

Ravi M. Gupta

Religious Studies Program
Department of History
Utah State University

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Professional Experience

Utah State University , Logan, Utah Charles Redd Endowed Chair and Professor of Religious Studies	<i>2016-present</i>
Utah State University , Logan, Utah Director of the Religious Studies Program	<i>2014-present</i>
Utah State University , Logan, Utah Associate Department Head (interim), Department of History	<i>2018-2019</i>
Utah State University , Logan, Utah Charles Redd Endowed Chair and Associate Professor	<i>2013-2016</i>
The College of William and Mary , Williamsburg, Virginia Associate Professor of Religious Studies	<i>2011-2013</i>
The College of William and Mary , Williamsburg, Virginia Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	<i>2008-2011</i>
Centre College , Danville, Kentucky Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	<i>2006-2008</i>
University of Florida , Gainesville, Florida Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	<i>2005-2006</i>
Linacre College, University of Oxford , Oxford, United Kingdom Postgraduate Research Fellow and Member of the Faculty of Theology	<i>2004-2005</i>

Education

University of Oxford , Oxford, United Kingdom Doctor of Philosophy in Hinduism	<i>2004</i>
Master of Studies in the Study of Religion	<i>2000</i>

Boise State University, Boise, Idaho

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

1999

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Mathematics

1999

Books

Gupta, Ravi M. and Kenneth R. Valpey. *The Bhagavata Purana: Selected Readings*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016.

Gupta, Ravi M., ed. *Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy: Tradition, Reason and Devotion*. London: Ashgate / Routledge, 2014.

The above book received the 2016 Best Book Award from the Dharma Academy of North America, which meets concurrently with the American Academy of Religion. The book has been reviewed positively in the *International Journal of Hindu Studies*.

Gupta, Ravi M. and Kenneth R. Valpey, eds. *The Bhagavata Purana: Sacred Text and Living Tradition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.

The above book received *Choice's* "Highly Recommended" rating for lower-division undergraduates through researchers/faculty.

Gupta, Ravi M. *The Caitanya Vaisnava Vedanta of Jiva Gosvami: When Knowledge Meets Devotion*. London: Routledge, 2007.

Reviews of this book have been published in *Sophia: International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Religions of South Asia* and the *Journal of Indo-Iranian Studies*. This book has also been translated into Ukrainian and published in Kiev.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

"Restoring Sight to Blinding Love: The Bhagavata Purana's Transformation of the Urvasi-Pururavas Narrative" in *The Journal of Hindu Studies*, 11.1, 2018, pp. 67-79.

"Translators' Troubles: Seeking a Method that Suits the Bhagavata Purana" in *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 22.1, 2018, pp. 175-189.

"Vedantic Connections: Jiva Gosvami's Use of Ramanuja's *Sribhasya*" in *Brahmavidya: The Journal of the Adyar Library*, vol. 82, 2018, pp. 489-517.

- “Hinduism and the Academy: Toward a Dialogue between Scholar and Practitioner,” in *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies*, vol. 29, 2017, pp. 62-66.
- “Finding Bhagavan in the Bhagavata: The Six Indicators of Meaning in Gaudiya Vedanta,” in *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Fall 2016, pp. 191-204.
- “Jiva Gosvami’s Commentary on the Gayatri: Translation and Context,” in *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Spring 2016, pp. 64-72.
- “Identidade e Legitimidade na *Sampradaya Vaisnava* de Caitanya” in *Filosofia e Teologia da Bhagavad-Gita: Hinduismo e o Vaishnavismo de Caitanya*, ed. Ricardo S. Silvestre and Ithamar Theodor. Porto, Portugal: Jurua Editora, 2015.
- “Where One is Forever Two: God and World in Jiva Gosvami’s *Bhagavata-sandarbha*” in *Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy: Tradition, Reason and Devotion*, ed. Ravi M. Gupta. London: Ashgate, 2014, pp. 35-60.
- “A Pearl Necklace of Propositions: Baladeva Vidyabhusana’s *Prameyaratnavali*” in *Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy: Tradition, Reason and Devotion*, ed. Ravi M. Gupta. London: Ashgate, 2014, pp. 35-60.
- “Churning the Ocean of Lila: Themes for Bhagavata Study” in *Bhagavata Purana: Sacred Text and Living Tradition*, eds. Ravi M. Gupta and Kenneth R. Valpey. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.
- “On the Bed of Arrows: Vaisnava Theodicy Beyond Karma,” in *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Spring 2012, pp. 207-216. (co-authored with Gopal K. Gupta)
- “Gaudiya Vaishnavism,” in *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Hinduism*. Ed. Alf Hiltebeitel. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. www.oxfordbibliographies.com (150-entry bibliographic essay)
- “The Bhagavata Purana as a Vedantic Text: An Excursion into Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy,” in *Prācyaprajñāpradīpa: Felicitation Volume for Prof. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay*. Ed. Ian Mabbet, Monash University, Australia. Kolkata: NIOS, 2012, pp. 251-262.
- “Jiva Gosvami,” in *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Hinduism*. Ed. Knut Jacobsen. Vol. 4. Leiden: Brill, 2012. pp. 249-257.
- “Bhakti and Vedanta: Do They Mix? The Case of Caitanya Vaisnavism” in *From Vasubandhu to Caitanya: Studies in Indian Philosophy and its Textual History*, edited by Johannes Bronkhorst and Karin Preisendanz. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2010, pp. 143-153.

“‘He is our master’: Jesus in the Thought of Swami Prabhupada,” in *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 23 (2010): 15-19.

“On Conceiving the Inconceivable: Jiva Gosvami’s Presentation of Acintya-bhedabheda.” *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Spring 2008, pp. 103-117.

“Making Space for Vedanta: Canon and Commentary in Caitanya Vaisnavism.” *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 10.1, December 2006, pp. 75-90.

“Walking a Theological Tightrope: Controversies of Sampradaya in Eighteenth-Century Caitanya Vaisnavism.” *ISKCON Communications Journal*, Fall 2005, pp. 39-51.

An essay-length response to the above article was written by Francis X. Clooney (Professor of Comparative Theology, Harvard) in the Spring 2009 issue of the journal. Clooney’s article was titled, “Tradition and Dialogue: Reflections on Ravi Gupta’s ‘Walking a Theological Tightrope.’”

“Krishna and Culture: What Happens When the Lord of Vrindavana Moves to New York City,” (co-authored with T.K. Goswami) in *Gurus in America*, edited by Cynthia Humes and Thomas Forsthoefel. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005, pp. 81-95.

“Krishna and Culture: What Happens When the Lord of Vrindavana Moves to New York City,” (co-authored with T.K. Goswami). *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, 11.2, 2003, pp. 187-202. The *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* requested permission from SUNY to reprint the chapter listed above for a themed issue of the journal.

“Caitanya.” in *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, edited by Denise Cush, Catherine Robinson, and Michael York. London: Routledge, 2010, pp. 128-129.

Courses Taught

Utah State University

Introduction to Religious Studies (RELS 1010 – BHU)
Civilization: Humanities – Religion and Play (USU 1320 – BHU)
Introduction to Hinduism (RELS 3020 – DHA)
Gods and Goddesses of India (RELS 3420)
Hindu Sacred Texts (RELS 3820 – CI)
Theory and Method in Religious Studies (RELS 3990)
Directed Reading in Sanskrit (RELS 4930)
Religious Studies Capstone (RELS 4990)

In the past four years, I have introduced four new courses to the RELS curriculum and applied for gen-ed designations on four courses. I have shepherded another half a dozen courses in the department (taught by new colleagues) through the EPC process.

The College of William and Mary

Introduction to Hinduism (RELG 213 – GER 4B)
Gods and Goddesses of India (RELG 360 – GER 4B)
Hindu Sacred Texts (RELG 369 – GER 7)
Independent Studies (RELG 482) in Jainism, Hindi Language, Hinduism and Development
Mahabharata, and Elementary Sanskrit.

Centre College

World Religions (REL 130)
Readings and Ritual in Hinduism (REL 336)
Freshman Seminar: Journey through Sacred India (FRS 116)
Sacred Literature in the Sanskrit Language (REL 335)
Senior Thesis Supervision
Religion and Politics in India (REL 339) – a study abroad course in India on behalf of
Centre College, taught in 2008.

University of Florida

Religions of India (REL 3330)
Religion in Asia (REL 2317)
Hindu Sacred Texts in Ritual Context (REL 3335)
Graduate Independent Study: Women in the Bhagavata Purana

University of Oxford

Nature of Religion
Survey of Hinduism

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

“Bait for the Advaitins: The Enigmatic Theology of Sridhara Svami.” World Sanskrit Conference,
Vancouver. July 2018

“Controversy in the Classroom: Opportunity or Catastrophe?” Facticity Conference, Utah State
University. February 2018.

“Trees in Trouble, Humans in Need: Competing Environmental Priorities in the Bhagavata Purana.” Conference on Sustainable Societies: Interreligious and Interdisciplinary Approaches, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. April 2017. This paper was also delivered at conferences on Hinduism and environment at Ruia College, Mumbai, and Jadavpur University, Kolkata, in December 2017.

“Human Relationships in a World of Information: Jiva Gosvami’s Balance of Rasa and Jnana.” This invited lecture was delivered during March 2017 at several institutions in Ukraine, including the Institute of Philosophy, National University of Kiev; Schevchenko University; Dnepropetrovskiy University; and the Embassy of India in Kiev. The lecture tour coincided with the launch of the Ukrainian translation of my book, *The Caitanya Vaisnava Vedanta of Jiva Gosvami*.

“Restoring Sight to Blinding Love: The Bhagavata Purana’s Transformation of the Urvasi-Pururavas Narrative.” International Conference on the Bhagavata Purana, University of Madras. January 2017.

“Churning the Milky Ocean: A Recipe for Creation from the Bhagavata Purana.” Invited Lecture at the Princeton University Museum of Art. December 2016.

“Religious Site Visits as Pedagogical Method.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio. November 2016.

“Restoring Sight to Blinding Love: The Bhagavata Purana’s Transformation of the Urvasi-Pururavas Narrative.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 2016.

“Toward an Interfaith Theology for ISKCON: Lessons from Caitanya’s Encounter with the Qazi of Navadvipa.” Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. April 2016.

“3000 Years of History: Balancing Breadth and Depth in Survey Courses.” Dean’s Series on the Liberal Arts: Celebrating Teaching Excellence, Utah State University. March 2016.

“Creation and Chaos in Hindu Sacred Texts.” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Salt Lake City. October 2015.

“All Men are Created Equal? The Debate over Caste in Classical and Contemporary India.” Bennion Teacher’s Workshop on Democracy in Asia, Utah State University. June 2015.

“Who Owns Religion? Toward a Dialogue between Scholar and Practitioner.” University of Chicago. April 2015. This invited lecture was also delivered at the University of Illinois Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

- “Teaching Asian Religions in Utah: Challenges and Opportunities.” The Asia Center, University of Utah. April 2015.
- “Pedagogy and the Big Questions: Dealing with Religious Commitments, Strongly Held Values, and Belief Systems in the Classroom.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC. January 2015.
- “Vaishnava Conceptions of Divine Love in Comparative Perspective.” First annual Vaishnava-Christian Interfaith Dialogue in India supported by the Catholic Church. Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. January 2015.
- “A Bespoke *Bhāgavata*: Tailoring a Translation to the Pedagogical Methods of the Text.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego. November 2014.
- “Lila and Rasa as Modalities in Vaishnava Art.” Opening symposium for the exhibition *Loving Devotion: Visions of Vishnu*. Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo. November 2014.
- “Is it Selfish to be Happy? Some Upanisadic Perspectives on Human Nature.” University of Nairobi, Kenya. July 2014.
- “Hinduism and Academia: A Troubled Marriage?” Princeton University, New Jersey. April 2014.
- Panel Discussion on Multiple Hinduisms at the SANGAM Conference, Princeton University, New Jersey. April 2014.
- “Into the Mouth of God: Food Narratives in Hindu Devotional Traditions.” Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, Utah. March 2014.
- “Creation and Chaos in Hindu Sacred Texts.” The Bannan Institute Endowed Lecture at Santa Clara University, California. February 2013.
- “Freedom through Sound: Mantra and Yoga in Hindu Traditions.” Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas. December 2013.
- “Play as the Heart of God: Devotional Practice and Divine Relationship.” Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas. December 2013.
- “Creation and Chaos in the Bhagavata Purana” (a four-part series). The Shirdasani Lectures at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, United Kingdom. May 2010.
- “Jesus in Vaishnava Hindu Traditions.” Invited lecture at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. March 2010.

“6 ½ Traits of an Effective Leader: Lessons from Rupa Goswami’s *Upadesamrta*.” Invited lecture at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India. January 2010.

“God and Google: Human Relationships in the Internet Age.” Invited lecture at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. January 2010.

“The Head, the Heart, and the Hands: Vedantic Perspectives on Finding Balance in Life.” Invited lecture at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Mumbai, India. December 2009.

The three lectures above were delivered numerous times during a month-long lecture tour in India, sponsored by the Somaiya Educational Trust. I visited over thirty educational institutions including the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Delhi Technological University; Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; Dalmia Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai; University Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; and the Defense Research Development Organization, Bangalore.

“Circular Apologies: Repentance and Forgiveness in the *Ramayana*.” Somaiya Institute for Management Studies and Research, Mumbai, India. December 2009.

“‘He is Our Master:’ Jesus in Thought of Swami Prabhupada.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Hindu Christian Studies, Montreal, Canada. November 2009.

“God of Gods: Where Lies the Climax of the Bhagavad Gita?” Invited lecture at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. April 2009.

“Who Speaks for Hinduism? The Scholar and Practitioner in the Academic Study of Hinduism.” Panel presentation at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. April 2009.

“Buddhi in the Bhagavad Gita.” Lecture to the Indian Students Association, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia. April 2009.

“From Vedanta to Walden: Reading the Bhagavad Gita through History.” Invited lecture at the College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho. March 2009.

“Freedom and Forgiveness in Vaishnava Hinduism.” The Chautauqua Lecture on Religious Freedom. Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. October 2008.

“The Epistemology of Jiva Gosvami.” Third Festival de la Cultura Clasica de India at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru. September 2007.

“Beyond Karma: the Mahabharata as Vaishnava Theodicy.” Invited lecture at the annual Vaishnava-Christian Dialogue, Washington, DC. April 2007.

“Hindus, Scholars, and Hindu Scholars: Who Speaks for Hinduism” Keynote Address at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies’ Board of Governors’ Annual Meeting. June 2006.

“When Knowledge Meets Devotion: The History of Vaishnava Vedanta.” A three-day lecture series at the Universidade Lusofana de Humanidades e Tecnologias, Lisbon, Portugal. June 2006.

“The Bhagavata Purana as a Vedantic Text: the Case of Chaitanya Vaishnavism.” 37th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, Moscow, Russia. August 2004.

“On the Confluence of Knowledge and Devotion in Medieval Hinduism.” Linacre Seminar Series. University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom. October 2003.

“Bhakti and Vedanta: Do They Mix? An Excursion into Chaitanya Vaishnava Philosophy.” Twelfth World Sanskrit Conference, Helsinki, Finland. July 2003.

“Hindu Christian Dialogue: Possibilities and Challenges.” Leicester Forum for Interreligious Dialogue. April 2003.

“Walking a Theological Tightrope: Controversies of Succession in 18th Century Chaitanya Vaishnavism. “ American Academy of Religion Eastern Regional Conference, Ottawa, Canada. April 2002.

“Faith and Scholarship in the Academic Study of Hinduism.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, Toronto, Canada. November 2002.

Delivered training to Scotland Yard officers on the tenets and practices of Hinduism relevant to law enforcement personnel. London, United Kingdom, 2002.

Delivered training on death and dying in Hinduism to medical personnel at the Staff Training Center of the St. Luke’s Medical Center. Boise, Idaho, 2001.

“Christianity in India from Hindu Perspectives.” Panel Presentation at the United College of the Ascension, Birmingham, United Kingdom. February 2001.

Contributor to BBC’s Radio 2 program, “Pause for Thought.” London, United Kingdom, 2000-2001.

“Hindu Christian Encounter: Possibilities and Challenges.” Invited lecture to the Northern Ireland Interfaith Commission, Belfast, United Kingdom. April, 2000.

Invited to address a gathering at the House of Lords on the need for the academic study of Hinduism among second generation Indians. London, United Kingdom. October 1999.

Fellowships, Honors, and Grants

Utah State University		
CHASS Teacher of the Year Award		2017
Dharma Academy of North America		
2016 Best Book Award, for <i>Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy</i>		2016
National Endowment for the Humanities		
Summer Institute Fellow at the University of Virginia		2016
Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies		
Permanent Research Fellow		2015
American Academy of Religion / Teagle Foundation		
Seed Grant for the Survey of the Long Term Impacts of the Religious Studies Major		2014
Alpha Delta Gamma National Honor Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies		
Inducted as a Faculty Member		2012
College of William and Mary		
Alumni Fellowship Award for Teaching Excellence		2011
Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies		
Shivdasani Research Fellowship		May - June 2010
American Academy of Religion and the Luce Foundation		
Fellow in Comparative Religion and Theologies of Religious Pluralism		2009-2010
College of William and Mary		
Summer Research Grant		2009 and 2010
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops		
Invited to present a personal gift and greeting to Pope Benedict XVI at a gathering of interreligious leaders during his first visit to the United States		May 2008
Centre College		
The David Hughes Award for Excellence in Teaching		2008
Centre College		
Rookie Professor of the Year Teaching Award		2007

Centre College		
	Summer Research Grant	2007
Regent's Park College		
	Barbinder-Watson Research Grant	2002
Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford		
	Boden Research Grant	2001
University of Oxford		
	Yates Theology Studentship (full tuition and maintenance)	2001-2004
Regent's Park College		
	Henman Graduate Research Grant	2000-2001
Phil Kappa Phi National Honor Society		
	Graduate Fellowship	1999
Boise State University		
	Silver Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the University	1999

Professional Leadership

Co-Organizer,	"God and Smog: the Challenge of Preserving Our Planet," Conference with panels of scholars and religious leaders, Utah State University	October 2018
Co-editor,	"New Directions in Bhagavata Purana Studies," two special issues of the <i>Journal of Hindu Studies</i> , volumes 11.1-2	2018
Session Chair,	Regional Bhakti Traditions. Dharma Academy of North America Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.	November 2018
Organizer,	International Conference on the Bhagavata Purana, Chennai, India Attended by 30 scholars from the US, Europe, India, Australia, and Japan	January 2017
Co-Director,	Bhagavata Purana International Research Project Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies	2013 - present
Editorial Advisory Board,	<i>Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies</i> . The only peer-reviewed journal in the field that exclusively publishes student work.	2014 – present
Editorial Advisory Board,	<i>International Journal of Dharma Studies</i> , Springer	2010-present

Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Hindu Studies*, Oxford University Press 2010-present

Past-President, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies (Related Scholarly Organization of the American Academy of Religion) 2014 - 2016

Curriculum Development Team for a Religious Studies degree to be piloted at five universities in India, under the auspices of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. 2014 - 2016

President, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies (Related Scholarly Organization of the American Academy of Religion) 2012 - 2014

Member of the Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Group 2013 - 2015

Consultant, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Exhibition, "Loving Devotion: Visions of Vishnu." 2014

Chair of the Personnel and Faculty Evaluation Committee, Department of Religious Studies, College of William and Mary 2011 - 2013

Vice President, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies 2011-2012

Associate Editor, *Journal of Hindu Studies*, Oxford University Press.
As one of the founding editors, I was closely involved in the journal's planning and development process. 2007-2010

Board of Directors, Society for Hindu Christian Studies and member of the nominations committee 2006 – 2010

Session Chair, Writs and Chains: Verbal Testimony as Limit and License in the Comparative Theological Project. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. 2008

Invited Discussant, Workshop on Sacred Space and Embodiment in South Asia. University of California Santa Barbara. 2009

Member of the College Council, Centre College. 2007-2008

Religion columnist, the *Idaho Statesman*, Boise's daily newspaper. 1996-1998

Initiatives for the Religious Studies Program at Utah State University

I have led the following initiatives as Director of the Religious Studies Program:

- Performed a thorough curriculum review, including course offerings, major requirements, capstone experience, theory and methods course, and gen-ed designations.
 - Conducted a survey of Religious Studies alumni to determine the long term impact of the USU Religious Studies Major.
 - Commissioned a study of the USU Religious Studies major in comparison with a broad spectrum of Religious Studies Departments across the country.
 - Designed a new online minor in Religious Studies, hired two new online instructors, and enlarged online course offerings.
 - Developed guidelines for the types of events that are appropriate for Religious Studies sponsorship.
 - Developed a plan in coordination with Merrill-Cazier Library for significantly enlarging holdings in Religious Studies.
 - Broadened leadership and involvement of our affiliated faculty.
 - Created an assessment plan for Religious Studies (there was no existing plan in place), along with assessment tools, in anticipation of our next accreditation visit.
 - Organized numerous student/faculty events for the Religious Studies Program.
 - Helped create a new Master's degree in Ancient Languages and Cultures.
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