ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Religious Studies has been an important feature of the UC Davis academic community for decades. The department faculty covers several key areas including Islam, South Asian religions, Judaism, secularism, and ethics. The faculty’s distinctions are evidenced by its scholarship, winning of national and international grants and honors, and multiple teaching awards.

The strength of the Religious Studies department lies in its commitment to examining religion in the contemporary world, balanced with the critical study of religion’s historical roots. The department has developed important relationships with several departments across campus. These cross-disciplinary connections inform the department’s interest in exploring religion’s links to cultural variations in ethics, language, media, embodiment and modernity. The department’s commitments to advanced interdisciplinary research and teaching have recently been bolstered by the launch of a new Graduate Group in the Study of Religion, a doctoral program that will be matriculating its first cadre of students in the Fall of 2013.

SUPPORT THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES INDIA STUDIES INITIATIVE

If you would like to make a gift in support of the India Studies Initiative, please direct your enquiries to:

Prof. Catherine Chin
Chair
Department of Religious Studies
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
chin@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Archana Venkatesan
Department of Comparative Literature & Religious Studies
One Shields Avenue
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Your gift to support the India Studies Initiative with a gift is fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your support.
The Religious Studies INDIA STUDIES INITIATIVE advocates for the advancement and development of the academic study of Indian religious, literary, performance and visual traditions at UC Davis in its diverse manifestations. This initiative is primarily housed in the Department of Religious Studies.

The primary goals of the Religious Studies INDIA STUDIES INITIATIVE is to build financial support for FELLOWSHIPS to support

Exceptional Undergraduate Research on India undertaken by a Religious Studies Major

Exceptional Graduate Research on India undertaken by a Religious Studies Ph.D. candidate

In addition, the Religious Studies INDIA STUDIES INITIATIVE also seeks to engage in community outreach through an ENDOWED LECTURESHIP that will support an Annual India Studies Lecture or Event.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES INDIA STUDIES ADVISORY COUNCIL (RISAC)

The Department of Religious Studies is advised by RISAC, which is composed of civic, business, education, academic and community leaders drawn from the Indian community in the greater Sacramento region and from other groups as needed. Members are invited to serve on the advisory committee by the Program in Religious Studies, and have a limited term of up to 3 years, which may be renewed.

The current members are

Prof. Catherine Chin, Religious Studies
Prof. Archana Venkatesan, Religious Studies
Prof. Hemant Bhargava
Mr. Panchapakesan Kasiviswanathan
Mr. William Mattu
Dr. Rajiv Pathak
Dr. Uma Srivatsa
Mr. Hemant Vaid

RECENT INDIA RELATED RELIGIOUS STUDIES EVENTS

2012:
Prof. Gurinder Singh Mann, UC Santa Barbara on the History of Sikhs in North America (an event organized in response to the Oakcreek, Wisconsin Shootings)

Lecture demonstration and concert by Sikkil Gurucharan, South Indian Musician

Anna Schultz, Stanford University on Jewish Marathi Kirtan

Davesh Soneji, McGill University on Female Hereditary Performance in India

2011:
Indira Peterson, Mt. Holyoke College, on 19th century performance and

2010
John Stratton Hawley, Barnard College on the legends of the poet Mira

2009
Prof. Vasudha Narayanan, University of Florida on Hinduism in Cambodia

Filmmaker Shabnam Virmani on the Kabir Project

Indian Folk Singers performing the songs of Kabir