

Shivani Bothra  
Curriculum Vitae

**CURRENT POSITION (2020–)**

Bhagwaan Mahavir/Chao Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Jain Studies  
Chao Center for Asian Studies  
Rice University, Houston, TX (USA)  
shivanibothra@rice.edu  
shivanibothra@gmail.com

**PREVIOUS POSITION (2019–2020)**

Bhagavan Vimalnath Lectureship  
Lecturer, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara CA (USA)  
Courses: Introduction to Jainism, Introduction to South Asian Traditions, Indic Civilization, Nonviolence, and Hindi

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

Ph.D. in Religious Studies (2018) Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
Victoria Doctoral Scholarship  
Dissertation: Keeping the Tradition Alive: An Analysis of Contemporary Jain Religious Education for Children in India and North America  
<http://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/handle/10063/7986>

MA in Religious Studies (2013) Florida International University, Miami, USA  
Bhagvan Mahavir Fellowship  
Thesis: The Anuvrat Movement: Theory and Practice  
<https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/etd/825/>

Teaching Assistant 2011–2013 Florida International University, Miami, USA  
Research Grant: Fu Foundation Fellowship  
Award: Best Service to the Department 2013  
Induction into the Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for a high GPA 2013

MA in Science of Living, Yoga & Meditation (2005) Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (Deemed University), Ladnun, (India)  
About Master's degree course: This is an innovative two-year postgraduate course in behavior and therapeutic psychology and value education through the synthesis of spirituality and science.  
Achievement: Topped the University and honored with gold medal  
Project: Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center, USA March–April, 2005  
Research project was conducted in collaboration with Mental Health Copper Team, Dallas, to determine if Meditation and Yoga would be perceived as helpful in managing anger.

**Bachelor of Arts (1994)**

Loreto College, Kolkata, West Bengal, India  
Subjects: English, History, and Education

**Certificates and Training Courses**

Certificate in South Asian Religions (2013) Florida International University, Miami, USA  
Certificate in Yoga and Ecology (2007) Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, USA  
Degree Course in Training in Nonviolence (2003) Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun, India

## PAST TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017 **Tutor** – RELI 338, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
Course: Buddhism: the Noble Path
- 2016 **Guest Lecture** at RELI 337, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
Course: Religions of India
- 2012–2013 Florida International University, Miami, USA  
Independently taught undergraduate course – Religion: Analysis & Interpretation
- Guest Lecturer to the following Institutes and Universities:
  - Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (Deemed University), Ladnun, Rajasthan, India
  - Kota Open University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
  - International Summer School for Jain Studies, India

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Global Learning Across Borders (Experiential Education Program) - Jaipur Program Coordinator
- International School for Jain Studies (Summer School) - Jaipur Program Coordinator
- Zurich University of the Arts (ZHDK) - India Program Coordinator
- Reporter for weekly online newsletter ([www.HereNow4U.org](http://www.HereNow4U.org)) published from Germany.
- Preksha International, Houston, Texas, USA April 2005  
Conducted a workshop on Anger Management through Preksha Meditation.
- School of International Training (SIT), Vermont, USA - Study Abroad Program  
Delivered lectures in Yoga and provided Practical Training to the students visiting India.
- Preksha International, India - Certified trainer in Preksha Meditation.

## PUBLICATIONS

Bajzelj, Ana, and Shivani Bothra. ‘The Rise of Non-Veg: Meat and Egg Consumption and Production in Contemporary India’. In *The Future of Meat Without Animals*, edited by Brianne Donaldson and Christopher Carter, 67–86. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2016.

‘Nonviolence: A Secular Paradigm for Sustainability’. In *Various Dimensions of Environmental Ethics*, edited by Kusum Jain, 45–56. Department of Philosophy, University of Rajasthan Jaipur, 2011

‘Self Discipline as Integral to the Education System’. In *Random Plurals – Fragments on Philosophy, Aesthetics and History*, edited by Ratnamuthu Sugathan and Kamal Kishor Mishra New Delhi, 2008

“Anuvrat Movement.” In *Jainpedia: The Jain Universe Online*. Institute of Jainology, 2014.  
<http://www.jainpedia.org/themes/principles/sects/non-sectarian-movements/anuvrat-movement.html>

“Pleasures of Vegan Cooking.” *Alimentarium*, 2014.  
<https://www.alimentarium.org/en/shivani-bothra>

“The Joy of Asceticism.” *Alimentarium*, 2014.  
<https://www.alimentarium.org/en/magazine/society/joy-asceticism>

herenow4u – E-Magazine List of online Publications

[http://herenow4u.net/index.php?id=62442&tt\\_address\\_pi1\[uid\]=390&cHash=fa51609aa8](http://herenow4u.net/index.php?id=62442&tt_address_pi1[uid]=390&cHash=fa51609aa8)

### CONFERENCES, PAPERS, AND WEBINARS

- Presented Paper at the American Academy of Religions (AAR) on Jain Diasporas: Temple Committees and Praxis in San Diego, USA (2019)

*Topic:* Jainism in Diaspora: Shift in the Transmission of Children's Religious Education

- Presented Paper at the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) in conjunction with AAR on Gandhi's Global Legacy in San Diego, USA (2019).

*Topic:* Mahatma Gandhi: Moral Influences in the Method of Ahimsa

- Presented Paper at the Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM) in conjunction with AAR on Transregional Bhakti Traditions in San Diego, USA (2019).

*Topic:* The Terapanth Prabodh: A "Short-Cut Method" to Develop Piety in the Shvetambar Terapanth Tradition

- Presented Paper at the Gandhi's Global Legacy International Conference, California State University, Fresno, USA (2019)

*Topic:* Gandhi's Interaction with Jainism

- Presented Paper at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing China (2018)

*Topic:* Social Implication of the Anuvrat Movement

- Presented Paper at EASR 2016 Conference: Relocating Religion at University of Helsinki, June 2016

*Topic:* Jain Pathshalas of North America: Changes and Continuities in Contemporary Times.

- Presented Paper at the International Conference: Mind, Body, and Self. Wellington, New Zealand. (2015)

*Topic:* The Concept of *citta* in Patanjali's Yogasutra

- Presented Paper at the International Conference: Acharya Tulsi and Making of Modernism, Miami. USA (2014)

*Topic:* The Anuvrat Movement: Addressing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Concern for Social Justice, Economy and Ecology

- Presented Paper at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Peace and Nonviolent Action, India. (2014)

*Topic:* Anuvrat: A Cradle of Change for a Nonviolent Society

- Presented Paper at the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Philosophy, Athens Greece (2013)

*Topic:* The Anuvrat Movement: Social Implication of a Philosophical Action

- Abstract Accepted for Presenting Paper at the Michigan Academy of Science Arts and Letters (2013)

- Presented Paper at the Dharma Academy of North America in conjunction with AAR. Chicago, USA (2012)

*Topic:* The Anuvrat Movement: A Study of Ethical Practice in Jain Diaspora of North America

- Presented Paper at the AAR SE / SECSOR Atlanta, USA, (2012).

*Topic:* The Anuvrat Movement: Old Precept New Prospect

- Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Peace and Nonviolent Action Jaipur, India (2008)

*Topic:* Global Vision of Sustainable Development: Ecological and Environmental Crisis vis-à-vis Human Behavior.

- Presented at the 2nd International Green Yoga Conference, California, USA, (2007)

*Topic:* Jainism the Ecological way of living

### **Participation and Presentation in Webinars on Jainism**

- April 27 – 28, 2020: Panelist for Jain Webinar 2020

Topic: *Mahatma Gandhi and Jain Religion*

- April 30, 2020: Delivered a lecture

Topic: *Migration of Jain Communities: Transformation in Children's Religious Education*

### **LANGUAGE AND DIGITAL SKILLS**

Fluency in reading, speaking, and writing of Hindi, English, Sanskrit, and Rajasthani

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, Turnitin.com, and Blackboard

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Interest in anthropological research, teaching, and pursuing scholarly work in transnational studies, involving Jain communities in the United States and South Asia.
- Close observation and interaction with Jain monks and nuns across traditions: participating in peace walks, spreading the message of nonviolence and inculcating values of environment friendly minimalistic lifestyle.
- Engage in non-religious, non-sectarian Anuvrat Movement for social change.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

**Member, Grant Committee, Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies (USA)**

**Associate Member, Centre of Jaina Studies - SOAS (UK)**

**Member, American Academy of Religion - AAR (USA)**

### **REFERENCES**

#### **Prof. Rick Weiss (Ph.D. Supervisor)**

Associate Professor, Religious Studies  
Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand  
Email: rick.weiss@vuw.ac.nz  
Phone: +64 21 027 70446

#### **Prof. John E. Cort**

Professor of Asian and Comparative Religions  
Denison University, Granville, USA  
Email: cort@denison.edu  
Phone: +1 740-587-6254

#### **Prof. Kathleen M. Moore**

Department of Religious Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara, USA  
Email: kmoore@religion.ucsb.edu  
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