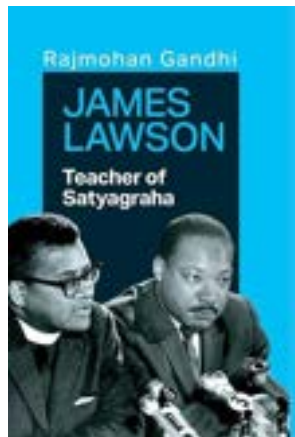




M.K. Gandhi Center:
Inner Peace and Sarvodaya

M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya

**Invites you to participate in an interactive conversation on the book,
James Lawson: Teacher of Satyagraha, by Professor Rajmohan Gandhi**



September 22 (Tuesday), 2026

Time: 9:30 am-10:45 am

Location: Zoom webinar—Please register to receive a link

https://fresnostate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_urzXATdyRA2q6wKWjbE1MQ

A compelling and comprehensive first biography of the Reverend James M. Lawson Jr. by Rajmohan Gandhi—Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, as well as a distinguished historian and thinker. The book offers a vivid portrait of Lawson, who developed creative strategies of nonviolent resistance and dedicated his life to confronting racism, sexism, and economic injustice while advancing human dignity. Alongside its account of Lawson's life and legacy, the book presents the urgent lessons his work holds for our world today.

Presenters:

- **Professor Rajmohan Gandhi** (biographer, historian, and activist)
- **Fr. John Dear** (Catholic priest, peace activist, and author)
- **Professor Dennis Dickerson** (Professor Emeritus of History, Vanderbilt University)
- **Dr. Michael Eze** (Associate Professor of Africana Studies, California State University, Fresno)

Moderator:

Dr. Veena R. Howard (Professor of Asian Religious Traditions, California State University, Fresno)

Presenters' Bios:



Professor Rajmohan Gandhi: Rajmohan Gandhi is an Indian historian, biographer, and peace activist. He is a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. He serves as a research professor at the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) and works for reconciliation and democratic rights. His notable publications include *The Rajaji Story: A Warrior from the South* (two vols. 1978 & 1984), *Eight Lives: A Study of the Hindu-Muslim Encounter* (1986), *Understanding the Muslim Mind* (1987), and *Mohandas: A True Story of a Man, His People and an Empire* (2006).



Fr. John Dear: John Dear is an internationally known voice for peace and nonviolence, a longtime friend of Rev. Jim Lawson, a priest, activist and author of 40 books on peace and nonviolence, including most recently *The Gospel of Peace*, *Universal Love*, and *The Nonviolent Life*. He served as director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, where Jim Lawson was his boss. He is director of www.beatitudescenter.org and hosts the free weekly global podcast, "The Nonviolent Jesus Podcast." He has been nominated many times for the Nobel Peace Prize, including by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. See: www.johndear.org



Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.: Dr. Dickerson is the Reverend James M. Lawson Chair in History Emeritus at Vanderbilt University. Recently, he published *THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: A HISTORY* (New York and Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2020) and is writing 'A Brother in the Spirit of Gandhi': William Stuart Nelson and the Nonviolent Movement in America and Abroad.



Michael Onyebuchi Eze, Ph.D.: Dr. Eze is an Associate Professor and chair of Africana Studies at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Eze's scholarly and pedagogical endeavors span three continents and a dozen countries, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Poland, Belgium, Germany, Mali, among others. His intellectual contributions are profoundly rooted in Africana philosophy, African politics, African political theory and the history of ideas. As an authority on the philosophy of Ubuntu, Dr. Eze employs this concept to examine humanism, social justice, intercultural communication, and human reconciliation



Veena Howard, Ph.D.: Dr. Howard is Professor of Asian Religious Traditions in the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Fresno. She is a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship (2024-2025). She also holds the Endowed Chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma and serves as the director of the M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya. Her areas of focus include South Asian traditions, Gandhi's philosophy, nonviolent movements in the United States, and animal ethics. She has authored and edited numerous books and articles. She is also a TedX speaker:

https://www.ted.com/talks/veena_howard_truth_force_love_force

The event is supported by the Department of Philosophy, Peace and Conflict Studies, the Office of Ideas, Asian American Studies, Fresno State Alumni Association, Asian Faculty and Staff Association, and Africana Studies.

For any questions: Please contact: Dr. Veena Howard, vehoward@csufresno.edu

