

# International School for Jain Studies

[www.jainstudies.org](http://www.jainstudies.org)



## Integrating Modern Science and Spirituality for Social Wellness: A Challenge of 21st Century

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### 1. Preamble:

Religions and Sciences have been major driving forces in generating knowledge and enabling evolution of human civilizations. Today's dominant world views and life-styles are, however, conditioned largely by spectacular advances in science and technology. The scientific quest for truth relies on objective and empirically verifiable/measurable observables of the physical world perceived by the senses. Scientific theories are based on the belief that all phenomena in the universe have a material basis. Modern science, however, has not been able to adequately address the issues of feelings, consciousness and morality in human conduct.

Religious knowledge and doctrines, summarized and interpreted in scriptures, are based on the spiritual experiences/ inner enlightenment of their founders/ rejuvenators and saints. In contrast to material science, most ancient and modern religions believe in the existence of non-material elements (soul/consciousness, divinity) as essential parts of reality. Religion specific ethics solely based on faith have served a valuable purpose in regulating human behavior in the past when we had little explicit knowledge of how nature works.

Religion generally implies faith in specific belief systems, formalized practices of worship and prayer, rituals and customs. Spirituality, though has its roots in religion, involves a personal quest about the meaning and purpose of life, realization of the intrinsic qualities of the self, inner peace and bliss, feelings of interconnectedness of everything in a holistic sense, harmony with nature and experience of transcendence. Extension of spirituality beyond the private experience into the social domain provides the foundations for morality and human values.

Science attempts to find the truth about the outer physical world whereas spirituality is concerned with the inner experiences, therefore both scientific and spiritual knowledge should impart complimentary perspectives necessary for a holistic view of reality. Unfortunately, the prevailing apparent disharmony and conflicting views provided by science, spirituality and diverse religious traditions on vital issues of personal and social interests have been instrumental in causing confusion resulting in enhanced behavioral problems, unhealthy lifestyles, socio-economic tensions and violence in the global pluralistic society.

*Our biggest challenge in the 21st century is to integrate the religious, spiritual and scientific knowledge into a generally acceptable holistic world-view to form the basis for an ethical, nonviolent and eco-friendly way of life for maximizing social and personal well-being.*

## 2. Objectives of the seminars:

- To critically review and evaluate various aspects of current interactions between different disciplines of modern science and spirituality in the context of social wellness.
- To develop an ethical system based on a holistic world-view taking into account both the scientific and spiritual perspectives.
- To establish a Multidisciplinary Task Force to identify feasible research areas/problems and formulate projects for focused and coordinated research, with national and international collaborations. Follow up of the work of these task forces

## 3. Sponsorship and Organization:

International School of Jain Studies 'ISJS', in association with some of the leading Indian universities/institutes is organizing a series of three week-end (during December 2010- February 2011) seminars cum discussion meetings. These seminars are designed to provide an ambience for intensive interactions and exchange of ideas. The themes of the seminars are interconnected, each seminar focusing on one particular theme. There will be 8-10 invited lectures by distinguished scholars at each seminar to introduce the topics, identify important questions and initiate discussions. Sessions for selected proffered papers by young scholars and panel discussions will also be organized. The official languages of the seminars will be English; however papers in Hindi are also welcome.

## 4. Submission of Synopsis and Manuscripts:

Authors are invited to submit synopsis of their papers (about 500 words in English/Hindi) related to the themes and topics of the seminars. Synopsis should clearly indicate the objective, the academic contents and conclusions of the papers to be presented. Soft/hard copies (using MS Word; Times New Roman, font size 12) should be submitted by September 15 to the convener. Acceptance of papers by the program committee will be communicated by October 30, 2010.

Complete manuscripts of the accepted papers must be submitted at the time of presentation. Expenses (max. Rs. 1000.00) incurred for the preparation of the manuscripts will be reimbursed for papers submitted at the time of the seminar. The proceedings will be published.

## 5. Suggested Themes, Topics and Key-Words:

### A. Consciousness and Knowledge: Scientific and Spiritual Perspectives

Consciousness, its Neuro-Scientific and Biological Correlates

Consciousness as an Essential Attribute of the Soul (*Atma*)

Sources, Types and Pathways of Knowledge: Relative and Absolute knowledge.

Probabilistic Logic and Multifaceted View of Reality (*anekantwad*)

Extrasensory Knowledge, Intuition, Creativity and Spiritual Insight

Logical Empiricism and Science in a Changing World

Objectivity and Subjectivity in Science and Spirituality

Complexity, Interconnectedness, Causality, Indeterminism, and Free Will

Cognitive Neuro-Psychology, Artificial Intelligence and the concept of mind  
Compatibility/Incompatibility of Science and Spirituality

**B1. *Jiva, Karma, Rebirth, Purusharth and Spiritual Evolution***

Concepts of Living-Beings (*jiva*) in Indian thought  
Doctrines of *Karma*, Transmigration, Principle of Causality; *Purusharth* and Free Will  
*Karma* Dynamics, Control of Passions (*Kashayas*) and Spiritual Evolution  
Methodology for Scientific Studies of Emotions and their Regulations  
Scientific Perspectives on the Phenomenon of Rebirth and Extrasensory Perception  
Molecular Genetics and *Karma* as Determinants of Behavior  
Mind Body Communication, Interpersonal Neurobiology, and Psychotherapy  
Experience, Emotions, Neural- Plasticity and Adaptation

**B2. *Scientific, Personal and Social Dimensions of Spirituality***

Meaning of Spirituality; Pathways of Self-Realization and Measures of Spirituality  
Spiritual, Psychobiological and Psychosocial Aspects of Nonviolence (*Ahimsa*)  
*Yoga*, Meditation, Physiology and Health  
Equanimity (*Samata*) and Forgiveness (*Kshama*)  
Neuro-Scientific and Psychobiological Correlates of Spiritual Experiences  
Modulation of Gene expression, Brain Plasticity and Behavior by Spiritual Practices

**C. *Ethics Based on an Integral World-View***

Foundations and Evolution of Ethical Systems  
Ethical Dilemmas in Modern Scientific Research and its Applications  
Hedonistic Lifestyles, Consumerism, Ecology, Spirituality & Environment Protection  
Spirituality in Work Place and Management  
Science, Technology and Spirituality in Sustainable Development  
Spiritual Education, Morality, Social Wellness and Peace  
Unity, Diversity and Interdependence of Life, Right to Live and Right to Die  
Formulation of an Integral World-View Synthesizing Scientific and Spiritual Aspects  
Approaches to Develop Ethical Systems Based on Holistic World-View and Rationality

**6. *Suggested Venues & Dates for the Seminars (tentative and subject to confirmation)***

<b>Place</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Focal Theme</b>
Delhi	LSSVP/ DU	Dec 11- 12, 2010	A. Consciousness and Knowledge:
Varanasi	PV-BHU	Jan 22 -23 2011	B1. <i>Jiva, karma, rebirth, purusharth</i> and spiritual evolution B2. Scientific, Personal & Social Dimensions of Spirituality
Jaipur	RU	Feb 19 –20, 2011	C. Ethics based on an integrated World-View

## 7. Advisory Committee:

Prof. P. N. Tandon	President, National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon
Prof. Vachaspati Upadhyay	Vice-Chancellor, LBSSVP, New Delhi
Prof. D. C. Jain	ADGHS, Ministry of Health, New Delhi
Prof. L. S. Kothari	Delhi University, Delhi
Prof. B. N. Gangadhar	NIMHANS, Bangalore
Prof. P. Krishna	Krishnamurty Foundation, Varanasi
Prof. S. C. Lakhotia	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
Prof. I. L. Singh	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
Dr. S. L. Gandhi	ANUVIBHA, Jaipur
Prof. K. C. Sogani	Jain Vidhya Sansthan, Jaipur
Prof. D. N. Bhargawa	Rajasthan Sanskrit University, Jaipur
Prof. Sophana Srichampa	Mahidol University, Thailand
Dr. Sulekh C. Jain	Mahaveer Vision, Texas, USA

## 8. Program Committee:

Dr Shugan C Jain	ISJS, New Delhi	Chairperson
Prof. Veer Sagar Jain	LBSSVP, New Delhi	Coordinator, A
Prof. K. Murlidhar	DU, Delhi	Coordinator, A
Prof. S. L. Jain	PV, Varanasi	Coordinator, B1
Dr. S. P. Pandey	PV, Varanasi	Coordinator, B2
Prof. Kusum Jain	RU, Jaipur	Coordinator, C
Prof. Shirley Telles	Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar	
Prof. Suneet Varma	DU, Delhi	
Prof. Y. B. Tripathi	BHU, Varanasi	
Prof. Rakesh Pandey	BHU, Varanasi	
Prof. Viney Jain	ISJS, New Delhi	Convener

## 9. Contact Persons:

**Convener:** Prof. Viney Jain Advisor ISJS (91-98181 86570)

**Chairman Program Committee:** Dr. Shugan C Jain Chairman ISJS (91-98181 39000)

**Mail:**

**International School for Jain Studies**

**D-28 Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110 017**

E- mail: [isjs\\_seminars@yahoo.in](mailto:isjs_seminars@yahoo.in); [vineykjain@yahoo.com](mailto:vineykjain@yahoo.com); [svana@vsnl.com](mailto:svana@vsnl.com);

Secretariat: Ms Chanchal Jain Phone #: +91-11-2649 1228; +91-99718 03638