



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM
FOR CULTURE & SOCIETY



Opening the Archive

*Scholars and Monks in a
Moment of Change*

March 23-24, 2023

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society

The University of Chicago



Thursday, March 23

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

10:00 a.m.

Lynna Dhanani (University of California, Davis)
“Jambuvijaya and the Jaisalmer Bhandar”

11:00 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m.

Arun Brahmhatt (St. Lawrence University)
“Starting from Scratch: Swaminarayan Monks and the Making of Archives”

12:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:45 p.m.

Steven Vose (University of Colorado, Denver)
“Editing Jain History into Being: The Singhi Jaina Granthamala Project”

2:45 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m.

Aleksandra Restifo (Florida International University)
“Publishing in the Early Twentieth Century: Nāthūrām Premī (1881-1960) and His Translation of Vādicandra’s Jñānasūryodaya-nāṭaka (1591 CE)”

4:00 p.m.

Break

4:15 p.m.

Roundtable Discussion on Book History

Reception to follow



Friday, March 24

9:30 a.m.

Saloni Joshi (Gujarat University)

“On Jinavijaya”

Via Zoom

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

Brian Hatcher (Tufts University)

“A Curious Sambandha: Lalmohan, Vidyasagar, and the Kulin Archive”

11:45 a.m.

Break

12:00 p.m.

John E. Cort (Denison University)

“Śāstraviśārad Jainācārya Vijay Dharmasūri and the Banaras School of Jain Studies”

1:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:30 p.m.

Anil Mundra (Rutgers University)

“Jinvijay, Ātmārām, and the Haribhadra Archive”

3:30 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m.

Summary Discussion

Reception to follow

About the Conference

In the late 19th century, European scholars began to realize that Jainism—a minority religion of India—was crucial to understanding the Indian past, both because of its own history and because Jain communities maintained the largest and most important manuscript archives in the country. This interest coincided with a movement from within the Jain community to open up the archives and publish the important texts of the tradition. Monks, especially from North Indian Śvetāmbara lineages, became some of the most important figures in this emerging scholarly project, which belonged to a larger transformation across religious traditions in colonial India. Their unparalleled philological skills, knowledge of Indian traditions, and access to archives resulted in scholarship that fundamentally transformed how we think of the Indian past.

*This conference is presented as part of the **Entanglements of the Indian Past** research project at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, with support from the Dr. Parag and Dulari Doshi Family and Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago Fund for the Jain Studies Program.*

Cover image: Jainacharya Vijaya Dharma Suri and L P Tessitori, *The Modern Review*, April 1923. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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