

# **NINETEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEDANTA**

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, MA

July 28-31, 2010

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International Congress of Vedanta, founded in 1986 in the Department of Philosophy at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, now is located in the Center for Indic Studies, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The Vedanta Congress will continue to be the Program Planner for the future conferences but the organizational details of the conference will be handled in the Center for Indic Studies of Univ. of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

For over two decades, International Congress of Vedanta is the focal point for meeting of scholars specializing in all aspects of Indian philosophy and religion. In the past, the Congress has also celebrated the birth centennial of S. Radhakrishnan (1988), the 1200 anniversary of Sri Sankaracharya (1990), the centennial of Swami Vivekananda's sojourn to America and his participation in the World Parliament of Religions (1992), birth centennial of J. Krishnamurti (1995), and the 700 anniversary of sanjeevan samadhi of Sri Jnaneswara (1996). International Vedanta Conferences were also held in Madras, Rishikesh, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam in India, and in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, in order to facilitate better interaction between scholars in India and the West.

## **Call for Papers and Panels**

Interested scholars and academics are requested to send their proposal(s) for presentations at the Nineteenth International Congress of Vedanta.

Proposals for presentation should include title, author(s) name, affiliation, and a brief abstract of less than 500 words.

In addition, scholars can submit proposals for panels on themes of your interest. The Organizing Committee has proposed that scholars consider organizing panels with 5-10 speakers on a theme.

### **You can send your Panel proposal with the following information for a panel:**

1. Theme of the panel
2. A brief summary of the panel – 4-5 sentences
3. Your name and affiliation
4. Contact information
5. Potential participants and speakers – please check with the potential speakers before putting their names
6. Time slot needed for your panel
7. The size of the room you will need for your panel

### **The following Panels are already proposed:**

1. **Yoga Philosophy, Coordinator – TBA**

2. **Science and Vedanta Philosophy, Coordinator** - Michele Caponigro, Bergamo University
3. **Vedanta and Education, Coordinator** – Pandit Ramadheen Ramsamooj, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
4. **Indian Cosmology, Coordinator** - TBA
5. **Text Encoding and Search for Sanskrit (TESS)** - Girish Nath Jha, Peter Scharf, Dominik Wujastyk, Angela Marcantonio, Oleg Poljakov

The panel seeks to explore issues like encoding mechanisms, standards, data storage, cross platform portability & exchange leading to effective interlinked search for the texts of Vedic tradition.

6. **A Critical Review of Status of Knowledge in Vedanta** - Professor R.P.Singh, Professor K. Srinivas, Dr. Alka Saharan, Dr. R.N.Jha, Dr. S.K.Shukla

**A brief summary of the panel:** Vedanta accepts all the pramanas of knowledge alongwith strong hermeneutic tradition. The three sources of Vedanta; namely, principal Upanishads, Gita and Brahmsutra Bhasya will be examined. Different commentaries at different stages will be analyzed. The status of knowledge , metaphysics, ethics, hermeneutics, etc. will be specially focused.

**Name and affiliation / Contact Information :** Professor R.P.Singh, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, India, Ph. 9868061209

**Time slot needed for your panel :** About 2 hours

**The size of the room your will need for your panel :** 20-30 members

7. **Vedanta & Psychology** - Professors Jerry Solfvin, Ramakrishna Rao, Eugene Taylor, Dorothy Abram

**A brief summary of the panel :** With Vedanta's emphasis on experiential knowledge (as opposed to knowledge of an object), psychology is critically placed to bridge the chasm between science and spirituality. Modern brain imaging tools offer a fascinating opportunity to understand how awareness, attention, and consciousness interact in an individual and how the plasticity of the brain can be harnessed to achieve peace and fulfillment.

**Name and affiliation/ Contact information :** Professor Jerry Solfvin, Center for Indic Studies, UMass Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA 02747, Phone: (508) 910 - 6630  
Email: jsolfvin@umassd.edu

**Time slot needed for your panel:** 90 minutes

**The size of the room you will need for your panel:** 20-30 members

8. **Vedanta & Mystic Traditions of Other Faiths** - Swami Yogatmananda, Father Francis Clooney, Father Paul, & David Coolidge.

**A brief summary of the panel :** Mysticism plays an important role in all major religious traditions. Although the exoteric aspects of any religion are highlighted for the followers and the general public, inner experiences and personal interpretation of beliefs and texts become central for those who choose the mystical path. This panel will discuss how Vedanta and Abrahamic traditions view the role of mysticism.

**Name and affiliation / Contact Information:** Swami Yogatmananda, Minister, Vedanta Society of Providence and Hindu Chaplain, UMass Dartmouth. 227 Angell St. Providence, RI 02906, Tel. (401) 421 - 3960 Email: info@vedantaprov.org

**Time slot needed for your panel:** 90 minutes

**The size of the room you will need for your panel:** 20-30 members

9. **Concept of Samhita** - Dr. Piyali Palit, Prof N. Singh.

Please send abstracts of your papers to [vedanta2010@umassd.edu](mailto:vedanta2010@umassd.edu) before May 15th, 2010 for approval. After May 15th, papers will be accepted on a “space available” basis only.

### **Location**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Vedanta Congress will be held at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, MA. Dartmouth can be reached by air and ground transport. The nearest airport to Dartmouth is Providence, Rhode Island (35 miles), but for some, especially international delegates the preferred airport may be Boston (65 miles) which is well connected domestically and internationally.

For more details please visit

[http://www.umassd.edu/indic/nineteenth\\_international\\_congress\\_of\\_vedanta.cfm](http://www.umassd.edu/indic/nineteenth_international_congress_of_vedanta.cfm)