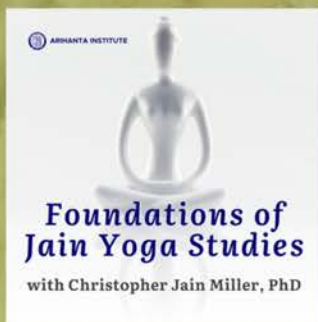
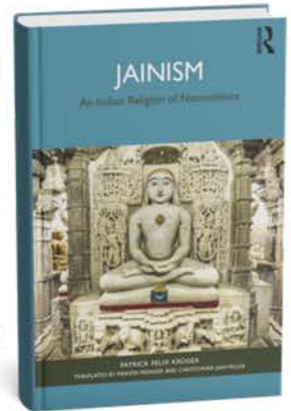
## CHRISTOPHER JAIN MILLER, PHD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs

*“2025 was another exciting and productive year at Arihanta Institute. I had the opportunity to teach transformative graduate seminars in Engaged Jain Studies with our partner Claremont School of Theology, as well as public courses on our online platform. I was also fortunate to engage with the academic community globally both in online and in-person conference presentations and events. We celebrated the publication of our translation of Patrick Felix Krüger’s book, Jainism: An Indian Religion of Nonviolence (Routledge), and we also submitted the final proofs of our new edited volume, Engaged Jainism, for publication with SUNY Press. I am immensely grateful to all of our faculty, students, collaborators staff, executive team, board, and donors and supporters. Jai Jinendra!”*

### COURSES TAUGHT

- TDT 3044/4044 | Foundations of Jain Yoga Studies (at CST)
- TDT 3037/4047 | Social Justice and Modern Yoga (at CST)
- 1000 | Foundations of Jain Studies
- 3008 | Yogabindu and Yogadr̥ṣṭisamuccaya: The Yogas of Haribhadrasūri
- 3009 | Samayasāra and Jñānārṇava: The Yogas of Kundakunda and Śubhacandra





## CHRISTOPHER JAIN MILLER, PHD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs

### GRADUATE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

#### TDT 3044/4044 | Foundations of Jain Yoga Studies (Spring 2025 at CST)

- “The integration of Generative AI into academic research made the course refreshingly forward looking. The close engagement with the Yoga Sūtra, especially through a Jain lens, brought classical ideas vividly to life. The comparative approach across traditions enriched our philosophical understanding. Above all, Dr. Christopher Jain Miller’s clarity, compassion, and intellectual depth made the course truly exceptional.”
- “Fantastic course and superb instruction”
- “Dr. Miller’s teaching was exemplary, blending precision with warmth and philosophical depth with accessibility... the clarity of vision and the pedagogical integrity with which he led this course were truly inspiring.”

#### TDT 3037/4047 “Social Justice and Modern Yoga” (Fall 2025 at CST)

- “The highlight for me is the sheer diversity of those involved: race, class, gender, religion, background, language. There was a wonderful attitude of community and respect. Professor Miller is very professional and polished at engaging across a multiplicity of experiences.”
- “This was my favorite course (of four) this semester.”
- “The professor designed this course in a very accessible and rigorous way.”
- “Even after taking courses on similar topics through Arihanta Institute’s website, I found that not only did Professor Miller challenge us to think more deeply through our weekly lectures and assignments, but he also created a welcoming discussion environment where all students could participate and share how they synthesized the weekly material. I absolutely loved this course.”

*Image: Christopher Jain Miller with Veronica Ghirardi at SEVA’s “Symposium on Jain Studies: Research Dialogues across Disciplines”, University of Torino, March 27, 2025. (Photo courtesy of Yifan Zhang)*





## CHRISTOPHER JAIN MILLER, PHD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs

### BOOKS TRANSLATIONS PUBLISHED

- Krüger, Patrick Felix. 2025. Marion Frenger and Christopher Jain Miller, translators. *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Non-violence* (Jainismus: Eine indische Religion der Gewaltlosigkeit). London: Routledge.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Miller, Christopher Jain. 2025. "Foreword." In Patrick Felix Krüger's *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Non-violence*. London: Routledge.
- Miller, Christopher Jain. 2025. "Jain Compassion and Nonviolence Toward Animals." Article written for *Jain Center of Northern California's 25th Anniversary Souvenir Publication*.

### PRESENTATIONS

- "Arguing Against Ahimsā: Cognitive Dissonance Strategies in Jain Anti-Vegan Discourse," at Symposium on Jain Studies: Research Dialogues across Disciplines, "In thought, word, and action': Jain practices and epistemologies of non-violence in India and across the Indian diaspora," Università di Torino, March 27, 2025.
- "When Compassion Fails: Transnational Anti-Vegan Cognitive Dissonance Alleviation in Jain Discourse," Basel Animal Ethics Reunion (BAER), University of Basel, April 25, 2025.
- "Engaged Jainism Sitting on the Lotus of Engaged Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Book Review Roundtable," Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement at the 2025 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit, Summer Online Session, June 24-26, 2025.
- "Engaged Jain Yoga: Listening for haṭha-yoga's unstruck sound (anāhata-nāda) in Acharya Sushil Kumar's Song of the Soul," 2025 Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana at Arihanta Institute (YDYS@AI) conference, August 8-10, 2025ydis.arihantainstitute.org.
- "Two Bodies, Two Sacrifices: Self-purifying yogic breathing in the air pollution of necropolitical capitalism in Maharashtra, India," 2025 "Un/Commoning Anthropology" Conference of the German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne, Germany, September 29 – October 2, 2025.
- "The Compassion Studies Initiative at Arihanta Institute," Uberoi AUM Conference at California State University, Fresno, October 4, 2025.
- "Living Your Values," Young Jains of America, November 10, 2025.
- "Arhum 'Jain' Yoga: Acharya Sushil Kumar's Assemblage of Pan-South Asian Contemplative Practices in Song of the Soul," 2025 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Contemplative Studies Unit, Boston, MA, November 22-25, 2025.
- "'Puruṣa bound from within / without looking on': Gurani Anjali's Sāṃkhya-Yoga Music on Long Island, New York." 2025 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Music and Religion Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit, Boston, MA, November 22-25, 2025.

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



## CHRISTOPHER JAIN MILLER, PHD

Professor of Jain & Yoga Studies, VP of Academic Affairs

### CONFERENCES, SPEAKER SERIES, AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- "Voices in Compassion Studies" Speaker Series, Compassion Studies at Arihanta Institute, 2025.
- "3rd Annual Engaged Jain Studies Conference: Compassion-in-Action," Arihanta Institute, April 19-20, 2025.
- "Jain Non-One-Sidedness (Anekāntavāda): Religious Pluralism and Learning Across Differences" speaker event, Cal State University Northridge Online Jain Symposium, Department of Religious Studies and University of Santa Barbara, May 5, 2025.
- "Engaged Jainism Sitting on the Lotus of Engaged Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Book Review Roundtable," 2025 American Academy of Religion, Summer Online Session, Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit, June 24-26, 2025.
- "Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana at Arihanta Institute (YDYS@AI)," Arihanta Institute, August 8-10, 2025.
- "Why is the academic study of yoga so destabilizing for practitioners?" panel, 2025 Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana Conference @ Arihanta Institute, August 8-10, 2025.
- "Compassion as a Path to Freedom" panel, 2025 DANAM Conference at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 21-22, 2025.
- "Dialogues in European Jain Studies: Connecting Around the Globe" Speaker Series, Arihanta Institute | Ghent University | University of Birmingham, 2025-2026.

### ADDITIONAL 2025 MEDIA & FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

**15**  
ARIHANTA  
BLOG  
ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED

**11**  
PODCAST &  
MEDIA  
INTERVIEWS

**1**  
BOOK  
FORTHCOMING

**8**  
BOOK  
CHAPTERS  
FORTHCOMING

**3**  
OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS  
FORTHCOMING



Image: 2025 AAR, Boston



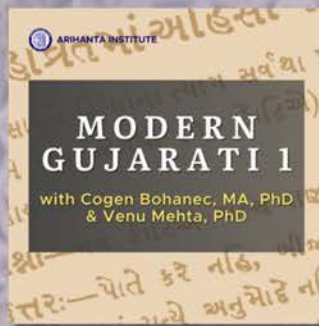
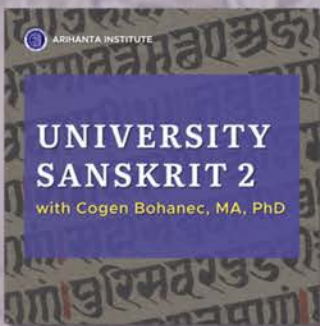
## COGEN BOHANEK, MA, PHD

Assistant Professor in Sanskrit & Jain Studies

*“In 2025, my work comprised an integrated program of graduate teaching, research, public scholarship, and academic service in direct support of Arihanta Institute’s mission and long-term strategic goals. I taught three graduate-level research-language courses totaling 135 contact hours across Sanskrit and Gujarati, completing the foundational two-semester Sanskrit sequence and introducing two new graduate offerings—Advanced Research Sanskrit and Research Gujarati—thereby expanding Arihanta’s curriculum into advanced and underrepresented research languages. In research, I advanced four major academic book projects, including two edited volumes now under contract and in production for 2026 and two monographs in active development, while completing nine peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters accepted and placed into production with leading academic presses and journals. In addition, I authored twelve non-academic public scholarship pieces for Arihanta Institute, delivered six peer-facing academic conference presentations, participated in nine structured public education sessions, delivered four additional invited public lectures, appeared on four podcast episodes, and completed eight formal peer-review and research-assessment activities, including journal manuscript reviews and an international grant review. Collectively, these activities reflect a sustained, verifiable body of work centered on language-based scholarship, Jain and dharma studies, ethical inquiry, and public-facing intellectual leadership, contributing directly to Arihanta Institute’s curricular growth, academic credibility, and public impact.”*

### COURSES TAUGHT

- TDT 3035/4035 | Languages II: Sanskrit 2 (at CST)
- TDT 3046 | Languages I: Modern Gujarati (at CST)
- 8003 | Sanskrit 3: Translation & Reading of Jain Sanskrit Texts





**COGEN BOHANEK, MA, PHD**  
Assistant Professor in Sanskrit & Jain Studies

## GRADUATE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

### TDT 3035/4035 | Languages II: Sanskrit 2 (at CST)

- “Professor Bohanec is an incredible instructor. He is courteous, professional, knowledgeable, and patient.”
- “His patience is perhaps the biggest asset for those of us new to Sanskrit; he often explained and re-explained concepts over and over. This was incredibly helpful.”
- “I believe Professor Bohanec is an incredible language instructor and I am so fortunate to have had this experience!”
- “Original Sanskrit verse (Anuṣṭubh meter), composed in honor of Dr. Bohanec:  
*bohenam jñānasampannam, tejasvinam mahātmanam |*  
*vidyānidhiṃ praśamsāmi, dhyeyasvarūpam akṣayam ||*  
[English translation provided by author]:  
“I praise Dr. Bohanec, who is endowed with knowledge, radiant with brilliance, and a great soul. I admire him as a treasure-house of wisdom, an eternal embodiment of the ideal.”
- I always thoroughly enjoy the lectures and learning about all the incredibly complex grammatical features of Sanskrit. I haven’t enjoyed a class like that in years!
- “We are learning so much — not only about Jain philosophy, but also about the entire spectrum of religious knowledge of the Indian subcontinent...We truly feel that there is no other place where we could gain such deep and holistic understanding.”
- “I wanted to tell you that your classes have inspired me so much that I decided to focus my future linguistic research on Sanskrit and Middle Indic—specifically Dravidian influences in these languages. That is why I have decided to pursue a master’s degree in Indology—so that I can deepen my knowledge of these languages and continue learning about Sanskrit even after taking your courses... I can’t express to you how glad I am that I discovered Sanskrit through your classes—it is so nice to finally have something in my life that I am excited about learning!”

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



**COGEN BOHANEK, MA, PHD**  
Assistant Professor in Sanskrit & Jain Studies

## PRESENTATIONS

- "An Overview of Ethical Theories: A Virtue Ethics Perspective." Invited Guest Lecture, Elder Ethics Course — San Francisco State University, February 2025
- "Exploring the Connection: Biophilia & Natural Landscape in the Dharma Traditions." Posthumanism & the Politics of Sentience, Journal of Dharma Studies Conference (co-sponsored by the GTU Center for Dharma Studies). Berkeley, CA. March 2025.
- "Jain Ecotheology & Ecopsychology." Third Annual Engaged Jain Studies Conference: Compassion-in-Action. Arihanta Institute (peer-facing academic conference). April 2025.
- "Śrīmad Rājendra's Śtrī Nīti Bodhak: A Progressive Vision for Uplifting Women in Late Nineteenth-Century India." Second Annual Conference in Jain Studies: Reimagining Gender in Jain Traditions. California State University, Long Beach. April 2025.
- Editor-Respondent, Book Review Roundtable: *Engaged Jainism: Critical and Constructive Studies of Jain Social Engagement*. American Academy of Religion (AAR) Summer Session. June 2025 (online).
- "Śrīmad Rājendra and the Architecture of Jain Contemplative Practice." Dialogues in European Jain Studies, 2025–2026 Speaker Series (invited lecture). October 2025 (online).
- "Linguistic Ontologies in Jain Thought: Insights from Ācārya Sushil Kumar." Jain Philosophy Conference. Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. October 2025.
- "Dialogues of Conscience: Śrīmad Rājendra, Mahatma Gandhi, and Jain Interreligious Peacebuilding." Constructive and Critical Explorations in Ethics, Nonviolence, and Justice in the Religious Traditions of India (Annual Uberoi Meeting). California State University, Fresno. October 2025.





**COGEN BOHANEK, MA, PHD**  
Assistant Professor in Sanskrit & Jain Studies

### ADDITIONAL INVITED PANELS AND SPEAKERS EVENTS

- "Ahimsā & Vegan Spirituality," The Ahimsā Living Circle, January 2025.
- "Theology & Social Justice," The Ahimsā Living Circle, February 2025.
- "Comparative Dharma Traditions," The Ahimsā Living Circle, March 2025.
- "Meditation in the Yoga Sūtra," The Ahimsā Living Circle, April 2025.
- "Dhyāna: Jain Meditation," The Ahimsā Living Circle, May 2025.
- "Buddhist Meditation in the Visuddhimagga," The Ahimsā Living Circle, June 2025.
- "A Path to Jain Equanimity: Exploring Sāmāyika," The Ahimsā Living Circle, July 2025.
- "Reverence for Life: Jain Ecotheology and the Path to Environmental Healing." Young Jains of America (YJA) Convention, Chicago, IL, July 2025.
- "From Anxiety to Equanimity: Śrīmad Rājcandra's Teachings on Meditation for the Modern Age." Young Jains of America (YJA) Convention, Chicago, IL, July 2025.
- Respondent, "Ahimsā and Peace Activism to Save Human Lives and Environment" (by Shailendra Palvia) JAINA Convention, Chicago, IL, July 2025.
- "Ahimsā Living: An Interview with Professor Bohanec," The Ahimsā Living Circle, November 2025.
- "Biophilia in the Dharma Traditions," The Ahimsā Living Circle, December 2025.

### ADDITIONAL 2025 MEDIA & FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
ARIHANTA BLOG ARTICLES PUBLISHED	PODCAST & MEDIA INTERVIEWS	BOOKS & BOOK TRANSLATIONS FORTHCOMING	BOOK CHAPTERS FORTHCOMING	OTHER PUBLICATIONS FORTHCOMING



## JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD

Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed Assistant Professor of Jain & Vegan Studies

*“In 2025, my work at Arihanta Institute was both productive and deeply aligned with the Institute’s mission, spanning teaching, research, program development, and service. The year’s central milestone was my appointment as the Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed Assistant Professor of Jain and Vegan Studies, made possible by a transformative \$1 million gift from Drs. Jasvant and Meera Modi and Dr. Namrata Patel. Academically, I taught two graduate seminars, developed a new course for Spring 2026, supported a growing cohort of MA students pursuing the Veganism, Animals, and Ecology concentration, and advanced my research with a journal article. I also continued directing the Vegan Studies Initiative, expanding its courses, events, and podcast programming, while representing Arihanta at major academic and Jain community conferences.”*

### COURSES TAUGHT

- TDT 3043/4043 | Food Politics in South Asia and Beyond (at CST)
- TDT 3011/4011 | Introduction to Jainism: Nonviolence as a Way of Life (at CST)

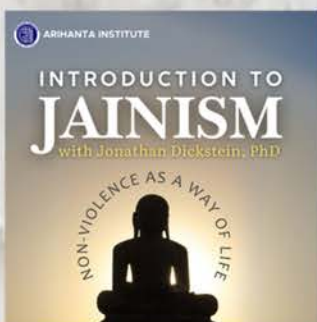


Image: DANAM Conference at the 2025 AAR, Boston



## JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD

Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed Assistant Professor of Jain & Vegan Studies

### GRADUATE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

#### TDT 3043/4043 “Food Politics in South Asia and Beyond” (Spring 2025 at CST)

- “The course is outstanding and the materials are excellent. The instructor is courteous, professional, kind and encouraging.”

#### TDT 3011/4011 “Introduction to Jainism: Nonviolence as a Way of Life” (Fall 2025 at CST)

- "My overall experience of the course was deeply enriching and transformative. The structure and content of the course allowed for a thoughtful engagement with Jain philosophy, particularly non-violence as a way of life rather than merely a doctrinal concept. The combination of readings, discussions, and multimedia resources created a balanced learning environment that encouraged both intellectual inquiry and personal reflection. Interactions during the course fostered critical thinking and ethical self-examination, making the learning experience both academically rigorous and personally meaningful."
- "The most helpful aspects of the course were its clear exposition of core Jain principles such as Ahimsa, Anekāntavāda, Asteya, and Brahmacharya, and the way these concepts were connected to everyday life. The emphasis on non-anthropocentric ethics helped expand my understanding of compassion and justice beyond human-centered frameworks. Discussions on Sallekhanā, supported by documentary material, were particularly informative, as they encouraged deeper reflection on life, soul, detachment, and ethical decision-making. The course also effectively demonstrated how ancient Jain teachings remain relevant to contemporary social and ethical challenges."
- "Enjoyed the diversity of topics covered and the readings. I think it built a strong foundation in terms of the core topics for Jainism but also added some unique connections to the current day."
- "Overall, the course was well-designed and thoughtfully delivered. If any aspect felt less informative, it was primarily due to time constraints rather than content itself."

### PUBLICATIONS

- Dickstein, Jonathan. "More Limits in Jain Environmental Ethics" *Philosophy East and West*. Published electronically February 7, 2025. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/pew.0.a951967>.

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



## JONATHAN DICKSTEIN, PHD

Tirthankara Shreyansanath Endowed Assistant Professor of Jain & Vegan Studies

### PRESENTATIONS

- "An American Panjrapole: Tradition and Innovation at Luvn Arms Animal Sanctuary." Session 7: "Jainism & Animals," Dialogues in European Jain Studies, Arihanta Institute, April 2025.
- "A Trans-Species Analysis of Gendered Duty in Jain Thought." Paper presented at the "Reimagining Gender in Jain Traditions" Conference at California State University, Long Beach, CA, April 2025.
- "Engaged Jainism Sitting on the Lotus of Engaged Buddhism: An Interdisciplinary Book Review Roundtable." Respondent at the Online June Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, June 2025.
- "An Identity Crisis in Next Gen Jainism?" Presentation for Young Jains of America (YJA) at the JAINA Convention, Chicago, IL, July 2025.
- "More Limits in Jain Environmental Ethics." Paper presented at "Jain Conference 2025" at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, October 2025.
- "Disruption and Renewal: Exploring Indigenous Human-Animal Relationalities." Respondent at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 2025.
- "Feelings and Vows: Dharmic (mostly Jain) Understandings on the Relationship Between Compassion and Nonviolence." Paper presented at the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) Conference, Boston, MA, November 2025.
- "Deep Social Impact With Jain Values." Closing presentation for Young Jain Professionals (YJP) Convention, Somerset, NJ, November 2025.

### CONFERENCES, SPEAKER SERIES, AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- "Disruption and Renewal: Exploring Indigenous Human-Animal Relationalities." The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 2025.

### ADDITIONAL INVITED PANELS AND SPEAKERS EVENTS

- "An Identity Crisis in Next Gen Jainism?" Presentation for Young Jains of America (YJA) at the JAINA Convention, Chicago, IL, July 2025.
- "Deep Social Impact With Jain Values." Closing presentation for Young Jain Professionals (YJP) Convention, Somerset, NJ, November 2025.

### ADDITIONAL 2025 MEDIA & FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
ARIHANTA BLOG ARTICLES PUBLISHED	PODCAST & MEDIA INTERVIEWS	BOOK CHAPTER FORTHCOMING	OTHER PUBLICATION FORTHCOMING



# ARIHANTA INSTITUTE TEAM

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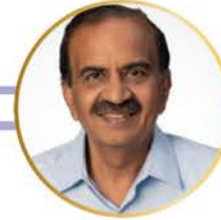
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## EXECUTIVE TEAM

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, and Leddy Stroud, along with a number of seasoned professionals with deep academic, marketing, business development, and corporate experience.

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*Thank You*

