

California State University, Fresno

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.

October 2-4, 2025

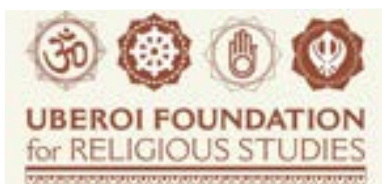


Contact: Dr. Veena R. Howard

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Director, M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya
Endowed Chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma
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cah.fresnostate.edu/philosophy/centers/gandhicenter

Events are free and open to the public



FRESNO STATE

M.K. Gandhi Center:
Inner Peace and Sarvodaya



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 the M.K. Gandhi Center:
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.

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 156th Birthday

Performance by Suri Sisters

Song by Varun Raj

MBA student 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

Jain and Hindu Prayer by Diya Shah

7th grade student, Granite Ridge Intermediate, Fresno

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

Reflection on Dharma by Andres Tuteleers
Philosophy student, Fresno State

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.



October 3

Peters Business Bldg.-UBC room 191

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

9:00 - 10:45am

Panel 1: Dharma in Action

Chair: Dr. Jeffery D. Long

Theology Without Mercy: Jain Forgiveness, Foucault, and the Ethics of Human Agency

Dr. Venu Mehta, Claremont School of Theology

Dharma in Motion: Everyday Ahimsa and Maternal Agency in Urban Jain Households

Dr. Shivani Biothra, CSU Long Beach

Gandhi's Satyagraha and its Intimate Connections with Yoga

Dr. Mahua Bhattacharya, Elizabethtown College

Gandhian Ethics in Business Education and Practice

Dr. Sumita Sarma, CSU Bakersfield

11:00am - 12:30pm

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. Michael Eze, California State University, Fresno

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

H.E Bawa Jain, The Centre for Responsible Leadership



October 3

Peters Business Bldg.-UBC room 191

2:00 - 3:30pm

Panel 3: Dharmic Resources for a Plural World

Chair: Dr. Christopher Chapple

Using Non-Attachment to Bridge the Householder-Ascetic Divide in Jain Philosophy

Dr. Samiksha Goyal, Simon Fraser University

Religious Diversity and Peace in a Buddhist World Heritage Site in Peninsular Thailand

Dr. Saam Noonsuk, California State University, Fresno

Dharmic Cultivation: Bhāvanā Across Indic Traditions

Dr. Zoë Slatoff, Loyola Marymount University

Intellectual Ahimsā and the Ethics of Non-One-Sidedness: Anekāntavāda, Nayavāda, and Epistemic Justice

Dr. Raja Rosenhagen, California State University, Fresno

3:45 - 5:00pm

Panel 4: Dharma in the Modern World

Chair: Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh

Courageous Compassion in the Path of the Sage Warrior

Dr. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa-Baker, Loyola Marymount University

Dialogues of Conscience: Śrīmad Rājendra, Mahātmā Gandhi, and the Ethics of Interreligious Peacebuilding

Dr. Cogen Bohanec, Arihanta Institute

Charaiveti, Charaiveti: Walk on, Walk on for Peace

Dr. Swasti Bhattacharyya, Fulbright Nehru Senior Scholar Alumna

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

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



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

For any questions, please contact: Jim Grant (jimgrantbc@gmail.com)



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

Resnick Student Union room 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 D. Long, Professor, Elizabethtown College

Dr. Raja Rosenhagen, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

Our Generous Supporters

The Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies

M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya

Jain and Hindu Dharma Endowed Chair Initiative

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Peace and Conflict Studies

Interfaith Scholar Weekend

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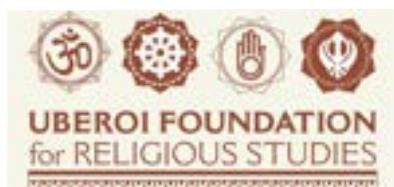
Asian Faculty and Staff Association

Cross Cultural and Gender Center (CCGC)

Fresno State Alumni Association

Fresno State is a tobacco-free, smoke-free, and vapor-free campus. Your support in ensuring a healthier environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors is appreciated.

For ADA accommodations please contact Dr. Veena Howard @ vehoward@csufresno.edu / 559 278-2622.



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