


EDITORIAL

Editor's Introduction to the Inaugural Issue

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The teachings of Jainism are profound but simple: Practice generosity, not possessiveness; value diverse perspectives while humbly recognizing the limitations of your own; and, above all else, do not cause harm or contribute to the suffering of others. The tenets of aparigraha (non-possessiveness) and anekāntavāda (non-onesidedness) are rooted in the foundational value of ahiṃsā (non-violence). Jain Studies at the University of North Texas promotes the academic study of Jainism through research and scholarship, curricular offerings, and sponsored events including lectures, workshops, and other learning opportunities. As part of our efforts, we are introducing *Samyak: An Undergraduate Journal of Jain Studies*, a peer-reviewed and open-access venue for excellent student work in all areas related to the study of Jaina dharma.

Jain Studies at the University of North Texas

In 2017, with an endowment of \$500,000.00 from the Jain Education and Research Foundation (JERF), the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at UNT established the Bhagwan Adinath Professorship in Jain Studies. These efforts were led by Drs. George James and Pankaj Jain in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. The program held its inaugural event in April of 2018 with the conference Jainism and the Environment, featuring a roster of invited scholars and a keynote address from Christopher Chapple (Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles). Today, our continuing activities are made possible thanks to the ongoing generosity of JERF, the support of the Jain Society of North Texas (JSNT), and the efforts of faculty, students, and staff in the UNT Department of Philosophy and Religion.

Following George James's retirement, I was honored to take over the Bhagwan Adinath Professorship in the fall of 2021. My hope is that *Samyak* becomes a resource for Jain Studies not only at UNT but for students worldwide studying Jainism at the undergraduate level. Please visit us at jainstudies.unt.edu to learn more about our activities, our curriculum, and our faculty and students.

In This and Future Issues

The inaugural issue of *Samyak* contains research essays by students who completed our Jain Studies Capstone in the spring semester of 2025. It also includes a special feature celebrating the winners of the student essay contest

and community art show held in conjunction with a Jain Cultural Festival at UNT in March of 2021. Our second issue is already in production and contains work by students who have taken UNT's undergraduate seminar on Jainism.

Submissions to future issue are now open. *Samyak* accepts submissions on a rolling basis from undergraduate college students in any areas related to the study of Jainism. We encourage proposals for themed issues, book reviews, and other special features. For more information, please visit the journal's website at journals.library.unt.edu/index.php/sujjs, or contact me at leah.kalmanson@unt.edu.

A Note on *Samyak*'s Style Guidelines

Although many style guidelines recommend italicizing non-English vocabulary, at least at first use, specialized venues may opt to forego this convention when such terminology is central to a given field or research area. *Samyak* adopts several style conventions that reflect our specialized focus on Jain studies.

Samyak incorporates terminology from Sanskrit, historical Prakrits, and the contemporary spoken languages of Jain communities in India without using italicization. We adhere to IAST standards for diacritical marks for Sanskrit terms and other transliterations from the Devanāgarī script. Recognizing that authors may draw from a range of regional or vernacular forms, we follow authors' preferences for colloquial or dialectical spellings. For example, we accept *anekāntavāda* as well as *anekantvad* or *anekantwad*. We encourage contributors to prioritize clarity and internal consistency, especially when using terms that may vary across linguistic or sectarian contexts.

In keeping with current academic convention, *Samyak* allows for the pluralization of Indic terms by directly adding an "s" (e.g., Tīrthaṅkaras). Full guidelines regarding manuscript preparation and formatting can be found at <https://journals.library.unt.edu/index.php/sujjs/about/submissions>.

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