



BEYOND VIOLENCE: JAINISM, PLURALITY, AND WORLD RELIGIONS

**A Virtual International Conference
February 18-19, 2022**

ORGANIZERS:

Claremont School of Theology (CST)

Jain Studies Program, Steven J. Green
School of International and Public Affairs,
Florida International University (FIU)



FIU

Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs

SPONSORS:

International School for Jain Studies (ISJS)

JAINA Academic Liaison Committee,
Federation of Jain Associations in North
America (JAINA)



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Jainism, an ancient religious tradition rooted in India, embraces *Ahiṃsā* (non-harm) and *Anekāntavāda* (doctrine of many-sidedness) as the philosophy and way of life. Believing in the reverence for life in all living beings, the Jaina notion of *Ahiṃsā* and *Anekāntavāda* is promisingly relevant in modern times. The Jain ethics of not harming any life physically, verbally, or mentally and the theory of pluralism or manifoldness proposes creating a peaceful and harmonious existence for all. Thus, whereas Jainism expounds upon the significance of *Ahiṃsā* and *Anekāntavāda*, all the Religious Traditions worldwide cherish diverse worldviews and promising practices towards the concepts of nonviolence and plurality.

Claremont School of Theology and Jain Studies Program at Florida International University present the Virtual International Conference, “Beyond Violence: Jainism, Plurality, and World Religions.” This conference seeks to explore ways in which the concept of nonviolence and plurality in Jainism and World Religions constructively inform the fields such as peace, compassion, justice, equality, interfaith dialogue, and harmony with diverse perspectives and models. In our conference, we aim to open up a discussion about how theories, traditions, and praxis in Jainism and World Religions address the issues and challenges related to violence, injustice, and conflict.

The conference intends to examine the potential the concept of nonviolence and plurality present in the religious traditions possess to encourage a sense of “beyond violence.” This discussion will be situated within the more extensive, ongoing conversations exploring ways in which the fields of theories and praxis of nonviolence & plurality can relate to each other. In the spirit of promoting discussion of these matters, we invite papers from the fields of theology, philosophy, peace studies, women’s studies, historical studies, sociology, film and media studies, religious studies, environmentalism, political science, and any other fields or disciplines that touch upon (or re-conceptualize) these fields or their issues in such a way that might help us advance serious reflection within the conversation we propose.

THE CALL:

We invite graduate students, research scholars, professors, and independent scholars to submit individual paper.

SUBMISSION:

Applicant should submit a 250-words abstract that includes name and institutional affiliation to [Abstract Submission Form](#) by **January 1, 2022**. We will inform the application of their acceptance by mid-January. Please contact Dr. Venu Mehta (vmehta@cst.edu or jainconferencecstfiu@gmail.com) with any additional questions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr. Abhay Firodia

Chairman, Amar Prerana Trust, and International School of Jain Studies (ISJS), Pune, India

Dr. Jeffery D. Long

Carl W. Zeigler Professor of Religious Studies, Elizabethtown College, USA

Atmarpit Vidhiji

Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD), India



CHAIRPERSONS:

Dr. Philip Clayton (CST)

Dr. Iqbal Akhtar (FIU)

Dr. Venu Mehta (CST)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

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