



California State University, Fresno
presents

Peace and Dharma

Ethics, Nonviolence, and Justice in the Religious Traditions of India
International Conference

Annual Uberoi Meeting (AUM)

In collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, M. K. Gandhi
Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya, and the Jain and Hindu Dharma
Initiative at Fresno State.

Thursday and Friday, October 2–4, 2025

California State University, Fresno

October 2

5:00 p.m. Fresno State Peace Garden event

5:45 p.m. Keynote by Dr. Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Parkman Professor of
Divinity, Harvard University (Peters Business Bldg.-UBC room 191)

October 3

9:00 a.m.- 6:15 p.m. Academic presentations and music program

The conference is free and open to the public.

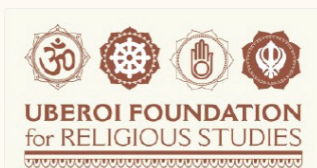
Registration recommended:

<https://bit.ly/PeaceandDharma>

Parking code: 269705

For any questions please contact:

Dr. Veena Howard at vehoward@csufresno.edu



Broadly translated as ethics, law, religion, nature, virtue, or duty, 'dharma' is a multivalent Indic concept. It uniquely encompasses philosophical principles, ideas, and ethical practices that are shared across diverse worldviews in schools of Indian thought. Dharma traditions provide rich resources to enhance theory and practice of peace, nonviolence, and sarvodaya.





Thursday, October 2, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Satellite Student Union

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Keynote

By Bawa Jain

A special presentation in collaboration with M.K. Gandhi:
Inner Peace and Sarvodaya, California State University, Fresno



“Nonviolence as a Weapon of the Strong”

Rooted in the timeless legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this keynote explores nonviolence as a bold and transformative force in confronting the world's deepest challenges. The session will call for a new generation of responsible leaders who lead with compassion, serve with humility, bridge divides, and act with the conviction that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of dignity, truth, and shared humanity.

Bawa Jain is a trailblazer in global leadership and religious diplomacy. He advanced interfaith dialogue on the world stage. He later founded the World Council of Religious Leaders, focused on mobilizing religious resources to address global challenges. Currently, he leads the Centre for Responsible Leadership, uniting global thought leaders to confront today's most pressing issues beyond political or ideological divides.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bawa_Jain

Note: This event is open to OSHER registrants and AUM Conference participants ONLY.



Thursday, October 2, 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Fresno State Peace Garden

In Commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday

Performance by Suri Sisters

Song by Varun Raj, MBA students at Fresno State

Garlanding Ceremony led by
Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor &
President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval

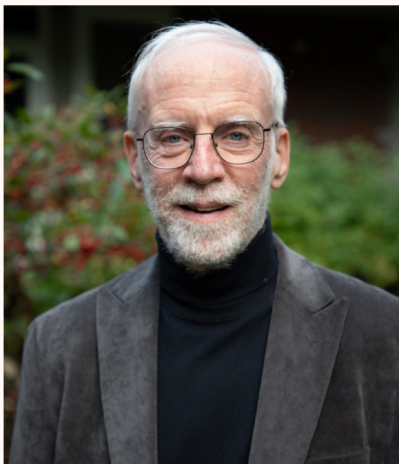


Thursday, October 2, 5:45 p.m.
Peters Business Bldg.-UBC room 191

Welcome: Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval,
President, California State University, Fresno

Keynote by Professor Francis X. Clooney, S.J.

"Dharma as Radical Tradition: From Ancient Sages to Gandhi"



This lecture proposes that justice, if it is to be truly radical and able to make a difference, has to be grounded in old values and old ways of seeing the world — that is, in an ancient wisdom that challenges us today. Dharma (encompassing values and questions regarding religion, ritual, ethics, law, and virtue) is a primary example of this dynamic.

Francis X. Clooney, S.J., joined the Harvard Divinity School faculty in 2005, where he is the Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology. His memoir, *Hindu and Catholic, Priest and Scholar: A Love Story*, was published by T&T Clark/Bloomsbury in 2024. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2025. <https://www.hds.harvard.edu/people/francis-x-clooney>



Friday, October 3, 9:00- 10:45 a.m
Peters Business Bldg.-UBC room 191

Welcome: Dr. Honora Chapman, Dean of
College of Arts and Humanities

9:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Panel 1: Dharma in Action

Chair: Dr. Jeffery D. Long

Dr. Venu Mehta	Claremont School of Theology	"Theology Without Mercy: Jain Forgiveness, Foucault, and the Ethics of Human Agency"
Dr. Shivani Bothra	CSU Long Beach	"Dharma in Motion: Everyday Ahimsa and Maternal Agency in Urban Jain Households"
Dr. Mahua Bhattacharya	Elizabethtown College	"Gandhi's Satyagraha and its Intimate Connections with Yoga"
Dr. Sumita Sarma	CSU Bakersfield	"Gandhian Ethics in Business Education and Practice"

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Panel 2: Expert Discussion

Chairs: Dr. Andrew Fiala and Dr. Veena Howard

Welcome remarks by Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs (California State University, Fresno)

**"Peace, Nonviolence, Interfaith Dialogue, and Constructive Imagination
in Dharma Traditions"**

Dr. Christopher Chapple (Loyola Marymount University)

Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh (Colby College)

Dr. Rita Sherma (Graduate Theological Union)

Dr. Michael Eze (California State University, Fresno)

Dr. Francis X. Clooney, S.J. (Harvard Divinity School)

H.E Bawa Jain (The Centre for Responsible Leadership)



2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Peters Business Bldg.-UBC 191

Panel 3: Dharmic Resources for a Plural World

Chair: Dr. Christopher Chapple

Dr. Samiksha Goyal	Simon Fraser University	"Using Non-Attachment to Bridge the Householder-Ascetic Divide in Jain Philosophy"
Dr. Saam Noonsuk	California State University, Fresno	"Religious Diversity and Peace in a Buddhist World Heritage Site in Peninsular Thailand"
Dr. Zoë Slatoff	Loyola Marymount University, LA	"Dharmic Cultivation: Bhāvanā Across Indic Traditions"
Dr. Raja Rosenhagen	California State University, Fresno	"Intellectual Ahimsā and the Ethics of Non-One-Sidedness: Anekāntavāda, Nayavāda, and Epistemic Justice"

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Panel 4: Dharma in the Modern World

Chair: Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh

Dr. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa-Baker	Loyola Marymount University, LA	"Courageous Compassion in the Path of the Sage Warrior"
Dr. Cogen Bohanec	Arihanta Institute	"Dialogues of Conscience: Śrīmad Rājendra, Mahātmā Gandhi, and the Ethics of Interreligious Peacebuilding"
Dr. Swasti Bhattacharyya	Fulbright Nehru Senior Scholar Alumna	"Charaiveti, Charaiveti: Walk on, Walk on for Peace"

Walk to Wahlberg Recital Hall for the music concert



Friday, October 3, 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Wahlberg Recital Hall, Music Bldg. Music

Concert: Poetry and Music for Peace



Singing Singing & Dancing with the Dharma we shall find
peace in the happiness of right thoughts in the movement
everyday of right action & the friendship of right speech
Dharma Dharma golden rains golden sunlight & sunset
earth bright and earth dreaming flowers for you & me and
all & round and round we go with dharma dharma holding
hands in a circle circle circle nothing stops everything
sings everyone dharma now this minute now this second
now timeless now dharma dharma dharma dharma we go
we go we go & GIVE TO All & bow to all Life Dharma now
—

~ Juan Felipe Herrera | August 26, 2025

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Felipe_Herrera

Professor Benjamin Boone (Fresno State) and Professor Juan Felipe Herrera (US Poet Laureate)
with their group: Craig VonBerg (piano) and John Martin (percussion)



Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

RSU 206

Grantee Reports and Uberoi Foundation Board Meeting

This event is not open to the public

Conference Planning Committee:

Dr. Veena Howard, Professor, Department of Philosophy

Dr. Jeffery Long, Elizabeth Town College

Dr. Raja Rosenhagen, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and
Coordinator Peace and Nonviolence Studies

Sponsored by:

College of Arts and Humanities

Department of Philosophy

Peace and Conflict Studies

Interfaith Scholar Weekend

Asian American Studies

School of Music

Media, Communication and Journalism

Peters Business Center

Asian Faculty and Staff Association

Cross Cultural and Gender Center (CCGC)

Fresno State Alumni Association

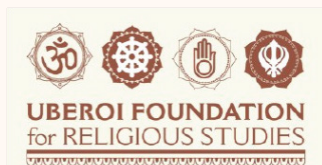
Our Generous Supporters:

by the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies,

M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya,

Jain and Hindu Dharma Endowed Chair Initiative

and JP and Renu Sethi Foundation



For any questions, please contact: Dr. Veena
Howard at vehoward@csufresno.edu Dr. Raja
Rosenhagen at rosenhagen@csufresno.edu



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Sunday, October 5, 2025, 7:20 - 8:30 a.m.

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center (1572 E. Barstow Ave)

Community Event
Special Mass by Fr. Francis Clooney, S.J.

Fr. Francis X. Clooney, S.J. will celebrate the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Paul Catholic Newman Center.

The Mass readings (Proverbs 8:22-31, Galatians 2:19-21 and Matthew 6:25-34) will be based on St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast we celebrate on October 4. The homily/sermon, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all things will be given to you," presents a wonderful message to conclude our Interfaith experience.

Fr. Francis X. Clooney, S.J. has been the Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. for 21 years.

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is on the East Barstow frontage road between Millbrook and Cedar Avenues, across from Valley Children's Stadium. There is ample parking on the east and west sides of the Newman Center building. Mass starts, punctually at 7:30 a.m.

Organized by Jim Grant (jimgrantbc@gmail.com)
