

## **Speakers and Panel Chairs**

### **Bios**

**Ruth Beaglehole, M. A.**, was trained in New Zealand, and has been an early education teacher for 35 years. In 1970 she founded the EchoPark/Silverlake People's Child Care Center, known as the Playgroup, which developed the first anti-bias curriculum in Los Angeles. She taught the first anti-bias class at Pacific Oaks College from 1974 to 1985. In 1986 she founded the Teen Parenting and Child Care Program at Los Angeles Technology Center. This model bi-generational program focuses on breaking the cycle of violence for the teen mother as teaching her to raise her child without violence. This program has been featured in a video with a companion handbook, "Deserving Another Chance."

**Samani Charitrapragya** received her initiation (Samani Diksha) in 1990 From Ganadhipati Gurudev Sri Tulsi and Acharya Sri Mahapragyaji. She holds the M. A. degree in Jain and Comparative Philosophy from Jain Vishva Bharti University, India. She has organized a number of Preksha Meditation camps, and delivered invited lectures on Jain Philosophy and Culture at many colleges and universities in India as well as Europe and the U. S. She has also made presentations at many national and international conferences.

**Christopher Key Chapple** is Professor of Theological Studies and Director of Asian and Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Dr. Chapple completed his Ph.D. in the History of Religions at Fordham University in New York and served as Assistant Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies of World Religions at the State University of New York at Stony Brook for five years before moving to Los Angeles. He has published ten books, including *Karma and Creativity*, a co-translation of Patanjali's *Yoga Sutra*, *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Tradition*, *Hinduism and Ecology*, and *Jainism and Ecology* (in press).

**John E. Cort** is Associate Professor of Asian Religions at Denison University in Ohio. He is the editor of Kendall W. Folkert, *Scripture and Community: Collected Essays on the Jains* (1993) and *Open Boundaries: Jain Communities and Cultures in Indian History* (1998), as well as the author of *Jains in the World: Religious Values and Ideology in India* (2001), and several dozen articles on various aspects of Jainism and religion and society in South Asia. He has conducted extensive fieldwork research among the Jains in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

**Paul Dundas** is Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit, School of Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh. Teaching interests: Sanskrit language and literature, South Asian Buddhism. Research interests: Jain history and institutions, Middle Indo-Aryan philology, Sanskrit court poetry. He has published numerous articles and book chapters. His book, *"The Jains"* was published in 1992, and its revised and expanded edition will be appearing in 2002.

**Gabriel Figueroa** is an assistant editor and staff writer for *American Vegan Magazine* (formerly called *Ahimsa*). Though raised in a Roman Catholic family with roots in Guatemala, Mr. Figueroa was drawn to learn about Jainism from his very first exposure to it. He made a conscious decision to follow its principles and teachings in their true essence, and to become

a *Jain*—which he has been for over six years. He studied Philosophy and Asian Studies extensively through the University of Texas at Austin. However, most of his education about Jainism has come from his own private studies, practical experience, and interaction with others from the Jain community.

**Pallavi Gala** is a Microbiologist and Biophysicist by education and Mother by occupation. Actively involved in Arcadia Schools and Jain Pathshala. She has been teaching in the Pathshala at the Jain Center of Southern California since 1994.

**Maria Heim** is an assistant professor of Indic religions at California State University, Long Beach. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies at Harvard University in 1999. Her interests include comparative religion and ethics, with an historical focus on medieval South Asia. She is currently working on a book project about gift-giving ideologies in medieval Dharmashastra, Jain, and Theravada Buddhist texts.

**Phyllis Herman** is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge. She teaches courses on South Asian Religious Traditions and Women and Religion. Her research has centered on Hindu goddesses and especially on Sita, the heroine of the Ramayana. She has published, most recently in "*Manushi: A Journal about Women and Society*," on Sita Kitchen shrines and their significance in the understanding of women and religion in ancient, epic and modern India.

**Kamla Jain** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the College of Jesus and Mary, University of Delhi. Her main academic interest is Indian Ethics and Indian Philosophy. She teaches Indian Philosophy at both post-graduate and under-graduate levels. Her Ph.D thesis titled "Concept of Sila in Indian Philosophy" is a comparative study of Indian Ethics with special reference to Jainism, Buddhism and Patanjali Yoga system. Her books include *Concept of Pancasila in Indian Thought*, and *Aparigraha: The Humane Solution*—which throws light on the relevance of Aparigraha in modern context

**Padmanabh S. Jaini** is Professor of Buddhist Studies in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Previously he has taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is the author of many books and articles on Buddhism and Jainism, including *The Jaina Path of Purification*, and *Gender and Salvation: Jaina Debates on the Spiritual Liberation of Women*. Recently, his articles have been published in *Collected Papers on Jaina Studies* and *Collected Papers on Buddhist Studies* (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2000-2001).

**John M. Koller** is a Professor of Asian and Comparative Philosophy at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. His major books include *The Indian Way*, *A Source Book in Asian Philosophy*, and *Asian Philosophies*. His recent scholarly works on Jainism include the following: "Syadavada as the Epistemological Key to the Jain Metaphysics of the Middle Way," in *Philosophy East and West*, (July, 2000); "Anekantavada, Syadavada, and Ahimsa: Some Epistemological Considerations," in S. V. Ramiah, Ed., *Metaphysics and Epistemology in Indian Thought*, Sri Venkatisvara Press, Tirupati, 2002 [in press], and "Jaina Ecological Perspectives," in Chapple & Tucker, Eds., *Jainism and Ecology*, Harvard University Press, 2002 [in press].

**Satish Kumar** is the Director of a residential International Center for the Study of Ecological and Spiritual Values, Schumacher College in U.K., and Editor of *Resurgence*. He is the founder of a pioneering secondary school in Hartland, which integrates into its curriculum ecological and spiritual values. His autobiography, *Path Without Destination*, has been published in several editions in the U.S. and U.K. At the age of 9 he became a Jain monk, at the age of 18 he became a campaigner for land reform in support of Gandhi's vision of renewed India and peaceful world. Later, inspired by the example of Bertrand Russell, he undertook an 8,000 mile peace pilgrimage, walking from India to America without any money, through deserts, mountains, storms and snow. It was an adventure during which he was thrown into jail in France, faced a loaded gun in America—and delivered packets of 'peace tea' to the leaders of the four nuclear powers. In July 2000, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Plymouth.

**Biren Mehta** received his B.S. in Cybernetics UCLA, and M.S. in Biomedical Engineering and M.S. in Computer Science from USC. He is a medical software development consultant in his own company, Cybermed Consulting. For last 15 years he has been active in religious studies, and has been participating in Jain Study Group courses on a bi-weekly basis. He has also been a very active member of Young Jains of America.

**Joseph Prabhu** is Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Los Angeles, and occasionally a Visiting Professor of Religion at UC Berkeley. He is also the editor of *ReVision*, a quarterly journal of philosophy, psychology and spirituality. Among his books are *The Intercultural Challenge of Raimon Panikkar*, and the forthcoming *Gandhi, Globalization and a Culture of Peace*, and *Indian Ethics* (co-edited). His interests lie in bringing moral and spiritual perspectives to bear on social and political issues.

**Sonya Rhie Quintanilla** received her Ph.D. in South Asian Art History from Harvard University. Currently, she is a Lecturer in the Department of Art History at University of California, Irvine. She has published articles and lectured extensively on aspects of Jain art. Her publications include an article on "ayagapatas" in *Artibus Asiae* vol. LX, and an article entitled "Closer to Heaven than the Gods: Jain Monks in the Art of Pre-Kushan Mathura," in *Marg* (March 2001). She has just completed the manuscript for a book on the history of stone sculpture at Mathura from the second century B.C. to the first century A.D.

**Sudhamahi Regunathan** is the Vice-Chancellor of Jain Vishva Bharti University, Rajasthan, India. She has authored a book, *Siku: Faith and Conversion, Donyipolo Movement in Arunachal Pradesh*. She has also edited, *Song of the Spirit: the World of Sacred Music*. Among the works she has translated in English are *Thoughts at Sunrise*, and *Anekant: The Third Eye*.

**Amar Salgia** holds bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering and is currently a project authority at Boeing Satellite Systems. His research and writings on Jain philosophy and tradition encompass world history and religions and modern science. Part of his awareness involves how Jainism and its development have been represented and misrepresented in both Western and Indian writing and teaching media. Mr. Salgia was a founder of Young Jains of America. His long-term projects include Jain outreach to American society and the building of a new American Jain tradition accessible to all Americans. His recent publication *Pure Freedom: The Jain Way of Self Reliance* is a first exposure to Jain thinking designed for persons of Judeo-Christian and agnostic/atheistic backgrounds.

**Tara Sethia** is Professor of History at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She received her Ph.D. in History from UCLA. Her course offerings include History of India, South Asia, Gandhi, Women in Asia and World History. Her research and publications focus on the impact of colonialism on the economic development of Modern India. She is particularly interested in issues pertaining to education about India, and has served as the Principle Investigator and Project Director of a National Endowment for the Humanities funded multi-year program on India and China for school teachers. Recently, she has initiated a study on Teaching about Jainism in the College Curriculum.

**Sudhir M. Shah** received his MS and MPPM degrees from Yale University. He has been involved in Jain education for last six years. Currently he is serving as Pathshala coordinator. He is the Editor of *Anekantvad*, a quarterly newsletter, [www.anekant.org](http://www.anekant.org), and author of *Think of These Things*. He is currently serving on the Board of JAINA, Jain Center of Connecticut, and South Asian Study Council at Yale.

**Fujinaga Sin** is an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Miyakonojo National College of Technology in Japan. He was trained in Jaina studies at Hiroshima University in Japan and worked with Muni Jambuvijayaji and Prof. N. J. Shah in India. Recently, he published a book, *Omniscience in Jainism* (Heirakuji shoten, Kyoto, 2001).

**Kim Skoog** received his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in Comparative Philosophy. He is currently Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guam. He has presented papers and published articles in United States, Asia, and Europe. He served as guest editor for *Philosophy East and West* (vol. 40 no. 3)—a special issue on Jainism, and last spring presented a paper entitled, “Jainism on Love and Sexuality: A Comparative Study” at the International Seminar on Mahavira and Ahimsa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in Delhi, India. This paper will be published in a proceeding volume by the organization sponsoring this conference, Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology.

**Anne Vallely** is teaching courses in “Environmental Thought” and “Religious Ethics and Environment” at McGill University, and a course in “Jainism” at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. She received her Ph. D. in Anthropology from University of Toronto. The title of her thesis was, “Women and Ascetic Ideal in Jainism.” In 1999-2000 she had Rockefeller Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities. Her book, *Guardians of the Transcendent: An Ethnography of a Jain Ascetic Community*, is being published by the University of Toronto Press in Spring 2002.

**Kristi Wiley** is a visiting lecturer in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Her area of specialization is Indian Religions. Her research has focused on aspects of Jainism associated with karma theory. Her publications include “Gotra Karma: A Contrast in àvetâmbara and Digambara Views,” (*Approaches to Jaina Studies: Philosophy, Logic, Rituals, and Symbols*, ed. N. K. Wagle and Olle Qvarnstrom. South Asian Studies Papers, no. 22. University of Toronto, Centre for South Asian Studies, 1999.), “Leóyâs: By-products of Activity or Passions?” (*Philosophy East and West*, 9/2000), “The Nature of Nature: Jain Perspectives on the Natural World,” (forthcoming in *Jainism and Ecology*), and “Extra-sensory Perception and Knowledge in Jainism,” (forthcoming in *Aspects of Jainism*, published in association with an International Seminar on Jainism, Warsaw, September 8-9, 2000). She is currently writing the *Historical Dictionary of Jainism* for the Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies and Movements Series published by Scarecrow Press.