

37th Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions

Merton College, the University of Oxford

23RD TO 25TH MARCH 2012

Friday, 23rd March

4.00 p.m. **Welcome and refreshments**

4.30 p.m. **Nick Swann (University of Newport)**
Indra's Net and the Ritual Imagination

5.30 p.m. **Annette L. Heitmann (IOA, Bonn University, Leuphana
University, and Hephata Akademy, Treysa)**
Indian notions of substance (dravya)

6.30 p.m. **Dinner**

7.30 p.m. **Sangeeta Dasgupta (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
*From 'Heathen Aborigines' to 'Christian Tribes': Locating the Oraons in Missionary
Writings on Chhotanagpur in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*

Saturday, 24th March

8.00 a.m. **Breakfast**

9.15 a.m. **Thomas Dähnhardt (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)**
*Winged messengers, feathered beauties and beaks of divine wisdom: the role of
birds in the allegorical love romances of mediaeval Hindi and Urdu literature*

10.15 a.m. **Fabrizio M. Ferrari (University of Chester)**
Stories of asses and plagues. Mocking illness and taming evil in North Indian folklore.

11.15 a.m. **Refreshments**

11.45 a.m. **Eleanor Nesbitt (University of Warwick)**
Sparrows and Lions: Fauna in Sikh Imagery, Symbolism and Ethics

12.45 p.m. **Lunch**

2.00 p.m. **Naomi Appleton (University of Cardiff)**
Stories of the Animal Realm: Instinct and Karma in Buddhist and Jain Multi-life Narratives

3.00 p.m. **Rohana Seneviratne (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford)**
Divine, Panacean & Emancipative Water in Vedic Religion

3.30 p.m. **Refreshments**

- 4.00 p.m. **Geoffrey Samuel (University of Cardiff)**
Tibetan ritual dance as public performance and state ceremony: the evolution of the Tsechu in Bhutan and the 2011 Dochu La festival
- 6.15 p.m. Dinner**
- 7.30 p.m. **Iftikhar Malik**
Islam in the Context of Indian Religions

Sunday, 25th March

- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast**
- 9.15 a.m. **Dermot Killingley (University of Newcastle)**
Vivekananda as a Yoga Teacher to the West
- 10.15 a.m. **Hannah Bartos (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)**
An Organizational Approach to Modern Yoga: Strategies of Growth in the Sivananda and Krishnamacharya Lineages
- 10.45 a.m. **Santosh (University of Winchester)**
The practice of Ayurveda in the UK environment and the role of spirituality. A practitioner perspective.
- 11.15am Refreshments**
- 11.45 a.m. **Mekhola Gomes (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
Dharma and Danda: The Representation of the Kshatriya-as-king within the Dharmashastras and Valmiki's Ramayana
- 12.15 p.m. Colloquium
- 12.45 p.m. Close**

Contact the Committee: <http://spaldingsymposiumdotcom.wordpress.com/>

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We may yet be able to reinstitute Dhrubajyoti Sarkar in which case that paper will precede Geoffrey Samuel's and Bharati Jagannathan in which case Geoffrey Samuel's will move to Sunday morning so we go out on a bang.