35th Annual Symposium
Religion and Ritual
The Poetics and Performance of the Ineffable
4 to 6 April, 2018
Hamilton Library, 401
University of Hawai‘i Mānoa
Center for South Asian Studies
School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Wednesday, April 4th
Special Events

1.30-2.15
Bhutan: Gross National Happiness, Art Exhibit at East West Center
Guided tour by Michael Schuster, Curator, EWC Gallery

3.00-4.00
MuRyangSa “Broken Ridge” Temple, Korean Buddhist Temple, Palolo
https://muryangsatemple.com/

5.00-7.00
Opening Reception (by invitation), Imin Conference Center Ohana Room

Thursday, April 5th

8.30-9.00  Opening Remarks
R. Anderson Sutton, Dean, School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Sai Bhatawadekar, Director, Center for South Asian Studies

9.00-10.05  Keynote Address
Bonding with the Ineffable: Myriad Ways of Hinduism
Dr. Bharat Gupt, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Delhi
Introduction by Ramdas Lamb, Professor, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii

10.15-11.35  Philosophy of the “Ineffable”
Contemporary Debates in Negative Theology and Philosophy
Martin Shuster, Director of Judaic Studies, Goucher College
J. Aaron Simmons, Philosophy, Furman University

Loving the Ineffable: The Value of Ineffability in Religious Discourse and Experience
Thomas Forsthoefel, Religious Studies, Mercyhurst University

Transcending Objectified Notions of the Divine
Jason Kunen, Religious Studies, St. Andrew’s School

Panel Chair and Respondent: “Stop asking questions or your head will shatter”
Sai Bhatawadekar, South Asian Studies, University of Hawaii

11.45-1.05  Body and Embodiment
Here Sits the Very Form of the Formless Absolute: The Samādhi Compound of Jñāneśvar Mahārāj
Mark McLaughlin, Religious Studies, College of William and Mary

Yoginī-s in the Flesh: Power, Praxis, and the Embodied Feminine Divine
Laura Dunn, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

The Ritual Experience of Hawaiian Kākau (Tattooing)
Jane Au, Religion, University of Hawaii

Wearing the Name of Ram
Ramdas Lamb, Religion, University of Hawaii

Panel Chair: Lee Siegel, Religion, University of Hawaii

1.05-2.00  Lunch
2.00-3.35  **Hindu, Jain, Buddhist Intersections**

*Performance of the Ineffable in Sāṁkhya and Yoga*
Al Collins, Clinical Cultural Psychologist, Alaska Neuro-Therapy Center

*The Ineffable in a Strand of Early Modern Jain Poetry*
Rahul Parson, Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado, Boulder

*That is Why the Buddha Laughs: Apophasis as Practice*
William Edelglass, Philosophy, Marlboro College

*Arcāvatāra, the Embodiment of the Ineffable*
Sudhakshina Rangaswami, Independent Scholar

*Ritual and Representation: Performance to Vision in Himalayan Buddhist Offerings*
Eric Huntington, Ho Center for Buddhist Studies, Stanford University

Panel Chair: Sai Bhatawadekar, Center for South Asian Studies, UH

3.45-5.05  **Ritual, Chant, Meditation**

*Beyond the Effable: Ritual versus Religion in Hindu-Catholic Goa*
Alexander Henn, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University

*Bhajans on the Banks of the Ganga: Increasing Environmental Awareness through Devotional Practice*
Tamara Luthy, Anthropology, University of Hawaii

*No Guru Necessary: Mantra Yoga’s Self-Sufficiency*
Tami Cole, Religion, University of Hawaii

*Everyday Educational Ritual: Creative and Contemplative Bridges to Knowing Beyond Words*
Patricia Morgan, School of Information Systems and Technology Management, University of New South Wales

Panel Chair: Dharm Bhawuk, Shidler College, University of Hawaii

5.30-7.30  **Dinner Reception**
QLC 412

Friday, April 6th

8.30-9.00  **Center for South Asian Studies Highlights**
Sai Bhatawadekar, Director, Center for South Asian Studies

9.00-10.20  **Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics**

*Rasa Aesthetics and Kant’s Antinomies*
Jane Allred, Philosophy, University of Hawaii

*The Power of Suggestion: Aestheticized Emotions and the Ineffable*
Lisa Widdison, Philosophy, University of Hawaii

*Sacred Movement, Connecting with the Divine: Kathak as Axis Mundi*
Hannah Stoltenberg, Religion, University of Hawaii

*Influence of Bhakti and Baul poetry on Allen Ginsberg and Bob Dylan*
Geetanjali Joshi, Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellow, Portland State University

Panel Chair: Jesse Knutson, Indo-Pacific Languages, University of Hawaii

10.30-11.00  **Special Video**

*Staging the Rāmāyana in the Balinese Wayang Shadow Puppetry Tradition*
Kirstin Pauka, Theater and Dance, University of Hawaii

11.15-12.30  **Special Event**

*Poetry and Ritual in Brahmanical India: Thoughts from Two Ends of the Time Spectrum*
Laurie Patton, President, Middlebury College

Introduction and Response by Arindam Chakrabarti, Philosophy, University of Hawaii

12.30-1.30  **Lunch**
### Keynote Address

*The Hijab as a Metaphor for Otherness and the Creation of an Ineffable ‘Third Space’*
Kamakshi Murti, Professor Emerita of German, Middlebury College
Introduction by Sai Bhatawadekar, South Asian Studies, University of Hawaii

### Islam/Sufism

*Ritual Practice and the Empowerment of Shia Women in Pakistan*
Azeema Faizunnisa, Program Evaluator, Research and Evaluation in Public Safety Project, University of Hawaii

*There is no God but God: Apophasis and the Use of Negation in Islam*
Amer Latif, Religion, Marlboro College

*Qawwali as a Structure of Feeling: The Social Intersection of Affect and Theology*
Sabeena Shaikh, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

*The Resonating Drum: Shirdi Sai Baba in Light of Qalandri Sufism*
Azeem Khan, Instructional and Reference Librarian, Los Angeles City College

Panel Chair: Kamakshi Murti, Professor Emerita, Middlebury

### Endnote

Sai Bhatawadekar, Ramdas Lamb
Honolulu Community Members: Nighat Quadri, Amarjit Singh, etc. on how it is to be a South Asian practicing one’s religion in Hawaii and the Asia-Pacific region.

Sai Bhatawadekar is currently in conversation with Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria for the possibility of publishing selected papers from this symposium for a special issue of the Journal of Dharma Studies

[http://www.springer.com/religious-studies/journal/42240](http://www.springer.com/religious-studies/journal/42240)