



KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

(University of Delhi)

Department of Philosophy

*Organizes and cordially invites you all to attend an
International Symposium on*

PILGRIMAGE AND RITUAL: Philosophical Reflections on Religion and Culture

10:30 am, Seminar Room Saturday, 30th July, 2016

Speakers:

Dr. Paul Donnelly
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Ms. Jennifer Hunter
LECTURER

Department of Comparative
Cultural Studies
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Arizona, USA

Discussant:

**Mr. Come Carpentier
De Gourdon**

CONVENER
Editorial Board, World Affairs Journal

Chairperson:

**Dr. Balaganapathi
Devarakonda**

PROFESSOR
Department of Philosophy,
University of Delhi

For Details Contact:

Dr Geetesh Nirban
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Patron:

Dr. Rita Malhotra
Principal
(Officiating)
Kamala Nehru College
University of Delhi

Program

10:30 a.m

Introduction of the Topic by Dr. Geetesh Nirban, Convener

10:40 am

Welcome Address: Dr. Rita Malhotra, Principal, Kamala Nehru College

10:45 am

Felicitation of the Guests by Dr. Manju Pandit, Department Incharge

10:50 am

Introductory Remarks by Dr. Balaganapathi Devarakonda, Chairperson

11:00 am

Address by Dr. Paul Donnelly

11:45 am

Address by Ms. Jennifer Hunter

12:30 pm

Discussion by Mr. Come Carpentier De Gourdon

12:45 pm

Questions and Answers

01:05 pm

Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson

01:10 pm

Vote of Thanks by Convener

01:15 pm

Refreshments

Dr. Paul Donnelly

Associate Professor/Chair
Department of Comparative Cultural Studies
Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff in Arizona, USA.

He earned Ph.D. as a student of the Tibetan monk-scholar Geshe Lhundup Sopa in Buddhist Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His Holiness the Dalai Lama sent Geshe Sopa to the U.S. in 1962, where he became professor at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Donnelly was the co-author with Geshe Sopa of his biography, *Like a Waking Dream: The Autobiography of Geshe Lhundup Sopa* (2012). For many years, his principal research interest was Madhyamaka Philosophy. His dissertation was a translation and study of a commentary on Nāgārjuna's Mūlamadhyamakakārikā by the founder of the Geluk sect, Tsongkhapa Lozang Drakpa. He is the author of the entries on Nāgārjuna, Madhyamaka, and the Mūlamadhyamakakārikā in the Oxford Bibliographies Online. He recently completed the entry on Madhyamaka for the forthcoming Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Buddhism. In recent years he has been interested in the competing conceptualizations of Madhyamaka that arose in Tibet between the 11th and 15th centuries. Most recently he studied the regionally important Buddhist pilgrimage route in Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh in India under the Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award, which is a joint fellowship administered by the Government of USA and India.

Topic of Address The Nako Pilgrimage: Sojourn in the Land of the Dākinīs

His lecture examines a Vajrayāna Buddhist pilgrimage route near the village of Nako in a culturally Tibetan region of the state of Himachal Pradesh, India. Established by a Drukpa Kagyü master in the 13th century, this pilgrimage remains an important component of the religious lives of the people of this region. The site has as its core a mandala-like arrangement of caves that feature lithic hierophanies of tantric deities, and is held to be inhabited by khandromas/dākinīs and the great Vajrayāna Siddha Padmasambhava. Exhibiting many features consistent with other Tibetan pilgrimages, yet also having unique aspects, this pilgrimage route can serve as a test-case for current scholarly understandings of Tibetan and Himālayan pilgrimage.

Ms. Jennifer Hunter

Lecturer
Department of Comparative Cultural Studies
Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff in Arizona, USA.

She earned an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies, German, and Spanish from NAU and further went on to earn a graduate degree in the Comparative Study of Late Antique Religions from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After the completion of her graduate degree, she then returned as a faculty member to NAU where she has been teaching for the last 3 years. Ms Hunter's research interests include the following topics in regards to the period of late antiquity (2nd-7th century CE): the development of the cult of the saints within Christianity; women sex, and gender; cross-cultural marriage practices and rituals, and the 'magical' practices of Christians, Jews, and Greco-Romans. In connection to these subjects, she also has a broader interest in the theory and method of ritual studies and the role that ritual, along with the accompanying material culture, played in the multi-religious and multi-cultural environment of both the Roman and Sasanian Empires.

Topic of Address Mirrors, Marriage and Light: The Ritualization of Marriage and Procreation in an Early Christian Sect

Her lecture largely centers on the ethics and philosophy of marriage and procreation in the Christian sect that authored the Gospel of Philip. She argues that although marriage and procreation are positively valued in much of Christianity today, this has not always been the case. In the first centuries of Christianity, many prominent Christian leaders, who preferred the ascetic life, did not place much religious value on marriage or procreation. However, the Gospel of Philip, a non-canonical Christian text from the 3rd century CE, serves as an example of early Christians who rejected this negative view, and instead placed a positive religious value on marriage, sex, and procreation by placing them in a larger mythological and ritualized context. By drawing upon a multi-cultural cosmogonic myth, Judeo-Christian philosophical ideas regarding the relationship between the creator and humans, and Greco-Roman theurgic practices, the Gospel of Philip advocates for the ritual use of a mirror by the married couple in order to evoke divine light. This evocation of light allows the couple to reunite in the original image of the androgynous deity and to conceive "perfect," righteous children of light in the image of God. This lecture ends by drawing some ritualistic parallels between this ancient Christian marriage ceremony and the use of a mirror in marriage ceremonies among Jews, Zoroastrians, and Muslims in Iran and by certain Muslim groups in India in order to probe the question as to whether these modern marriage rituals can help us conceptualize the ancient Christian marriage ceremony in the Gospel of Philip.

Mr. Come Carpentier De Gourdon

Convener

Editorial Board

World Affairs Journal

He is a French writer, traveller, editor, consultant and researcher born in the Canary Islands, who lives and works in India and in Europe (France, Italy and Switzerland) helping manage a private foundation and contributing to various journals and magazines. He has developed a theory to unify science and traditional wisdom systems under the name of "cosmosphy and psychosynthesis" and is a member of various academic and cultural institutions in Europe, America and Asia. He is currently the Convener of the Editorial Board of the World Affairs Journal, a quarterly publication dedicated to international issues, sponsored by the Kapur Surya Foundation (a co-sponsor of the "World Public Forum for Dialogue of Civilisations") New Delhi, India.

Dr. Balaganapathi Devarakonda

Professor

Department of Philosophy

University of Delhi

He is an alumni of the University of Hyderabad and is in the field of teaching for 16 years. He is presently teaching Philosophy in the University of Delhi. His research interests include Historiography of Indian Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion and Philosophy of Human Rights. He has many publications to his credit in the areas of Political Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes, Social Philosophers of Modern Andhra and Contemporary Understanding of Indian Philosophy.