



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Dharmanath Network in Jain Studies

An update on your support

September 2026

Foreword from Professor Helen Abbott

Dear friends and supporters of the Dharmanath Network in Jain Studies,

It is with great pleasure that I present this year's impact report for the Dharmanath Network in Jain Studies at the University of Birmingham.

This report offers an account of the Network's third year, which has seen several landmark developments across research, teaching and our community and outreach work. The team at Birmingham has organised five academic events on Jain Studies this year, and we have continued our cutting-edge teaching on Jainism, and developed new engaging teaching on non-violence.

At Birmingham we are dedicated to enhancing the visibility of Jainism and in engaging with the community: Dr Marie-Hélène Gorisse recorded a podcast in late 2025, and the team has given numerous academic lectures and published several papers and outcomes.

We welcomed our new Assistant Professor in the ethics of non-violence, Dr Christina Easton, who has already made her mark this year. We also welcomed Aarti Gulgulia, the inaugural recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies, to Birmingham - she is due to graduate in the coming academic year. You can hear more from both Dr Easton and Aarti in this report.

This year was also marked by a historic moment. In May, 2,000 precious manuscripts were restituted to the Jain community. Birmingham will be working with the community to ensure that this has the most impact for not just students and researchers, but also the general public and broader Jain community.

The impressive progress we have made is a testament to the generosity and support of our partners and donors. On behalf of the College of Arts and Law, I would like to thank you for your vision, commitment and belief in our mission. I am excited to see how the Network continues to evolve and expand in the years ahead, and I look forward to welcoming many of you to Birmingham at future events.

With warmest wishes,



Professor Helen Abbott

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Arts and Law



A word from Dr Mehool Sanghrajka



It is a pleasure to congratulate the Dharmanath Network in Jain Studies at the University of Birmingham on another outstanding year of growth and achievement. The continued expansion of teaching, research, publications and public engagement demonstrates that Jain Studies is firmly establishing itself as a vibrant and internationally recognised academic discipline.

The past year has been marked by significant milestones. The successful conferences held by the Dharmanath Network brought together leading scholars and emerging researchers, strengthening international collaboration and showcasing the breadth and vitality of contemporary Jain Studies. These events have reinforced Birmingham's position as a global centre for scholarship on Jain philosophy, history and culture.

A landmark achievement has been the agreement between the Wellcome Collection, the Institute of Jainology and the University of Birmingham, resulting in the transfer of more than 2,000 historic Jain manuscripts to the Institute of Jainology for deposit in the University's Cadbury Research Library. This unprecedented collaboration not only restores these sacred manuscripts to the Jain community but also secures their future as a world-class resource for teaching, research and public engagement. It represents a significant step forward for Jain Studies and a model of partnership founded on trust, scholarship and shared stewardship.



With these remarkable achievements and the continued dedication of colleagues, students and supporters, I am confident that the Dharmanath Network will continue to flourish, advancing the study and understanding of Jainism for generations to come. We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for another successful year.

Dr Mehool Sanghrajka MBE

Managing Trustee, Institute of Jainology

A word from Dr Kamini Jain



The Jain Ashram is delighted to have developed such a meaningful and mutually enriching relationship with the Dharmanath Jain Studies at the University of Birmingham. Over the past year, it has been particularly encouraging to see this collaboration bring together the academic and Jain communities through a number of initiatives.

We were honoured to welcome scholars attending the international conference 'History, Scripture and Debate: Studies in South Asia in Memory of Paul Dundas'. The conference at the University of Birmingham was opened by Samaniji Samani Pragya and Samaniji Jayant Pragya with the recitation of the Namokar Mantra, providing a genuine connection between the academic programme and the living Jain tradition. Members of the Jain community also had the opportunity to attend the conference, engage with scholars and gain a deeper appreciation of the rich academic work being undertaken in Jain Studies. We were also pleased to host around 70 Jain Studies scholars from across the world at the Ashram for an evening of learning, fellowship and exchange.



We have also been delighted to welcome University of Birmingham students to the Ashram, giving them an opportunity to encounter Jain philosophy, culture and practice within a living Jain community. These interactions demonstrate the value of creating spaces where academic scholarship and lived Jain traditions can come together, learn from one another and enrich each other.

Dr Kamini Jain

President of the Jain Ashram Birmingham

Welcome to Dr Christina Easton



It was a great privilege to join the University of Birmingham and the Dharmanath Network in September 2025. I am a philosopher who explores how the principles of non-violence and mutual respect can help address contemporary ethical and political challenges. My research spans three interconnected areas.

First, how can we foster peaceful coexistence in diverse societies? My book, *Teaching Values Whilst Respecting Difference*, published in August 2026, looks at how the state can promote values such as mutual respect and tolerance through its schools, and what approach it should take to teaching more controversial values that citizens disagree over. I also published *The Future of Education: Reimagining Its Aims and Responsibilities*, with Oxford University Press, a co-edited work looking at how educators should respond to contemporary challenges. This autumn I am convening a workshop at MANCEPT, one of the largest gatherings of political philosophers globally, on 'Tolerance and Education: Concepts, Justifications, and Limits'.

Second, I critique the increasing militarisation of public life, especially education. In September 2025, I appeared on international television station TRT World discussing military conscription in Germany. I wrote for the Big Issue to coincide with Remembrance Day on the ethical challenges posed by military recruitment.

Third, I am interested in how we can build more compassionate relationships with non-human animals. For example, I have written a paper on why schools should promote plant-based diets, and I am working with two organisations - Plant-Based Universities and Plant-Based Schools - to get these ideas to a wider audience (at least one student from the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion signed up to the summer school organised by Plant-Based Universities). I gave written evidence as part of the Government's Energy Security and Net Zero Committee's inquiry on International Climate Policy on 7 January 2026 (published online), and I responded to the Government's consultation on school meals in June 2026. I am an active member of the Multispecies Collective, a group of researchers working to create knowledge, theory and practice for positive change toward futures of flourishing for animals, nature and society. I have recently begun writing on the distinctive obligations of educational institutions in mediating children's relationships with non-human animals.

Across these projects, I seek to develop approaches to ethics and public policy that are informed by the spirit of ahimsa. Before entering academia, I taught Philosophy and Religious Education in secondary schools, and my work has always been motivated by a desire to show how philosophical ideas can make a practical difference in the world.

Dr Christina Easton

Assistant Professor in the Ethics of Non-Violence



Building a unique repository of materials on Jainism

This year was marked by a historic moment. On May 14 2026, at the House of Commons, the Wellcome Collection restituted 2,000 precious manuscripts to the Jain community represented by the Institute of Jainology. It is an honour that our Dharmanath Network, in collaboration with the Cadbury Research Library at the University of Birmingham, has been asked to shelter this precious heritage. The University will be working with the community to ensure that this return has maximum impact for students, researchers, Jains from all lineages and for the general public.

This restitution is one of a kind. It is not limited to being a remedy for the past but concerns also the future that can be built together. An Indologist commenting on the project spoke about a re-development of the Jain Bhandara tradition in the diaspora. The Jain Bhandara tradition is a unique tradition of preservation and use of precious manuscripts. Newer societal rules, such as insurance policies and new types of information dissemination channels, means keeping this tradition alive today necessitates the collaboration between a collection-preserving institution, an education and research centre and a religious community - which is exactly what this collaboration is formed of.

The signatory event was featured in several news articles including *The Telegraph*, *The Times of India*, *The Economic Times*, *Eastern Eye*, *Asian Voice*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Museum Association* and the *Council for Art and Law Initiatives*; and interviews on TV (NDTV, India Global programme on 21 May 2026) and on the radio (BBC Radio 4, Sunday programme on 24 May 2026).

Additionally, in spring 2026, the University of Birmingham became home to material from the Marcus Banks Collection. The University is sheltering material from this doctoral ethnographic study of the lay Jain community in Leicester and Jamnagar that has been organised by Chihab El Khachab, Associate Professor in Visual Anthropology, Oxford.

Finally, thanks to the dedication of Aarti Gulgulia and Preesha Sanghrajka, this year has seen the cataloguing of more than 1,500 of the approximate 2,500 books of the Paul Dundas Collection.

The collections looked after by the Dharmanath Network are in the good company of John Hick's books. John Hick was a pioneer of global religious pluralism, one of the most influential British philosophers of religion in the 20th century, and spent almost all of his career at the Theology and Religion Department at the University of Birmingham.

Marie-Hélène Gorisse, Mehool Sanghrajka and Mark Henderson at the House of Commons signatory event

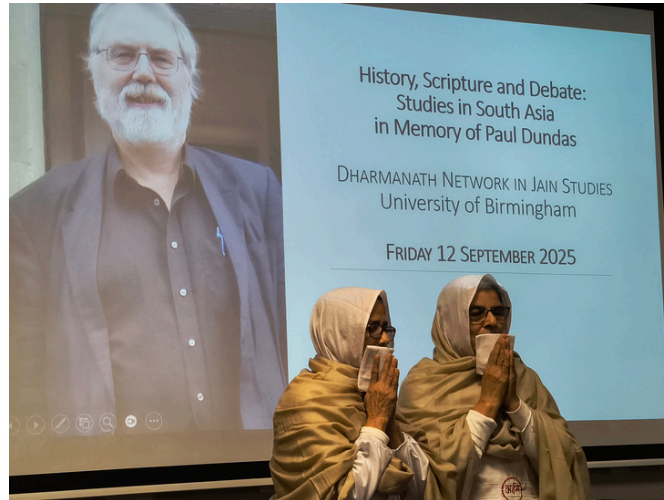


Research in Jain Studies at the University of Birmingham

History, Scripture and Debate: Studies in South Asia in Memory of Paul Dundas

The year started with the international conference 'History, Scripture and Debate: Studies in South Asia in Memory of Paul Dundas', hosted in Birmingham. This commemorative event celebrated a great scholar and friend whose scholarship will have a lasting influence on Jain Studies and beyond, and whose books were donated to the Dharmanath Network after his untimely passing in April 2023.

The conference gathered more than 70 participants coming from across the UK and Europe, the United States, India and Japan. The event opened with the recitation of the Namokar Mantra by Samani Sanmati Pragya and Samani Jayant Pragya, followed by presentations and discussions on vanguard research in Jain Studies as the participants engaged their latest work with the seminal contribution of Paul Dundas, and moving sessions to remember him.



Launching Jainpedia

Highlights of the conference also include an evening programme at the historical Jain Ashram Birmingham; and the launch of the new Jainpedia, an initiative of the Institute of Jainology that allows people from all horizons to access reliable data from major UK cultural institutions (such as the British Library, Bodleian Libraries, Victoria and Albert Museum and the Wellcome Collection) with a genuine breadth of data (more than 5,000 digitised manuscript folios). This community initiative is routinely used by many scholars in Jain Studies worldwide for its academic rigour and depth of content and the Dharmanath Network is proud to be collaborating with this project.

Non-one-sidedness

This extremely successful conference was followed by another successful symposium on (non-)one-sidedness organised by Dr Jinesh Sheth, with Anil Mundra (UC Santa Barbara), Aleksandra Restifo (Florida International University), Ana Bajželj (UC Riverside), Jayandra Soni (Innsbruck) and Achyutkant Jain (Jain University, Bangalore). This symposium was a platform for a renewed scholarship developing pioneering work in Jain philosophy that is sensitive to the complexity and detailed historical developments of the concepts at stake.

At the end of the symposium, six members of the international Jain Philosophy Research Group gathered for four days for a translation workshop on Akalaṅka's *Aṣṭaśatī* (*The Eight Hundred*), one of the most important and challenging texts on the Jain theory of non-one-sidedness (*anekāntavāda*).

Dr Sheth also organised 'A Day of Jain Philosophy' for postgraduate researchers in October, with Aarti Gulgulia, MA student and recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies, and Pragya Jain.

Dr Marie-Hélène Gorisse co-organised the 'Dialogues in European Jain Studies' lecture series with Ghent University and the Arihant Institute, which this year featured sessions on Jain contemplative practices and technologies of the body.

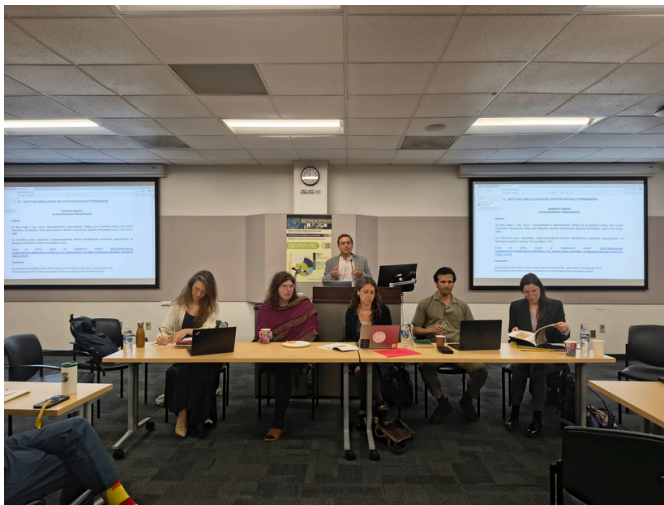


Left: Dr Jinesh Sheth talking at the symposium on (non-)one-sidedness, Right: Aarti Gulgulia, Dr Gorisse, Pragya Jain and Dr Sheth at the 'A Day of Jain Philosophy' for postgraduate researchers

Research in Jain Studies beyond the University of Birmingham

This year, the Jain Philosophy Research Group, of which Dr Marie-Hélène Gorisse and Dr Jinesh Sheth are part, developed further activities in the spirit of disclosing the vast and complex history of the Jain discourse on non-one-sidedness.

As well as the events organised at Birmingham, they presented their activities in the 'Translation Workshop: Akalaṅka's Aṣṭaśatī and Its Non-Jain Interlocutors' at California State University, Long Beach in April 2026. Part of the experience involved asking the audience to spend 30 minutes discussing in small groups the translation and new commentary provided by Dr Gorisse, Dr Sheth and other collaborators. They shared that it was wonderful to see the meaningful engagement of every participant with this terse philosophical style.



Translation workshop at California State University, April 2026

Drs Gorisse and Sheth also participated in a one-week workshop on 'Jain Philosophy Across Traditions: Mīmāṃsā' organised by Ana Bajželj and Anil Mundra at the University of Riverside in April and May 2026.

Dr Gorisse and Anil Mundra have been finalising the volume *Anekāntavāda: Sources and Varieties* which will appear as a Special Issue in the Journal of Indian Philosophy this autumn. They think that (i) providing accessible translations of Jain philosophical texts; (ii) complicating the common generalisations about Jain philosophy by exploring its complexity and historical development, and (iii) ensuring that Jain philosophy enters more mainstream philosophical discussions, is important for the academic discourse in Jain Studies and beyond, as well as for the Jain community, since it aims to preserve its rich philosophical heritage and transmit it to the next generation of Jains both in India and the diaspora. So far, very few Jain philosophical texts have been translated into English and Jain Studies is severely lagging behind Hindu and Buddhist Studies in this regard.

Outside Birmingham, Dr Sheth also organised a panel on Amṛtacandra, a lesser known yet significant Jain philosopher, at the Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA), University of Wisconsin-Madison, with Ana Bajželj, Sasha Restifo, Anubhav Jain and James Reich.

Dr Sheth was then invited to lead a two-day Sanskrit Reading Workshop on Jain Philosophy at Florida International University (FIU) where he read selected portions from two Jain texts, Samantabhadra's *Āptamīmāṃsā* and Amṛtacandra's *Puruṣārthasiddhyupāya*.

Dr Gorisse co-organised two panels in the Unit Global Critical Philosophy of Religion at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in November 2025. The first, in partnership with the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, was on the Category of Nature and Anthropocentrism of Philosophy of Religion.



AAR Global Philosophy Panel, 2025

The second was a roundtable on Mohammed Rustom's *Sourcebook in Global Philosophy* published at Equinox in 2025. The Sourcebook features near to 100 texts from all over the world, including two Jain texts, Prabhācandra's *Prameyakāmalamārtaṇḍa* by Dr Gorisse and Haribhadra's *Anekāntavādapraveśa* by Dr Mundra. The roundtable with Dr Gorisse, Dr Mundra, Mohammed Rustom, Alexis McLeod, Cyrus Zargar and Muhammad Faruque, as well as the lively discussions that followed, assessed challenges and opportunities towards the diversification of academic philosophy in a fully packed room.



As in the previous year, this year has been significant in terms of research, engagement and outreach. I have presented papers and delivered talks at more than a dozen academic events; I organised a symposium on (non-)one-sidedness at the University of Birmingham and a panel on Amṛtacandrasūri at the Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA); and I have been actively involved with the Jain community in the UK.

Among my publications, a highlight was the publication of a major research paper in the *Journal of Indian Philosophy* on the *nīścaya-vyavahāra naya*-s (the absolute and conventional perspectives) and their links with *anekāntavāda*. Published open access, this paper has already been accessed nearly 3,000 times and has been cited.

In the coming months, I plan to continue advancing my monograph, designed to offer an overview of *anekāntavāda*, by presenting for the first time a selection of foundational texts and addressing issues significant to both scholars and practitioners. I am immensely grateful to the donors, the Jain community, and my colleagues at Birmingham, especially Dr. Marie-Hélène Gorisse for their support.



Dr Jinesh Sheth

Postdoctoral researcher in Jain Studies

Thanks to an extremely generous donation of \$250,000 made by Jasvant and Meera Modi, we are able to extend the post-doctoral position of Dr Jinesh Sheth until the end of the current Global Philosophy of Religion project. This donation will also support our activities around the restitution of the precious Jain manuscripts, and we will also be able to cover 50% of a three-year PhD and of a two-year post-doctoral researcher if the project can be furthered beyond that.

Global Philosophy of Religion: Fundamental Spiritual Realities, Human Purpose and Living Well

Finally, the 'Global Philosophy of Religion: Fundamental Spiritual Realities, Human Purpose and Living Well' project has been thriving this year again. This project contributes to Jain Studies in indirect yet crucial ways, as it enhances the institutional visibility of scholars with expertise in typically less-represented religious traditions such as Jainism, notably by promoting inter-faith philosophical engagement, as well as strategies to foster this engagement in a sustainable way.

There, the Jain voice is constantly represented by Drs Sheth and Gorisse, and regularly by invited colleagues. This year, the team is holding reading groups on religious epistemic pluralism and on the meaning of life with publications to come.

As part of these activities, coaching stipends were awarded to Anchit Jain coached by John Cort, for his project on 'Renunciation and Residence: Jain Philosophical Deliberations on Monastic Dwelling in the Pathway to Liberation'; and to Achyut Kant Jain coached by Peter Flügel for his work on causality, determinism and moral agency that positions Jain philosophy as a vital interlocutor in contemporary debates on metaphysics, ethics and epistemology.

The team is also thrilled to have launched the call for papers for their next big conference on 'Spiritual Realities and the Ends of Humanity: Engaging Indian Philosophy with Contemporary Philosophy of Religion' at IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India on 11-13 January 2027.



Members of the Global Philosophy of Religion project group

The teaching offer in Jain and non-violence studies

The teaching provision in Jain Studies continues to flourish:

- In first-year level studies Jainism was notably used as a case study for weekly reflections in the module 'Introduction to the Study of Religion'
- In the third-year level studies there is a more specialised module on Buddhism and Jainism in dialogue
- At the Master's level there is a module comparing selected South Asian approaches to philosophy of religion

This year, a group of students visited the Jain Ashram Birmingham in March 2026. There, members of the community welcomed and shared their insight with the students in lively discussions.



A student visit to the Jain Ashram Birmingham



Dr Christina Easton's contribution to education

Dr Christina Easton has introduced students to the Jain doctrine of *anekāntavāda* via an analysis of the Blind Men and the Elephant parable in the first-year module Problems of Philosophy.

In March 2026, she gave a talk at Havant College to 16- and 17-year-olds, in one of England's more deprived areas, where she talked about the ethics of military recruitment and studying philosophy at the University of Birmingham.

Dr Easton is now working on preparing materials for a second-year module Matters of Life and Death, which will look at harm avoidance and non-violence as they relate to topics such as war and pacificism, abortion and global poverty. She is also working on preparing a new module Engaged Philosophy, looking at how philosophical principles can make a difference to social issues and the extent to which activism is appropriate for philosophers. She will notably focus on the ethics of veganism, climate activism and military conscription.

The Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies

Aarti Gulgulia is the first recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies, and Dr Gorisse has been working with her for her MA dissertation on non-one-sidedness in Malliṣeṇa's *Syādvādamāñjarī* (2025/26).

We are thrilled to announce that the second recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies is Sohum Shah, who will focus on Jain Contemplative Practices and the Philosophy of Living Well in Hemacandra's *Yogaśāstra* (part-time from 2027-29).



I feel deeply honoured to have been the first recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies. Your generosity has given me the freedom, confidence and academic environment to pursue my research. I have been able to devote myself fully to the study of Malliṣeṇa's *Syādvādamāñjarī*, an important yet comparatively understudied work in Śvetāmbara philosophy. My research shows how Malliṣeṇa develops the doctrine of *syādvāda* in close association with the doctrines of *pramāṇa* and *naya*, and how these sophisticated epistemological tools make it possible to better address the limitations of human knowledge.

This project also demonstrates that Malliṣeṇa occupies a significant place in the development of Jain epistemology. While much modern scholarship has focused on earlier philosophers such as Ākalanika and Hemacandra, my research highlights Malliṣeṇa's original contribution within the intellectual debates of the thirteenth century, showing how Jain philosophy continued to develop through engagement with Buddhist, Nyāya and Mīmāṃsā traditions.

Thanks to your support, this research has reached audiences well beyond the University of Birmingham. I have presented my work at the 42nd Annual Sanskrit Traditions Symposium at the University of Oxford, at 'A Day of Jain Studies' workshop at the University of Birmingham, the Jain Studies Talk series at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, and the Research Festival and the Masters Dissertation Conference of the College of Arts and Law of the University of Birmingham. Each presentation provided me valuable scholarly feedback while enhancing the visibility of Jain philosophy within academic conversations.

Alongside my research, I contributed to the cataloguing of the Paul Dundas Collection, helping to preserve an important scholarly resource for future generations, and I have served as Student Representative for the School of Theology and Religion at the University of Birmingham, supporting the academic community of which I am part.

I hope that the work made possible through the Dharmanath scholarship will continue to strengthen the field of Jain Studies and inspire future research. Thank you for believing in this vision and for making this journey possible. I am sincerely grateful for your generosity and honoured to be the first Dharmanath Scholar.

Aarti Gulgulia

Recipient of the Dharmanath Scholarship in Jain Studies



Outreach and community engagement

It was an honour for members of the Dharmanath Network to be part of the Jain delegation at the last conference of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue on 'Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains and Sikhs in Europe: Building Fraternity through Dialogue and Collaboration', in Rome in June 2026. Co-organised by the Institute of Jainology, this event gathered academics and faith leaders representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities from across Europe at the Angelicum at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas to address the future of interfaith solidarity and decide on concrete strategies to implement it. On our last day, we were blessed with the presence of Pope Leo XIV.



Top: interfaith event at the Vatican with Pope Leo, bottom: Golden Jubilee of Jain Ashram Birmingham

Engaging the community

Community engagement was at the core of the team's activities this year. Dr Sheth was engaged with the community at the Jain Ashram Birmingham throughout the year: he gave lectures during Paryushan at the Coventry Jain Temple in September 2025 and weekly online lectures on *Āptamīmāṃsā* at the Shree Chandana Vidyapeeth South London from November 2025 to June 2026.

This year marked the Golden Jubilee of the Jain Ashram Birmingham and Dr Gorisse, Dr Sheth and Aarti Gulgulia were honoured to contribute to the commemorative booklet that celebrated this achievement.

Representatives of the Dharmanath Network participated in the bi-yearly event that the Institute of Jainology organises with the Jain All-Party Parliamentary Group at the House of Commons, London, for Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak and Ahimsā Day. These events strengthen the representation of the Jain community in the country's most impactful institutions.

Dr Gorisse also recorded two episodes on Jain Philosophy for [The Panpsycast Philosophy Podcast](#) in November 2025, a highly successful philosophy podcast of over 65,000 listeners that aims to make philosophy from leading scholars accessible to students, teachers and the general public.

Selected publications

Easton, C. '[The military is the only job where people are asked to kill. Here's how to make the system fairer](#)'. *The Big Issue*, 9 November 2025 (also in print issue).

Easton, C. *Teaching Values Whilst Respecting Difference*. London: Bloomsbury, 2026.

Easton, C. 'From Lunch to Lessons: The Case for Promoting Plant-Based Diets in Schools'. *Ergo*, to appear.

Easton, C. "'But you're her mother": The moral exploitation of women in family decision-making'. *Free and Equal*, to appear.

Gorisse, M-H. 'The Sun that Makes the Lotus of the Object of Knowledge Blossom'. *A Sourcebook in Global Philosophy*. M. Rustom (ed.), Global Philosophy Series, Sheffield: Equinox, 2026.

Gorisse, M-H. *Anekāntavāda: Sources and Varieties* (co-ed. A. Mundra). Special issue of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Springer, to appear.

Gorisse, M-H, '[Is Rāvaṇa The Universal Emperor? Prabhācandra's Semantic Perspective](#)'. *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, August 2026.

Gorisse, M-H, *The Handbook of Intuitions. Perspectives from Global Philosophy* (co-eds. A. Ahmed, A. Arana, D. Bordonaba, G. Heinsmann, L. Indraccolo and J. Kaukua). In *Logic, Epistemology and the Unity of Science*, Springer, to appear.

Gorisse, M-H, 'On how to distinguish curd and camels: Santarakṣita against non-one-sidedness'. *Learning from Buddhist Logic*, K. Tanaka (ed.), Synthese Library, to appear.

Sheth, J, '[Niścaya-Vyavahāra Nayas and Anekāntavāda: A Reinvestigation with Special Reference to Kundakunda and Amṛtacandrasūri](#)'. *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, November 2025.

Sheth, J, 'On the Method of Anekāntavāda and Therapeutic Philosophy'. *Therapeutic Philosophy: Global Perspectives on Self-Transformation*, K-S. Bouthillette and K. Kops (eds.), Springer Nature, to appear.

Selected presentations

Christina Easton

'Teaching Values Whilst Respecting Difference', Symposium on Teacher Impartiality: On the Theory and Practice of an Elusive Ideal, European Seminars in Philosophy of Education, American University of Paris (Paris, 4–5 June 26)

"'But you're her mother": The moral exploitation of women in family decision-making', Royal Institute of Philosophy Public Lecture (Keele, 17 March 26)

'From Lunch to Lessons: The Case for Promoting Plant-Based Diets in Schools', Institute of Education, University College London (London, 4 March 26)

'Human Flourishing and the Future of Education', The Human Flourishing Program at Harvard (online, 16 Dec 25)

Marie-Hélène Gorisse

'Knowledge, Liberation...and the Word', Conference 'History, Scripture and Debate: Studies in South Asia in Memory of Paul Dundas' (Birmingham, 12–15 Sept 25)

Participant in the Roundtable on *A Sourcebook in Global Philosophy*, AAR (Boston, 22–25 Nov 25)

'Philosophy or Religion? Jain Conceptions of Unfettered Knowledge', GPR conference on Philosophy, Spirituality and the Meaning of Life, De La Salle University (Manila, 1–3 Dec. 25).

'Knowledge, Liberation...and the Word', Jain Studies Talks, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies (Oxford, 21 Jan 26)

'Knowledge and Re-education of the Soul in Jainism', Joseph Butler Society (Oxford, 17 Feb 26)

'Knowledge and liberating self-transformation in Jainism' in 'Epistemological Ethics in Indian & Greco-Roman Philosophy', British Society for Historical Philosophy (London, 23–25 Apr 26)

"Did you not pour me out like milk and curdled me like cheese?" Śāntarakṣita against Jain and Mīmāṃsaka Non-One-Sidedness', Jain and Mīmāṃsā Workshop (Riverside, 29 Apr–1 May 26)

'Is Rāvaṇa The Universal Emperor? Prabhācandra's Semantic Perspective', Open End, (Birmingham, 12 June 26)

Jinesh Sheth

'Perspectives, Truth, and One-sidedness: Revisiting the Naya Method', Symposium '(Non)One-Sidedness' (Birmingham, 15 Sept 25)

'Meaning of Life: A Jain Perspective', GPR conference on Philosophy, Spirituality and the Meaning of Life, De La Salle University (Manila, 1–3 Dec 25)

'On the Method of Anekāntavāda', 100th Session of Indian Philosophical Congress, IIT (Mumbai, 9–12 Dec 25)

'Holistic Thinking and Holistic Well-being: Some Reflections on Jaina List-Making Practices', Sumandeep Vidyapeeth Deemed University (Vadodara, 31 Jan–1 Feb 26)

'On the Method of Anekāntavāda and its Therapeutic Paradigm', British Society for the History of Philosophy, King's College (London, 23–25 Apr 26)

'On the Method of Anekāntavāda and its Therapeutic Paradigm', American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting (online, 9–12 Apr 26)

'Anekāntavāda: Philosophy, Exegesis and Praxis'. Invited inaugural talk of the conference 'Revisiting Anekāntavāda: Debates, Methods, and the Art of Synthesis', California State University, at the Jain Centre of Southern California (Buena Park, 26–28 Apr 26).

Translation Workshop 'Akalaṅka's Aṣṭaśatī and its Non-Jain Interlocutors' (Long Beach, 26–28 Apr 26)

'Revisiting Omniscience in Samantabhadra's Āptamīmāṃsā: Proofs for its Existence and Debates', University of California (Riverside, 29 Apr–1 May 26)

Aarti Gulgulia

'The Doctrine of Syādvāda in the *Syādvāda Mañjarī*', A Day of Jain Studies Workshop (Birmingham, 13 Nov 26)

'Epistemic Limitation and the Critique of Absolutism in Malliṣeṇa's Interpretation of Verse 21 of the *Anyayogavyavaccheda*', Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (Oxford, 25 Feb 26) and 42nd Annual Sanskrit Traditions Symposium, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (Trinity College, Oxford, 22 May 26)

Thank you



Working with colleagues on this year's report provided me with a new appraisal of the meaningfulness and steadiness of the developments of the Dharmanath Network. I feel extremely grateful, as these developments are only possible thanks to continued support and collaboration between stakeholders from many different horizons.

First, the Dharmanath Network is part of a rich and thriving research community that develops both interdisciplinary discussions on Jain Studies and global discussions that enhance the awareness of Jain values in ways that are more impactful by the year. We were thrilled that our inaugural Dharmanath conference gathered in this spirit so many fantastic colleagues from across the globe.

A lot of the Dharmanath Network's research activity is anchored in my life project of fleshing out a scholarship in Jain philosophy that is both sensitive to the complexity and detailed historical developments of the concepts at stake, and impactful for contemporary discussions. This project is taking new dimensions as many skilled scholars are now working towards this aim and training young scholars to continue developing and publishing pioneering work in this line. This year, I contributed by focusing on *anekāntavāda*. I have also been keen on exploring the interface between epistemology, metaphysics and more embodied topics like meditation.

The constant collaboration of members of the Dharmanath Network with colleagues and friends from the UK Jain community has been extremely fruitful and personally rewarding. For example, the impact of the restitution of the manuscripts we achieved together is immense. It gives Jains in the UK a renewed sense of the importance of their rich heritage. It contributes to the recognition of Jain heritage, values and practices in wider British society. It also redefines how religious, academic, cultural and governmental institutions can work together to better preserve and transmit sacred heritage, thereby creating a model for others.

Finally, as our collection in Jain materials has grown in an exceptional way, the University of Birmingham has become a strong and dynamic centre to study and research Jainism. The students engage enthusiastically with the teaching that we offer at undergraduate level, and postgraduate life is thriving, with regular research events organised throughout the year.

I would like to thank each of you for your contribution and for your trust in me and my colleagues for leading the projects of the Dharmanath Network to the best of our abilities.

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