

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1074458

Details

Other names	THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR VAISHNAVA AND HINDU STUDIES, OCHS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1999-03-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address
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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF HINDU STUDIES, WHICH EXPRESSION SHALL IN THESE OBJECTS BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE TEACHING AND STUDIES OF THE LANGUAGE PERTAINING TO HINDUISM, HINDU LITERATURE AND SUBJECTS WHICH ARE, IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ANCILLARY THERETO AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF A CENTRE AND FACILITIES FOR POST GRADUATE RESEARCH IN HINDU STUDIES AND TRANSLATION OF PERTAINING LANGUAGES AND OTHER WORKS, AND THE COMPILATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ARCHIVE RELATING TO HINDU COMMUNITIES

Activities: The principal aim of the Centre, founded in 1997, is the study of Hindu culture, religion, languages, literature, philosophy, history, arts, and society, in all periods and in all parts of the world. All Hindu traditions are included.

Classification

- **How:** Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,140,644	£863,699	£1,640,989	9
2024-03-31	£436,288	£733,917	-	-
2023-03-31	£1,301,232	£612,134	£1,648,361	8
2022-03-31	£611,368	£507,722	£978,338	10
2021-03-31	£780,138	£589,557	£937,692	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LORD NAVNIT DHOLAKIA OBE DL	Chair	
AZAD SHIVDASANI		2015-10-06
Ajay Piramal		2015-10-06
Madhu Ruia		2015-06-25
PROFESSOR DIWAKAR ACHARYA		2016-06-23
PROFESSOR MARK SMITH		2015-09-06
Professor Mark Edwards		2013-06-27
Pujan Patel		2017-03-23
Ramesh Venkataraman		2013-06-27
SHAUNAKA RISHI DAS		

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1074458

Accounts

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Charity Registration No: 1074458

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2025

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered charity number 1074458

Trustees: Prof Diwaker Acharya (Humanities Division representative)
Prof Francis X Clooney (Resigned 30th September 2025)
Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Dr Mark Edwards (Theology Faculty representative)
Dr S Bhattacharya-Ford (Resigned 30th September 2025)
Prof Richard Gombrich (Resigned 30th September 2025)
Mr Pujan H Patel
Mr Ajay Piramal
Mrs Madhu Ruia
Mr Azad Shivdasani
Prof Mark Smith (Oriental Studies representative)
Mr Ramesh Venkataraman
Prof Himan Shruprabha Ray (Resigned 30th September 2025)

Director: Shaunaka Rishi Das

Auditors: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Registered office: 15 Magdalen Street
Oxford
OX1 3AE

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
P O Box 333
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The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Report by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statement of the Charity.

Structure, government and management

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is governed under a Trust Deed dated 1 February 1999 as amended by a Declaration of Trust dated 28th June 2006. Its registered charity number is 1074458. The Trustees of the Charity are shown on page 1.

Trustees' meetings are scheduled each year, with extra meetings called if required. The Director deals with the day-to-day management of the OCHS.

All decisions concerning policies and appointment of advisors and Trustees are referred to the Trustees. The Trustees keep the activities of the OCHS under regular annual review, identifying risks and mitigating them through internal controls and insurance. They approve the risk register annually.

Objectives and activities of the Charity

The OCHS is an academy for the study of Hindu culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world. The OCHS is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing and research. The OCHS is also a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University.

Achievements and performance of the charity

Teaching

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms was on sabbatical for part of the year, but gave the *Hinduism: Traditions and Theologies lectures*, supervised one DPhil student, one MSt student, and one BA student, in addition to the regular Hinduism tutorials.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen continued to teach the *Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims* course for the Faculty of Theology & Religion, which had six students this year. He tutored for the *Religion & Religions, Hinduism: Sources and Formations, Hinduism: Theology and Traditions*, and *Further Studies in Hinduism papers* as well as the *Buddhism: Sources and Formations* paper. He also tutored two visiting students and two MSt students, supervised two DPhil dissertations and acted at the University's internal examiner for two DPhil confirmations and a viva. He mentored two DPhil students for the Faculty's new Graduate Teacher Training Scheme and convened the Postgraduate Seminar in Hindu Studies.

Dr Jessica Frazier tutored five students for *Hinduism: Sources and Formations*, two for *Hinduism: Theology and Traditions*, four for *Nature of Religion*, two for *Further Studies* and dissertations, two visiting students, and fourteen students for *Religion & Religions*. She also taught two MSt students and supervised two DPhil candidates. Dr Frazier also served on the Undergraduate Studies Committee as representative for Study of Religions, and on the Study of Religions subject group as the secretary.

Prof. Gavin Flood continued his weekly *Readings in Phenomenology*. He gave tutorials for six undergraduate students in *Hinduism 1* and *Hinduism 2*, in *The Nature of Religion*, and *Prelims Religion and Religions*. He also supervised two visiting students, two MSt students and three DPhil candidates.

Research

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary

Project Leaders: Dr Robert Czyżykowski and Dr Lucian Wong

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary, co-directed by Dr Robert Czyżykowski (Jagiellonian University) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), is a 2-year research project initiated in January 2023 and funded by €50,000 grant by Jagiellonian University's Strategic Program Excellence Initiative, with supplementary funding from the OCHS. The project brings a team of specialists together to examine how ideas of body and embodiment take shape in early modern Bengal's rich and multi-religious corpus of vernacular literature.

Having completed two workshops at Jagiellonian University in Krakow (January 2023 and June 2024), a double session panel at the annual conference of the EASR (September 2023), and monthly virtual seminars over 18 months (February 2023–June 2024), the project has secured an Open Access publishing contract with Bloomsbury Academic for a volume of translations and critical essays based on materials developed during the course of the project, titled *Bodily Technologies in the Middle Bengali Imaginary: Embodiment, Ecstasy, Immortality*, edited by Dr. Lucian Wong and Dr. Robert Czyżykowski, which explores the rich repertoire of bodily techniques for navigating life and death developed across the religiously plural Middle Bengali literary corpus.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India

Project Leaders: Dr Arun Brahmhatt, Dr Avni Chag, and Dr Lucian Wong

The Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India project is a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. Project directors Dr Brahmhatt (Syracuse University) and Dr Wong (OCHS) have secured an Open Access publishing contract with The State University of New York (SUNY) Press for an edited volume, *Pluralizing Hinduism in the Empire of Reform*.

Bringing together scholars from Religious Studies, Philology, Intellectual History, Social History, Law, Anthropology, Political Science, and Theology, *Pluralizing Hinduism in the Empire of Reform* deploys Hindu sectarian currents – often overlooked in the context of the study of modern Hinduism – as entry points for critically re-thinking the texture of colonial Hindu life-worlds. Collectively, the book's chapters lay bare the tangled, heterogenous trajectories of these sectarian formations amidst the reifying, standardizing, and syndicating forces at work in this context of colonial transformation. Disrupting entrenched disciplinary habits, the book calls for the writing of more accommodating, pluriform histories of modern Hinduism that resist any neat teleologies of modernity and the emergent Indian nation-state

Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen and Dr Lucian Wong

Digital Curator: Michael Elison

Digital Consultant: Dr Ulrik Lyngs

The Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies project was founded by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Ulrik Lyngs and has developed the new OCHS Manuscript Database. The project is now led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Lucian Wong. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department of Computer Science, Oxford University) is the former Digital Lead and will continue as Digital Consultant for the project after the official launch of the OCHS Manuscript Database in Michaelmas Term 2024. Michael Elison (MPhil, Oxon) and Utsa Bose (DPhil candidate, Oxford) will continue as Digital Curators, and the researchers Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen will continue working on the Śākta dimension of the database. The Vaiṣṇava database dimension is led by Dr Lucian Wong and is currently being developed with several digital curators and a large digital collection of Vaiṣṇava manuscripts donated by Tokyo University through the facilitation of Dr Kiyokazu Okita.

The research project aims to establish a state-of-the-art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. A new focus and aim for the project is creating AI models for handwriting and text recognition in South Asian manuscripts, with groundbreaking potential. This project has received one of the largest awards in the latest round of Digital Scholarship (DiSc) Research Development grants at the University of Oxford (£42,250).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Śākta database that forms part of the OCHS Manuscript database aims to establish the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies. It makes the core texts of the traditions as well as large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. Our collaboration with the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute continues and their digital collection of tantric E-texts (the result of 22 years of digitisation work) will be shared on the OCHS database in combination with metadata and manuscript images providing an ideal case scenario of what is possible.

The OCHS Manuscript Database uses the advanced Mirador 3 viewer and a custom-made OCHS viewer. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with metadata, critical apparatus, notes, and images of the original manuscripts. It is possible to download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV), overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text), and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material.

The project has greatly expanded its manuscript and E-text volume. Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts are being made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions including the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute and the Matsya Digitization project resulting from an MoU with the Information Research Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The project has successfully produced:

- New workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including a 'Book builder' that can automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content from specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in the language of choice).
- A 'Text explorer' that makes it easy to perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages).
- A 'Text analyser' that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, among other functionalities.

Uploading large amounts of data, including manuscript images, metadata and transliteration of manuscripts, both known core texts and new/unknown research material.

Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies: Creating AI Models for Handwriting and Text Recognition in South Asian Manuscripts

This project is led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen in collaboration with Dr Lucian Wong and received one of the largest awards in the latest round of Digital Scholarship (DiSc) Research Development grants at the University of Oxford (£42,250). The project is breaking new ground at the intersection of traditional philology and cutting-edge AI.

As stated on the University webpage: "Firmly embedded in the Faculty of Theology and Religion's longstanding strengths in textual analysis and the study of religious traditions, the project combines the study of Hindu source texts with data science and AI. Its aim is to develop Devanāgarī Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capabilities using Transkribus AI software to convert ancient Sanskrit manuscripts into machine-readable, searchable e-texts—a potentially transformative development for scholars of religion, language, and cultural history. If successful, this high-risk, high-reward project could revolutionise access to primary sources in South Asian studies and place the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the forefront of Digital Humanities in the study of religion."

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Working with a team of Nepalese manuscript experts based at the OCHS Kathmandu Office, and under the digital curatorship of Tom Derrick in Oxford, the team is training the AI models using palm-leaf manuscripts from the Śākta and Vaiṣṇava traditions. The team based in Kathmandu has been working in the OCHS Office since January 2025 and consists of Professor Bhim Prasad Kandel, Bharat Maharjan, and Dr Kedar Ghimire.

The digital manuscript materials, many of which are previously unstudied, are hosted in the newly launched OCHS Indic Manuscript Database—an open-access platform developed by Dr Ulrik Lyngs and Dr Wernicke-Olesen, in collaboration with digital curator Michael Elison.

Gauḍīya Studies Research Programme

The Oxford Handbook of Gaudiya Vaishnava Studies

Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Lucian Wong, the co-directors of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism Research programme (with Pro. Måns Broo and Dr. Kiyokazu Okita), have secured a publishing contract with Oxford University Press (OUP) for a volume that will be included in OUP's esteemed *Oxford Handbooks* series.

The Oxford Handbook of Gaudiya Vaishnava Studies will present a compendium of essays that showcases the state-of-the-art in the field. The handbook brings together leading scholars from a variety of academic disciplines: religious studies, theology, philology, philosophy, literary studies, art history, anthropology, and sociology, among others. The chapters that constitute the volume will cover key aspects of the tradition across a variety of registers – historical and living, textual and embodied – and will be curated to provide a cogent framework for understanding Gaudiya Vaishnavism in all its heterogeneity and complexity. Useful across a spectrum of expertise, from advanced undergraduate to seasoned researcher, and indispensable for any university teaching that engages with Gaudiya Vaishnava-related themes, *The Oxford Handbook of Gaudiya Vaishnava Studies* aims to be the go-to resource for anyone undertaking critical exploration of this rich Hindu devotional religion of transregional and transnational significance.

The Vaishnava Sensorium

Project Leaders: Dr Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong

This project, led by Dr Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), brings together scholars from the fields of textual studies, literature, philosophy, anthropology, ritual studies, and art history, to share and inspire research that focuses on the sensorium as it is understood in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy, poetry, drama, aesthetics, and practice. The project aims to produce an edited volume on the “Vaishnava Sensorium” that charts a new poetics of perception and experience of the divine among the Gauḍīyas (and their reverberations). In December 2024 and February 2025 the project directors hosted two workshops – at Presidency College, Kolkata, and the University of Massachusetts (UMass), Boston, respectively – in which project participants engaged in close discussion of pre-circulated drafts chapters intended for the volume. Workshop participants included: Dr Abhishek Bose, Dr David Buchta, Ishan Chakrabarti, Dr Upal Chakrabarti, Dr Robert Czyżykowski, Dr Jonathan Edelmann, Eileen Goddard, Dr Eben Graves, Prof. Shaman Hatley, Prof. Glen Hayes, Prof. Ayesha Irani, Dr Carola Lorea, Prof. Rebecca Manning, Dr Kiyokazu Okita, Dr Sukanya Sarbadhikary, Dr Dhurjati Sarma, Dr Aleksandar Uskokov, and Dr Lucian Wong.

The project co-directors are currently editing chapters and working toward securing a publishing contract with an appropriate publisher for the volume.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Gauḍīya Patrikā

Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong and Dr Sumantra Rudra

The product of an institutional collaboration between the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, and the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, *Gauḍīya Patrikā: A Digital Archive of Bengali Vaiṣṇava Periodicals* is an online, open-access, fully text-searchable digital archive of Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodical literature from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. With the central objective of facilitating research on this expansive periodical corpus, Gauḍīya Patrikā contains: digital images of every page of nearly every periodical in its collection, displayed through the IIIF-compliant Mirador viewer; OCR generated text displayed side by side with the corresponding image file; a list of contents searchable under several heads; and a full-text search engine. Having previewed Gauḍīya Patrikā at the OCHS's Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies event in November 2024, the project team is now due to publicly launch the site.

Gauḍīya Study Programme

This Trinity Term marks the fifth year of the online Gaudiya Study Programme. This online tutorial programme was started in April 2020 and introduces current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students across the globe--from New Zealand to the Americas. The programme is led by Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, and includes among its teachers Dr Māns Broo, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, Dr Kenneth Valpey, and Dr Lucian Wong.

After the success of the first in-person retreat at the Vedanta Centre in Lincoln in 2023, a new study retreat is currently planned to be held in Vrindavan, India in December 2025.

Indian Philosophy

Project Leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

Dr Jessica Frazier continued to convene the Senior Seminars in Indian Philosophy twice termly with eight talks culminating in a 'Radical Phenomenology in India' conference at Trinity College on 2nd June. Gave talks exploring and promoting Indian metaphysics and philosophy of mind at the University of Groningen and King's College, London. Joined Birmingham University's Templeton-funded Global Philosophy of Religion project as an advisor, and invited to speak on the American Philosophical Association podcast about topics in Indian philosophy.

The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism, Vaiṣṇavism, and Buddhism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops, and seminars in Oxford and elsewhere as well as numerous volumes and articles. New projects include a translation project of the *Ṣaṭcakraṇirūpana* aiming at a full English and Danish translation along with an annotated edition of the text. The translation project is led by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and forms part of the newly established Scandinavian Indological Society.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen is supervising two new Oxford DPhil students as the main supervisor in the area of Śākta Studies: Sharvi Maheshwari ('Śākta Rituals in Bhaktapur: The Navadurgā Dances as Practiced Among the Newars') and Gonzalo Fernandez ('An Examination of the Role of Yoginīs in Śākta Tantric Śaivism'). Professor Gavin Flood is co-supervisor for both students.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Oxford History of Hinduism: Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions

Dr Wernicke-Olesen has secured a contract with Oxford University Press for a new volume in the esteemed Oxford History of Hinduism series on *Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions*. The volume is edited by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and contains two chapters by Professor Alexis Sanderson on Śāktism from Kashmir and Beyond as well as contributions from other leading scholars in the field of tantric and Śākta Studies. It is anticipated to become a groundbreaking volume.

Tantra in South Asia: Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. Alexis Sanderson, and Prof. Gavin Flood

In 2022, a high-profile research and publication project with Professor Alexis Sanderson, Professor Gavin Flood, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen was added to the Śākta Traditions research programme. The Śākta and Śaiva tantric traditions are found in various places in India and Nepal. They form the ritual and philosophical core of many yogic and tantric traditions and movements that were exported to the rest of the world, and they have now become part and parcel of global religious history. An understanding of the Śākta Śaiva traditions, especially as they developed in Kashmir and beyond, is crucial for an understanding of the history of Indian religions as well as an understanding of modern yoga and tantra as it is practised today in many places around the world. These traditions can be traced back many centuries but until recently, tantric worship in Kashmir was understood simply as 'Kashmir Śaivism', the worship of the god Śiva including all deities related to him. But it is now evident that this understanding does not suffice to describe the actual practices and forms of religion found in the texts and lived by people. At the core of Śaiva worship and Śaiva philosophy, we find that Śākta worship, or worship of the Goddess, plays a prominent role. This insight means that much in our understanding of Indian religions is about to change, and the publications included in this project will contribute to the rewriting of the history of Indian Religions that Professor Sanderson's work has precipitated. The Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond project will therefore establish the OCHS as a central institution for Tantric and Śākta studies in the UK. The project outputs are:

- A fully annotated translation of the Netratatra (Amṛteśatantra) with an introduction in three volumes by Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen to be published in the Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions series. The first volume is currently being edited and will be submitted for publication in 2025. Consultants are Professor Alexis Sanderson and Dr Rajan Khattiwoda.
- A multi-volume critical edition and translation of Abhinavagupta's Tantrāloka by Professor Alexis Sanderson (forthcoming).
- Weekly Netroddyota online reading sessions by Professor Alexis Sanderson (July 2020-July 2021) are being edited.

Fortnightly manuscript reading seminars at the OCHS in Michaelmas Term every year by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Professor Gavin Flood and Professor Alexis Sanderson for the OCHS and the Theology and Religion Faculty. In Michaelmas Term 2024 Dr Wernicke-Olesen offered "Readings in Śāktism: The Netratatra" at the OCHS.

Postgraduate Seminar in Hindu Studies: Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions

Convener: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

This new series of postgraduate seminars in Hindu Studies focuses on current DPhil research in Indic religions with a Study of Religion oriented approach. In each seminar, 2-3 DPhil candidates will present on a topic they are currently investigating. These informal seminars offer an excellent way to discover and learn about current research in the field of Hindu Studies as well as an opportunity for candidates to present and receive valuable feedback on work in progress. In Michaelmas Term 2024 the theme was Śāktism and the tantric traditions convened by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and included the following presentations: Gonzalo Fernandez: 'An Examination of the Soteriological Role of Yoginīs in Śākta Tantric Śaivism', Utsa Bose: 'Translation, Meaning and Metaphor: Two Śākta Readings of a Pandemic in Calcutta', and Sharvi Maheswari: 'The Transfer of Energy Among Goddesses: Codification and Transformation in Bhaktapur's Śākta Traditions'.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

OCHS Kathmandu Office and Summer University in Nepal

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen and other affiliates of the Śākta Traditions research programme established a study and research centre in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitisation and fieldwork. The office contains meeting facilities, working desks, digitisation equipment and a growing reference library. MA Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

The highly successful OCHS Summer University in Kathmandu (summeruni.co.uk) took place at the Yak and Yeti Hotel in August 2024. Around 20 international students attended and many of the participants were Oxford students who are or have been supervised and taught by Fellows of the OCHS. The course will resume in August 2026. The course in 2024 explored topics in Śākta Hinduism, tantric traditions, and goddess worship in the Kathmandu Valley. It combined lectures with excursions to local religious sites, rituals, and traditional local practices. The course aims to bridge theory and practice by building understanding through participation. The course offers unique fieldwork opportunities to students, and for graduate attendees, and it has significantly contributed to their ongoing research endeavours. The course has attracted students across disciplines beyond religious studies (history, sociology, languages, politics, etc.) Lecturers and tutors include Professor Gavin Flood (Oxford), Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen (Oxford), Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg), Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo), Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Oxford), Gitte Poulsen (Aarhus and Oxford), and Laura Anderson (Oxford) as well as local scholars including Professor Kashinath Nyaupane from the Nepal Sanskrit University (NSU) and Manish Manandhar, a famed architect in Kathmandu. The Summer University is ECTS accredited through a collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding with the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society facilitated by Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen. The Summer University is managed by Gitte Poulsen and Laura Anderson with Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen as consultants.

Network of Hinduism in Dialogue

Project Leader: Dr Melanie Barbato

The Network of Hinduism in Dialogue aims at fostering a friendly scholarly community that centres the Hindu traditions in the study of interreligious relations and interfaith dialogue. In 2025, the network has started online meetups to provide an opportunity for discussion and exchange among its global membership. The first guest speaker in March was Shankar Nair who presented on the Muslim encounter with the Upaniṣads. In June, Brian P. Dunn spoke about Hindu and Christian resources for theological reasoning with focus on Rāmānuja's pramāṇas and the Wesleyan quadrilateral. There was also an in-person meetup in July in Vienna for members who participated in the annual conference of the European Academy of Religion. Project leader Melanie Barbato published an overview article on Hinduism in interreligious relations in Religion Compass and participated in several interfaith gatherings, including the Fijian faith leaders dialogues on the topic of reconciliation in Lami and Suva and the G20 Interfaith Forum in Cape Town. The network team is currently preparing the call for papers for an online symposium on Hindu approaches to dialogue planned for 2026. The network invites new applications for membership through the link on the OCHS project website.

Jaina technologies of the Body

Project Leader: Dr Ruth Westoby

Ruth Westoby was appointed the Bhagawan Shri Sumatinath Postdoctoral Fellow in Jaina Studies at OCHS in January 2025 in a three-year post. The position is generously funded by the Jain community. Dr Westoby directs the research project 'Jaina Technologies of the Body'. This research project aims to collect and analyse the experiences of Jains on religious bodily practices alongside historical textual sources. Jainism, with its emphasis on non-violence (*ahimsā*) and purification of the self (*jīva*), offers distinct bodily practices oriented towards cultivation, control and liberation from the body. Important bodily practices include worship, singing, mantra, study, yoga, meditation and fasting. This project focuses on such 'technologies of the body' that are based on ideas and beliefs about reproduction and non-reproduction, and bodily practices motivated by celibacy and menstruation management.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The objective of this project is to conduct participant interviews with Jain practitioners or practitioners inspired by Jainism, whether renunciant or lay, male, female or third gender, and whether current or former practitioners. These discussions will be analysed alongside Jain texts instructing and theorising bodily practices. The project was approved by Oxford University's CUREC (Central University Research Ethics Committee) under the reference P0116/RE001 in June 2025, upon which Ruth completed initial fieldwork in Pune, Maharashtra. Under the auspices of the International Jain Summer School Ruth benefited from a rich programme of study and conducted around 20 interviews on menstruation while on the programme and follow up online interviews. The interview programme will continue through the project alongside text-critical studies of the Jain corpus. Practitioner experiences will be analysed alongside Jain and other Indic texts instructing and theorising bodily practices. By combining textual analysis with participant interviews this project aims to bridge historical perspectives with current practices, offering an analysis that combines text-critical historical work with contemporary lived religious practice.

Alongside directing the research project 'Technologies of the Body' Ruth is developing a network of Jain Studies at OCHS, including a programme of seminars and lectures. The programme was inaugurated with a lecture by Kshitij Jain in June. Ruth is also bridging Jaina Studies between OCHS and the University of Birmingham's Jain research programme lead by Marie-Helene Gorisse. Ruth collaborated through chairing a panel at Birmingham University's conference in memory of Paul Dundas (September 2025) and contributed lecture content to an undergraduate course at Birmingham University.

Complementing the Jain Studies research project, Ruth is researching menstruation more broadly in contemporary spiritual and religious contexts as an Associate Researcher at Inform, King's College London. Ruth is also working on her book project resulting from her PhD dissertation, *Reversing Reproduction in Premodern Yoga*. Ruth contributes to the scholarly community and future directions in yoga studies through co-organising the Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana conference to be hosted by CNRS Paris in May 2026 and through her role as book review editor for the peer-reviewed journal *Body and Religion*, published by Equinox, a three-year term that began in February 2025.

Investment Strategy

These funds are managed on behalf of the OCHS by Sanderson Financial Limited. They are invested in a mix of equity, fixed income, and property funds. The investment adviser is mandated to recommend investments which conform to ethical investment principles as much as is possible and or available within specific asset classes and apply a cautious risk strategy to the overall portfolio, which over the long term provide steady positive income and capital growth.

The investment advisers approach to ethical investment principles is to try, as much as possible, within each asset class to recommend funds to the portfolio which undertake "negative screening" of their investments, thereby minimising the potential of the portfolio being invested in so called "sin stocks" such as companies which profit from the sale of tobacco, gambling and weapons.

Investment Performance and Target Returns

The Committee are happy to report that since the first investment made in October 2016 the Investment Portfolio has seen a net capital growth of 19.62%.

This capital growth has allowed the committee to distribute £61,825 of funds since 2019 to the OCHS to support its scholarship and research activities.

The committee aims to return 3.5% of the total Investment Portfolio on an annual basis to the OCHS to fund scholarships and research activities. This requires it to target annual net capital growth of 5%.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties and have carried out an annual review of their activities in this regard.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities ('SOFA') for the year has been produced on page 12 showing movements on unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. The OCHS received donations of £874,755 (2024: £246,498) during the year. Fee income of £164,110 (2024: £145,591) was received and the charity had costs of £863,697 (2024: £741,304). The net surplus for the year was £276,946 (2024: net deficit of £284,318).

Funds and reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2025 are showing a surplus of £984,790 (2024: £780,473) with designated reserves showing a surplus of £300,783 (2024: £265,168). After adjusting for fixed assets free reserves are £104,952 (2024: £192,897). The OCHS has plans to increase this surplus with the acquisition of new premises, which will reduce costs and ensure the charity's long term sustainability.

Future Plans

The OCHS continues to expand and the charity continues to campaign for funds to enable the purchase of new premises in Oxford. This will ensure the OCHS can continue to develop its facilities and increase its student numbers.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Wenn Townsend were re-appointed auditors to the OCHS at the Trustees' meeting.

This report was approved by Trustees on 29th October 2025.

Shaunaka Rishi Das

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 20 and 21, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
30 St Giles
Oxford
..... 2025

Wenn Townsend is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming from:											
Donations											
- Other donations	2	656,228	121,983	100,394	-	878,605	133,131	78,817	34,550	-	246,498
Charitable activities	3	164,110	-	-	-	164,110	145,591	-	-	-	145,591
Investments	4	98,434	71	(451)	386	98,440	41,065	35	184	421	41,705
Total income		<u>918,772</u>	<u>122,054</u>	<u>99,943</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>1,141,155</u>	<u>319,787</u>	<u>78,852</u>	<u>34,734</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>433,794</u>
Expenditure on:											
Charitable activities	5	<u>730,487</u>	<u>79,081</u>	<u>56,655</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>867,695</u>	<u>649,375</u>	<u>75,378</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>7,387</u>	<u>741,304</u>
Total expenditure		<u>730,487</u>	<u>79,081</u>	<u>56,655</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>867,695</u>	<u>649,375</u>	<u>75,378</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>7,387</u>	<u>741,304</u>
Net gains/(loss) on investments	10	236	8,438	(625)	(4,563)	3,486	-	(3,727)	6,642	20,277	23,192
Net income/expenditure		188,521	51,411	42,663	(5,649)	276,946	(329,588)	(253)	32,212	13,311	(284,318)
Transfer between funds		<u>15,796</u>	<u>(15,796)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>344,296</u>	<u>(13,459)</u>	<u>(330,837)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		204,317	35,615	42,663	(5,649)	276,946	14,708	(13,712)	(298,625)	13,311	(284,318)
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024		<u>780,473</u>	<u>265,168</u>	<u>102,046</u>	<u>216,356</u>	<u>1,364,043</u>	<u>765,765</u>	<u>278,880</u>	<u>400,671</u>	<u>203,045</u>	<u>1,648,361</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2025		<u><u>984,790</u></u>	<u><u>300,783</u></u>	<u><u>144,709</u></u>	<u><u>210,707</u></u>	<u><u>1,640,989</u></u>	<u><u>780,473</u></u>	<u><u>265,168</u></u>	<u><u>102,046</u></u>	<u><u>216,356</u></u>	<u><u>1,364,043</u></u>

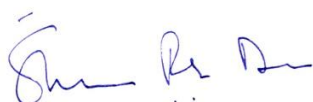
The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Balance sheet
At 31 March 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	10	321,911		339,944	
Tangible assets	11	2,802,880		2,802,263	
			3,124,791		3,142,207
Current assets					
Debtors	12	36,625		33,988	
Cash at bank and in hand		67,923		59,848	
		104,548		93,836	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(176,797)		(138,838)	
Net current assets			(72,249)		(45,002)
Amounts falling due after one year	14	(1,411,553)		(1,733,162)	
			(1,411,553)		(1,733,162)
Net assets			1,640,989		1,364,043
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			984,790		780,473
Designated	15		300,783		265,168
Restricted funds	16a		144,709		102,046
Endowment funds	16b		210,707		216,356
Total funds			1,640,989		1,364,043

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 29th October 2025

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (analysed below)	8,587	1,511,500
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest/dividends received	659	7,572
Net cash (transferred in)/withdrawn from investment account	50	(19,650)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,222)	(2,536,659)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(513)	(2,547,737)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	8,074	(1,037,237)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	59,849	1,097,085
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	67,923	59,848

Note:

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	276,946	(284,318)
Adjustments for:		
Interest/dividends received	(1,641)	(8,241)
Depreciation charges	605	605
(Gain)/loss on investments	16,825	(23,194)
Gifted shares into investment portfolio	-	-
Investment management fees	2,139	1,872
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(2,637)	31,896
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(283,650)	1,792,880
Net cash provided by operating activities	8,587	1,511,500

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Fund accounting

The Charity's total funds consist of:

- I. Unrestricted funds are general funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- II. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The trustees may move funds between unrestricted and designated funds.
- III. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
- IV. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Giri Scholarship. This fund will be used to grant scholarships that the Centre deems appropriate, with the request that the Centre considers projects aimed at Bhakti traditions. Income arising on the endowment is to be used to fund the scholarships and is included in restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment manager's advice and legal advice relating to the fund are charged to the fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from charitable activities is CED online course fees.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Resources expended comprise the following:

- I. The costs of generating voluntary income relates to costs incurred to promote fundraising.
- II. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- III. Governance costs reflect the costs incurred which are directly attributable to the management of the Charity's assets, organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

e) Tangible assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line / 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance basis
Freehold and long leasehold property	-	Nil

f) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their value can otherwise be measured reliably.

g) Pension costs

The charity makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme for certain employees. The pension cost charged to the income and expenditure account represents contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

h) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

i) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees can only consider with reasonable certainty a budgetary period of 12 months from the year end due to the difficulty in securing voluntary income for unrestricted funds.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Deed of covenants	19,702	-	-	-	19,702	19,862
Individual donations	636,526	118,133	100,394	-	855,053	226,636
	<u>656,228</u>	<u>118,133</u>	<u>100,394</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>874,755</u>	<u>246,498</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Weekend Schools	22,390	-	-	22,390	6,842
BAP's lunches	4,002	-	-	4,002	4,488
Online course	136,352	-	-	136,352	132,013
Book Publishing	1,366	-	-	1,366	2,248
	<u>164,110</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,110</u>	<u>145,591</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Interest receivable	653	71	(451)	386	659	6,152
Dividends receivable	-	-	-	-	-	1,420
Property income	97,781	-	-	-	97,781	34,133
	<u>98,434</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>(451)</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>98,440</u>	<u>41,705</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Staff costs	267,548	-	6,222	-	273,770	249,589
Lectures, scholarships and grants	166,357	78,999	49,765	-	295,121	218,522
Consultancy fees	21,642	-	-	-	21,642	27,115
Rent, rates and service charges	82,913	-	-	-	82,913	71,841
Insurance – professional indemnity	583	-	-	-	583	557
Insurance – general	10,351	-	-	-	10,351	5,792
Repairs and maintenance	8,889	-	-	-	8,889	8,789
Printing, postage and stationery	1,364	-	-	-	1,364	2,190
Telephone	2,062	-	-	-	2,062	1,624
Travelling and motor expenses	3,835	-	-	-	3,835	5,649
General expenses	36,686	-	-	-	36,686	19,207
Investment Management Charges	-	82	668	1,472	2,174	1,870
Interest and bank charges	90,192	-	-	-	90,192	90,760
Advertising and marketing	4,234	-	-	-	4,234	5,544
Governance costs (note 6)	33,831	-	-	-	33,831	32,255
	<u>730,487</u>	<u>75,131</u>	<u>56,607</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>863,697</u>	<u>741,304</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Professional fees	27,814	-	-	-	27,814	25,263
Audit fees	5,412	-	-	-	5,412	6,388
Depreciation	605	-	-	-	605	605
	<u>33,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,831</u>	<u>32,255</u>

7 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No Trustee received or waived any remuneration during the year (2024: £Nil).

The Trustees/director received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,465 (2024: £1,067).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Director, Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das.

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das did not receive any remuneration during the year (2024: £Nil).

8 Taxation

The OCHS is a registered Charity and is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025	2024
Administration, Continuing Education and Academic Staff	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	251,523	229,533
National insurance contributions	18,099	16,202
Pension contributions	4,148	3,854
	<u>273,770</u>	<u>249,589</u>

No members of staff received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2024: nil).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Investments

Investment portfolio	Cash Reserves £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
<u>Market value</u>			
As at 1 April 2024	28,497	311,447	339,944
Cash transferred in	12,500	-	12,500
Cash withdrawn	(12,550)	-	(12,550)
Net disposals	(21,224)	21,244	20
Increase/(decrease) in market value	-	(16,825)	(16,825)
Interest Received	200	-	200
Dividends Received	761	-	761
Management Charges	(2,139)	-	(2,139)
As at 31 March 2025	<u>6,045</u>	<u>315,866</u>	<u>321,911</u>
Market value of UK quoted investments			321,911
Overseas quoted investments			-
			<u>321,911</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Freehold Property £	Total £
Cost				
At 1st April 2024	265,000	44,543	2,536,659	2,846,202
Additions	-	1,222	-	1,222
At 31st March 2025	<u>265,000</u>	<u>45,765</u>	<u>2,536,659</u>	<u>2,847,424</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2024	-	43,939	-	43,939
Charge for the period	-	605	-	605
At 31st March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>45,544</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,544</u>
Net book value				
At 31st March 2025	<u>265,000</u>	<u>1,221</u>	<u>2,536,659</u>	<u>2,802,880</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>265,000</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>2,536,659</u>	<u>2,802,263</u>

The library collection has been gifted to the Charity and has no cost or value in the financial statements. The Trustees deem the value of the library to total £200,000 but no formal valuation has been obtained as the Trustees feel that the cost of such a valuation would outweigh any benefit. No depreciation is provided on the charity's leasehold property, which is held on a long lease, or freehold property as the residual value of the properties is equal or greater than their carrying value. The properties are maintained in good condition ensuring their value does not diminish.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	14,753	12,480
Prepayments and accrued income	19,859	21,506
Other debtors	2,013	-
	<u>36,625</u>	<u>33,986</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	38,812	38,868
Other taxes and social security costs	69,959	21,091
Accruals and deferred income	68,026	78,879
	<u>176,797</u>	<u>138,838</u>

Included within accruals and deferred income is £16,783 (2024: £20,460) relating to income received in advance for courses/events held in the year ended 31st March 2026.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Loans	1,411,553	1,733,162
	<u>1,411,553</u>	<u>1,733,162</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Designated funds

2025	1 April 2024	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	16,277	(12,173)	(4,104)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	20,000	(10,923)	(9,077)	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	123,705	-	-	-	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	10,291	199	(175)	-	10,316
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	(6,393)	4,608	(12,908)	-	(14,693)
Library Equipment	1,340	2,200	(1,250)	-	2,290
Janauai Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	35,724	2,988	(3,330)	-	35,382
Research Funds Academics	3,009	20,694	(790)	-	22,913
CED Development Fund	16,108	3,794	-	-	19,902
Academic Research Endowment Fund	20,995	8,290	-	-	29,285
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	8,630	5,228	(1,135)	(2,615)	10,108
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	17,620	-	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	285	-	-	-	285
Nepal Summer School	8,704	44,183	-	-	19,832
Fellowship – Surrender M Bahl	7,000	-	(3,010)	-	3,990
E & G Krishna Estate	(61)	-	-	-	(61)
Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Saivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies	275	-	(275)	-	-
Estate of Late Dr Bharat Kumar Upadhyaya	1,080	20	(57)	-	1,043
Donations India Administrator	-	2,010	-	-	2,010
	<u>265,168</u>	<u>130,492</u>	<u>(79,081)</u>	<u>(15,796)</u>	<u>300,783</u>
2024	1 April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	17,764	(13,739)	(4,025)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	20,000	(13,469)	(6,531)	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	123,705	-	-	-	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	9,487	32	772	-	10,291
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	(2,989)	1,856	(4,836)	(424)	(6,393)
Library Equipment	340	2,400	(1,400)	-	1,340
Janauai Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	34,581	10,899	(9,756)	-	35,724
Research Funds Academics	3,709	-	(700)	-	3,009
CED Development Fund	30,627	(14,519)	-	-	16,108
Academic Research Endowment Fund	25,740	-	(4,745)	-	20,995
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	6,150	4,959	-	(2,479)	8,630
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	17,620	-	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	285	-	-	-	285
Nepal Summer School	3,038	34,458	(28,792)	-	8,704
Fellowship – Surrender M Bahl	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
E & G Krishna Estate	2,456	-	(2,517)	-	(61)
Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Saivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies	275	-	-	-	275
Estate of Late Dr Bharat Kumar Upadhyaya	-	1,003	77	-	1,080
	<u>278,880</u>	<u>78,852</u>	<u>(79,105)</u>	<u>(13,459)</u>	<u>265,168</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

15 Designated funds (continued)

Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship was offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship was awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality and a holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship was provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship was given to scholars who furthered the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre and worked in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund

The Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Gopal and Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, who are long term supporters of the centre.

It is their desire that these funds are utilised by the centre in carrying out its academic, research and continuing education activities over the next several years.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

16a Restricted funds

2025	1 April 2024	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2025
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	5,291	44,353	(41,715)	-	7,929
Bhumi project	334	8,250	(7,250)	-	1,334
New home for OCHS	-	201	-	-	201
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	10,375	102	(76)	-	10,401
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	49,570	11,936	(349)	-	61,156
Tristan Elby	6,888	(873)	(47)	-	5,868
Tagore Centre	5,292	147	(336)	-	5,103
Dr. Charu Chandra Dasgupta Memorial Bursary	10,896	202	(6,881)	-	4,217
Bhagwan Sumantinath Jain Post	-	35,000	-	-	35,000
	<u>102,046</u>	<u>99,318</u>	<u>(56,655)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,709</u>
2024	1 April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2024
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	4,270	7,171	(6,150)	-	5,291
Bhumi project	334	-	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	(330,837)	-
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	9,570	967	(162)	-	10,375
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	35,167	16,137	(1,734)	-	49,570
Tristan Elby	6,993	851	(1,056)	-	6,788
Tagore Centre	-	5,317	(25)	-	5,292
Dr. Charu Chandra Dasgupta Memorial Bursary	-	10,933	(37)	-	10,896
	<u>400,671</u>	<u>41,376</u>	<u>(9,164)</u>	<u>(330,837)</u>	<u>102,046</u>

The Scholarship fund and Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary represents monies collected to fund student bursaries and scholarships.

The Bhumi project fund represents monies collected to fund our Bhumi project.

The New home for OCHS fund represents monies donated to the Charity to contribute to the planned purchase of new premises.

The Opportunity Scholarship was established to support a doctoral or post-doctoral student.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

16b Endowment funds

2025	1 April 2024 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2025 £
Giri Scholarship	216,356	(4,177)	(1,472)	-	210,707
2024	1 April 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2024 £
Giri Scholarship	203,045	20,698	(7,387)	0	216,356

The Giri Scholarship is an endowment fund established with an initial donation of £200,000. Donations into the fund constitute a permanent and everlasting gift to the Centre towards establishing an endowed scholarship. It is intended that by 2041 the total donations to the Giri Scholarship fund will be £890,000.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

2025	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2025 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	2,468,592	300,783	144,709	210,707	3,124,791
Current assets	104,548	-	-	-	104,548
Liabilities	(1,588,350)	-	-	-	(1,588,350)
Total net assets	984,790	300,783	144,709	210,707	1,640,989
2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2024 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	2,558,637	265,168	102,046	216,356	3,142,207
Current assets	93,836	-	-	-	93,836
Liabilities	(1,872,000)	-	-	-	(1,872,000)
Total net assets	780,473	265,168	102,046	216,356	1,364,043

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

18 Going concern

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is reliant on the continued support of its benefactors. The charity's property fundraising campaign is continuing. The acquisition of new premises will reduce costs and help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity.

19 Operating leases

A lease on the charity's charitable premises at 13/15 Magdalen Street Oxford was signed on 8th April 2016, covering a period of 5 years from 24th June 2013, at an annual rate of £45,000. The charity's total future minimum lease payments are as follows:-

A lease renewal was signed during the 19/20 financial year at an annual rate of £55,035 with a 3 year break clause.

	2025 £	2024 £
Land & Buildings		
<1 year	-	45,749
Between 2 and 5 years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>45,749</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>45,749</u>

20. Related party

An interest free loan of £1,300,000 was received on 15 November 2024, an overseas charitable foundation. The loan is repayable on 14 November 2029 although early payment is allowed. The funds were used to partly repay the £1,700,000 loan used to purchase the charity's freehold premises.

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1074458

Accounts

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Charity Registration No: 1074458

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2024

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered charity number 1074458

Trustees: Prof Diwaker Acharya (Humanities Division representative)
Prof Francis X Clooney
Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Dr Mark Edwards (Theology Faculty representative)
Dr S Bhattacharya-Ford
Prof Richard Gombrich
Mr Pujan H Patel
Mr Ajay Piramal
Mrs Madhu Ruia
Mr Azad Shivdasani
Prof Mark Smith (Oriental Studies representative)
Mr Ramesh Venkataraman
Prof Himan Shruprabha Ray

Director: Shaunaka Rishi Das

Auditors: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Registered office: 15 Magdalen Street
Oxford
OX1 3AE

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
P O Box 333
Oxford
OX1 3HS

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Report by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statement of the Charity.

Structure, government and management

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is governed under a Trust Deed dated 1 February 1999 as amended by a Declaration of Trust dated 28th June 2006. Its registered charity number is 1074458. The Trustees of the Charity are shown on page 1.

Trustees' meetings are scheduled each year, with extra meetings called if required. The Director deals with the day-to-day management of the OCHS.

All decisions concerning policies and appointment of advisors and Trustees are referred to the Trustees. The Trustees keep the activities of the OCHS under regular annual review, identifying risks and mitigating them through internal controls and insurance. They approve the risk register annually.

Objectives and activities of the Charity

The OCHS is an academy for the study of Hindu culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world. The OCHS is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing and research. The OCHS is also a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University.

Achievements and performance of the charity

Teaching

Fellows of the Centre continued teaching students of the University, from undergraduates to doctorate students. Prof. Gavin Flood is currently supervising three DPhil students, Dr Jessica Frazier and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen are supervising two DPhil students each, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms one DPhil student.

Dr Jessica Frazier gave the lectures for the paper *Indian Philosophy* and offered two lectures for *Religion & Religions* paper. She tutored for the *Religion & Religions, Hinduism: Sources and Formations, Hinduism: Theology and Traditions*, and *Further Studies in Hinduism papers* and supervised one Dissertation.

Dr Wernicke-Olesen continues to teach the Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims course for the Faculty of Theology & Religion, which had six students this year. Apart from his research leave in Michaelmas term 2023, he tutored for the *Hinduism: Sources and Formations* paper supervised two undergraduate theses and examined an Oxford DPhil candidate.

Professor Gavin Flood examined three Oxford DPhil candidates and one external PhD (SOAS). He gave undergraduate tutorials for the papers on *Hinduism 1: Sources and Traditions* and *Hinduism 2: Modern Hinduism, Further Studies in Hinduism*, and *Nature of Religion*. Professor Flood also gave series of tutorials on the *History of Buddhist thinking, Buddhism, Mysticism*, and *Non Western Philosophy of Time*.

Research

Below you can find an update on the developments on our research programmes and research projects.

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Māns Broo, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr Lucian Wong

This academic year, the Gauḍīya Research Programme continued to grow. The team was joined by a new Research Fellow, Dr Abhishek Bose (University of Calcutta, and a visiting fellow at the OCHS in Trinity Term). Two new research projects were also launched: one large collaborative project on mapping the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava world in Bengal and one on Mādhavendra Purī and the background of the Gauḍīya tradition. The other existing projects also continued to grow, as detailed below.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Gauḍīya Patrikā Digital Database

Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong and Dr Sumantra Rudra

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), Kolkata, holds one of the richest standalone Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodical collections in the world. Dr Lucian Wong, co-director of the OCHS's Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism Research Programme, and Dr Sumantra Rudra, Dean of Academic Affairs at the BRC, have been leading an initiative to build a state-of-the-art, fully text-searchable digital database of the BRC's periodical collection in collaboration with Jadavpur University's School of Cultural Texts and Records (SCTR). The project has now entered the final stretch of Phase One of the project, which will culminate in the public launch of the database, showcasing with BRC's periodical collection. To co-ordinate this, in April 2024, Dr Wong and Dr Rudra met with Dr Sukanta Chaudhury and the SCTR team he heads in Kolkata at Jadavpur University.

The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium: Experiencing the Divine in Eastern India

Project Leaders: Dr Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong

This project, led by Dr Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), brings together scholars from the fields of textual studies, literature, philosophy, anthropology, ritual studies, and art history, to share and inspire research that focuses on the sensorium as it is understood in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy, poetry, drama, aesthetics, and practice. The project aims to produce an edited volume on the Vaiṣṇava sensorium that charts the new poetics of perception and experience of the divine among the Gauḍīyas and beyond. To this end, project members have been meeting monthly throughout this year as a group to present and discuss their research. Project leaders are currently in the process of organising a final project workshop, due to be held in February 2025 at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Mādhavendra Purī and the Caitanya Sampradāya

Project Leader: Prof. Abhishek Bose

The formation of a sampradāya – a community of praxis – is a curious threshold. There is a moment therein signifying a dichotomy of rupture and continuity, lending novelty and legitimacy to the sampradāya, respectively. The formation(s) identified today as Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism or the Caitanya sampradāya coagulating around the figure of Caitanya Mahāprabhu (1486-1533) had caused lasting transformations on ideological, socio-cultural and religious levels. Although, by and large, Caitanya himself is perceived as the point of origin for this discourse, Mādhavendra Purī (c. fifteenth-early sixteenth century) is also recognised as one of the major initiators predating Caitanya Mahāprabhu in that sampradāya, and yet, he remains an enigmatic figure in their history and collective memory. During my search for the last few years, I have realised that Caitanya Mahāprabhu's recognition of Mādhavendra as the first shoot of bhakti has to be revisited for more than one reason. Firstly, the majority of the key associates/ allies of Mahāprabhu can be traced back to the lineage or circle of Mādhavendra. Secondly, most of the 'pilgrimage' routes traversed by Caitanya follow in the footsteps of Mādhavendra and, moreover, all the sites established by Caitanya as important centres of the sampradāya can be shown to be operating from Mādhavendra's times. Also, the cycle of stories involving Mādhavendra Purī displays a symptomatic predilection towards expressions of prema-bhakti, identified as the defining marker of Caitanya Mahāprabhu and the Caitanya sampradāya in general. By that Mādhavendra also anticipates the emotive experiential associations. The most controversial question is, of course, regarding the guru-lineage of Mādhavendra, both inside and outside the sampradāya. He has been variously identified as a Purī sannyāsī with allegiance to the Daśanāmī order said to have been established by Ādi Śankarācārya, and a Tattvavādī Vaiṣṇava belonging to the Brahma or Mādhva sampradāya, among other things. Leaving aside the issues of veracity, what emerges from the debates is that in a way these contestations attest to the possibilities and multiplicities that become necessitated in the genesis of a sampradāya. Mādhavendra Purī thus connects all sorts of religiosities and geo-cultural distributions. He is important for Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, for obvious reasons, but it does not end there. This research seeks to establish Mādhavendra as a node linking people from different communities and language worlds across the subcontinent. Therefore, the study of Mādhavendra as a moment becomes important to the understanding of bhakti – in all its heterogeneity, and also for medieval history, literature, culture, religion and so on.

The outcome primarily will be in the form of a book publication, in Bangla, and then, a counterpart in English.

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Gauḍīya Study Programme

In September 2023, the Gauḍīya Study Programme held its first study weekend, at the Vedanta Centre in Lincoln, which was attended by students from the UK, Europe, and the USA. Over two days, the tutors—Dr. Kenneth Valpey, Dr. Māns Broo, Simon Haas, Prof. Ravi Gupta, and Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms—led discussions on issues of hermeneutics and epistemology, theology, ritual, and poetry within the Gauḍīya tradition. We also held an online study weekend aimed at youth in the USA, taught by Prof. Ravi Gupta, Simon Haas, and Anuradha Dooney.

The online tutorial programme, started in Trinity Term 2020, just saw its thirteenth cohort of students graduate. The programme introduces current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students from the UK, North America, India, Australia, and Asia. The programme is led by Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, and includes among its teachers Dr. Māns Broo, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Anuradha Dooney, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Simon Haas, Dr. Kenneth Valpey, and Dr. Lucian Wong.

The Building of Vṛndāvana

The Building of Vṛndāvana: Architecture, Theology, and Practice in an Early Modern Pilgrimage Town, edited by Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr. Kiyokazu Okita was published in January 2024, by Brill (Leiden). The small town of Vṛndāvana is today one of the most vibrant places of pilgrimage in northern India. Throngs of pilgrims travel there each year to honour the sacred land of Kṛṣṇa's youth and to visit many of its temples. This book, whose seeds were first planted at a 2017 conference held in Oxford, explores the complex history of this town's early modern origins. Bringing together scholars from various disciplines to examine history, architecture, art, ritual, theology, and literature in this pivotal period, *The Building of Vṛndāvana* examines how these various disciplines were used to create, develop, and map Vṛndāvana as the most prominent place of pilgrimage for devotees of Kṛṣṇa. Most of the chapters in the book thus do not just explore the (physical) temples that were constructed there in the sixteenth century, but also examine how those temples—and the broader sacred landscape—were viewed by the various people associated with it: their founders and priests, their devotees, their royal patrons, as well as poets and theologians who had settled there. The contributors to the volume are Guy L. Beck, Māns Broo, David Buchta, John Stratton Hawley, Barbara A. Holdrege, Rembert Lutjeharms, Kiyokazu Okita, Cynthia D. Packert, and Heidi Pauwels.

Mapping Gaura-maṇḍala

In December 2023, Dr. Mans Broo, Prema Goet, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Dr. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr. Lucian Wong travelled through Bengal, visiting various historical centres of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition, most of which were founded in the sixteenth century and comprise what is popularly referred to as the 'gaura-maṇḍala', 'the region of Gaura [i.e., Caitanya]'. They met locally with various Goswamis, teachers, and scholars, discussing the history of place, as well as its communities, practices, and teachings.

The aim of the trip was not just to gain a sense of the history of these places, but also to begin mapping the networks of temples that span the Bengali speaking world today, and to see what remains of the traditional centres of learning, of their manuscript libraries, and of their archives. Among the places they visited were Kolkata, Shantipur, Kulinagram, Kardaha, Halisahara, Katwa, Baghnepada, Nabadwip, Mayapur, and Shrikhandā.

In April 2024, Dr. Lucian Wong and Prema Goet returned to Bengal to continue this work, revisiting some of those places, to further develop relationships that had been established on the first trip and to explore further possibilities of collaboration with local scholars and religious leaders.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism, Vaiṣṇavism, and Buddhism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops, and seminars in Oxford and elsewhere as well as numerous volumes and articles.

2023 saw the first publication of the Haṭhāpradīpikā in Danish with Sanskrit text, glossary, illustrations, and extensive notes. An official book launch and panel discussion took place on 8th Feb 2024 in Aarhus, Denmark. Panelists were Prof. Jørn Borup, Prof. Marianne Fibiger, Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen, Jens Toft Pedersen, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen.

New projects include a translation project of the Śaṭcakraṇirūpana aiming at a full English and Danish translation along with an annotated edition of the text. The translation project is led by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and forms part of the newly established Scandinavian Indological Society.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen accepted two new Oxford DPhil students in 2023 as the main supervisor in the area of Śākta Studies: Sharvi Maheshwari ('Śākta Rituals in Bhaktapur: The Navadurgā Dances as Practiced Among the Newars') and Gonzalo Fernandez ('An Examination of the Role of Yoginīs in Śākta Tantric Śaivism'). Professor Gavin Flood is co-supervisor for both students.

A contract has been signed with Oxford University Press for a new volume in the Oxford History of Hinduism on Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions. The volume is edited by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and contains two chapters by Prof. Alexis Sanderson on Śāktism from Kashmir and Beyond as well as contributions from other leading scholars in the field of tantric and Śākta Studies. It is anticipated to become a groundbreaking volume.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Tantra in South Asia: Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. Alexis Sanderson, and Prof. Gavin Flood

In 2022, a high-profile research and publication project with Prof. Alexis Sanderson, Prof. Gavin Flood, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen was added to the Śākta Traditions research programme. The Śākta and Śaiva tantric traditions are found in various places in India and Nepal. They form the ritual and philosophical core of many yogic and tantric traditions and movements that were exported to the rest of the world, and they have now become part and parcel of global religious history. An understanding of the Śākta Śaiva traditions, especially as they developed in Kashmir and beyond, is crucial for an understanding of the history of Indian religions as well as an understanding of modern yoga and tantra as it is practiced today in many places around the world.

These traditions can be traced back many centuries but until recently, tantric worship in Kashmir had been understood simply as 'Kashmir Śaivism', the worship of the god Śiva including all deities related to him. But it is now evident that this understanding does not suffice to describe the actual practices and forms of religion found in the texts and lived by people. At the core of Śaiva worship and Śaiva philosophy, we find that Śākta worship, or worship of the Goddess, plays a prominent role. This insight means that much in our understanding of Indian religions is about to change, and the publications included in this project will contribute to the rewriting of the history of Indian Religions that Prof. Sanderson's work has precipitated. The Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond project will therefore establish the OCHS as a central institution for Tantric and Śākta studies in the UK. The project outputs are:

- A fully annotated translation of the Netrat Tantra (Amṛteśatantra) with an introduction in three volumes by Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen to be published in the Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions series. The first volume is currently being edited and will be submitted for publication in 2024. Consultants: Prof. Alexis Sanderson and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda.
- A multi-volume critical edition and translation of Abhinavagupta's Tantrāloka by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (forthcoming).
- Weekly Netroddyota online reading sessions by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (July 2020-July 2021) are currently being edited.
- Fortnightly translation seminars at the OCHS in Michaelmas Term every year by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Gavin Flood for the OCHS and the Theology and Religion Faculty. Translation seminars in Michaelmas Term 2024 will be offered by Dr Wernicke-Olesen: Readings in Śāktism: The Netrat Tantra.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

OCHS Kathmandu Office and Summer University in Nepal

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen and other affiliates of the research programme established a study and research centre for the Śākta Traditions programme in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitisation and fieldwork. While the work in Nepal came to a halt in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facilities have been secured and manuscript and fieldwork in Nepal has resumed, including visiting DPhil students and interns from Oxford. Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

The highly successful OCHS Summer University in Kathmandu (summeruni.co.uk) took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from the 31st of July to 13th of August 2023. Around 20 international students went and many of the participants were Oxford students who were or have been taught and supervised by Fellows of the OCHS. The course will also be taking place in August 2024.

The course explores topics in Śākta Hinduism, tantric traditions, and goddess worship in the Kathmandu Valley. It combines lectures with excursions to local religious sites, rituals, and traditional local practices. The course bridges theory and practice, building understanding through participation. The course offers unique fieldwork opportunities to students, and for Graduate attendees has greatly contributed to their ongoing research endeavours. The course has attracted students across disciplines beyond religious studies (history, sociology, languages, politics, etc.)

Lecturers and tutors include Prof. Gavin Flood (Oxford), Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen (Oxford), Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg), Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo), Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Oxford), Gitte Poulsen (Aarhus and Oxford), and Laura Anderson (Oxford) as well as local scholars including Prof. Kashinath Nyaupane from the Nepal Sanskrit University and Manish Manandhar, a local architect in Kathmandu. The Summer University is ECTS accredited through a collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding with the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society facilitated by Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen. The Summer University is managed by Gitte Poulsen and Laura Anderson with Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen as consultants.

Amṛtānanda's Saubhāgyasudhodaya and Cidvilāsastava

Project Leader: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

This research project delves into the work of Amṛtānanda (South India, ca. 1325-1375), an erudite exponent of the Tantric Śākta tradition of Tripurā, also known as Śrīvidyā. Information about Amṛtānanda is scarce. Within the lineage of the gurus of this tradition, he identifies himself as a disciple of Puṇyānanda (ca. 1300-1350), the author of the Kāmakalāvīlāsa. Amṛtānanda's primary work is his commentary (Dīpikā, "The Lamp") on one of the seminal sources of the Śrīvidyā, the Yoginīh dayā (Kashmir, 11th century CE). He elucidates and interprets the speculative, esoteric teachings of this work in the context of the Śākta-Śaiva dynamic non-dualism of the Trika system. Additionally, Amṛtānanda authored two brief works: the Saubhāgyasudhodaya and the Cidvilāsastava. He might also be identified as the author of the Alaṅkārasaṅgraha, a treatise on poetics likely composed around 1350. A first annotated translation of the Cidvilāsastava (Eulogy of the Playful Manifestation of [the Supreme] Consciousness) has been published by S. Schwarz Linder in H. Matsuoka, S. Moriyama, T. Neill (eds.), *To the Heart of Truth: A Felicitation Volume for Eli Franco on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday*, WSTB 104.1, Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien Universität Wien, Vienna 2023. Similar to Abhinavagupta's hymns, the Cidvilāsastava can be categorized as a speculative stotra. Comprising forty verses, with its concise allusions to doctrinal and ritual elements of the Śrīvidyā, this work appears to be written by an erudite initiate, intended for his peers. It would be worth studying also the other extant work of this author, the Saubhāgyasudhodaya (The Rising of the Nectar of Happiness), a paddhati of 142 verses divided into six chapters. Exploring these two works would enrich our understanding of Amṛtānanda's contribution to the South Indian Śrīvidyā textual tradition.

The intended output of this research is the publication of a volume containing the annotated translation of the Saubhāgyasudhodaya and a revised version of the annotated translation of the Cidvilāsastava.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology

Project Leader: Prof. Gavin Flood

This programme has continued weekly during term time with the reading group, *Readings in Phenomenology*. Professor Flood's publications continue to contribute to it (chapter 5 of *The Concept of Mind in Hindu Tantra* (Routledge, at press)). Professor Flood is planning a third conference for 2026 entitled: 'Religion and the Transformation of Society: Perspectives from the Phenomenology of Religions.'

Network of Hinduism in Dialogue

Project Leader: Dr Melanie Barbato

The "Network of Hinduism in Dialogue" had its launch event and first panel at the European Academy of Religion's Annual Conference in St. Andrews, Scotland. The launch event took place on June 21, 2023, at the University of St. Andrews in the Stewart Room of the historic Younger Hall. At the two-hour launch event, the coordinators Melanie Barbato and Shruti Dixit, together with Communications Coordinator Ihsan Altintas, presented the vision for the network and invited all who attended to discuss future possibilities for cooperation.

The five-hour panel on the general theme of "Hinduism in Dialogue" was the first network event. Eleven junior and senior scholars from around the world related aspects of different religions to Hindu philosophy, religion and culture. Among other topics, the presentations ranged from conversations on cultured meat to interfaith harmony through devotional songs.

In May 2023 network coordinator Melanie Barbato was invited to speak on the topic "The way forward: prospects and possibilities" at the meeting on "Hindus and Christians in Europe: Building together a 'fraternity based new humanism'" that was organized in Rome by the Vatican's Dicastery for Dialogue in collaboration with The Hindu Forum of Europe, the Italian Hindu Union, and the Office for Interreligious Dialogue and Collaboration at the World Council of Churches.

The "Network of Hinduism in Dialogue" facilitates collaboration and dialogue among academics with shared interest in interreligious relations involving Hinduism. Membership is free and open to those studying Hinduism in relation to other religions at postgraduate level or above. The network has started issuing a newsletter, which will inform members of relevant academic news and opportunities for collaboration.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

Project Leaders: Dr Arun Brahmbhatt, Dr Avni Chag, and Dr Lucian Wong

The Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India project is a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. Dr Brahmbhatt and Dr Wong have continued to work toward the publication of an edited volume, based on research at the project's 2022 virtual conference, sets out to explore key social, intellectual, legal, and ritual developments in sampradāyic contexts across regional boundaries in colonial India.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

Project leaders: Prof. Ravi Gupta and Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

In the past year, the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project has made progress in several areas:

- Dr Kenneth R. Valpey and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta created and taught an introductory course on the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, hosted by OCHS Continuing Education Department. The initial enrollment was around 80 students from around the world.
- Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar (Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute), working with a small research team, completed volume one of his much-awaited Bhāgavata Purāṇa bibliography. Prof. Bahulkar presented his work at the 10th Dubrovnik International Conference on Sanskrit Epics and Puranas.
- Dr. S. Bhuvaneshwari served as the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow at the OCHS, where she delivered a lecture on the Vamsidhara Sarman's commentary on the Bhagavata Purana and conducted research on variant readings among Bhagavata manuscripts.
- Dr. Kiyokazu Okita published three journal articles on topics connected to the Bhagavata Purana, including Srinatha Cakravarti's commentary on the first verse, Dvaita Vedanta's engagement with the Bhagavata, and the commentary on Vopadeva's Harilila.
- Prof. Daniel Ehnborn, Dr. Neeraja Poddar, and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta continued to work on an edited volume about the art history of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, with contributions from scholars who work on illuminated manuscripts, textiles, scrolls, and film.
- Dr. Andrzej Babkiewicz (University of Warsaw) has begun setting up a Bhāgavata Purāṇa "wiki"--an Internet-based platform that will serve as a wide-ranging resource on several aspects of the text, including information about persons, places, narratives, cosmology and cosmography, and much more.

Comparative Philosophy Projects

Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

Indian Philosophy has continued to thrive at the OCHS and in Oxford more generally. Throughout 2023-4, Jessica Frazier continued the Senior Seminars in Indian Philosophy with a thriving community of graduates and finalists, and papers from Alex Watson, John Nemec, Rembert Lutjeharms, and graduates from across the Philosophy, AMES and Theology Faculties. In the coming year the seminars will continue, and group is planning symposia on *Extreme Phenomenology: Unusual Structures of Consciousness in Indian Philosophy, and Problems of Time and Causation in Indian Philosophy*, as well as participating in Birmingham University's July conference on Divinity as the Ground: Exploring the Structure of Reality across Eastern and Western Traditions with Mohammad Saleh Zarepour, Graham Priest and others. Alan Herbert and Ricardo Silvestre also organised a very successful international conference funded by the John Templeton Foundation and in association with the OCHS, exploring the relationship between God and Consciousness in Indian thought.

A number of publications in Indian Philosophy have emerged in the last year including Ashwini Mokashi's book *Sapiens and Sthitiprajñā* on Greek and Indian conceptions of philosophical wisdom in Hindi translation, and Jessica Frazier's chapters 'Ex Deo' in *Philosophers on God: Talking about Existence* (Jack Symes ed., Bloomsbury) along with Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, Richard Swinburne and others, 'Emotion as Indian Philosophy of Value: Beyond Pleasure and Pain' in *Global Dialogues in the Philosophy of Religion* (Yujin Nagasawa and Mohammad Saleh Zarepour eds. Oxford University Press), and 'Roots of Reality: The Philosophy of Foundation in Spinoza's and Śrīnivāsa's Monisms' in *Panentheism in Indian and Western Thought* (Benedikt Gocke and Swami Medhananda eds., Routledge). She has four further papers in press for publication this Autumn on divine attributes, omnipresence, metaphysical nihilism, 'play' as a concept in Indian thought, and Vedānta's debate with Vaiśeṣika and Madhyamaka, for *Philosophy Compass*, *Sophia*, a number of edited volumes, and a plenary issue of the *Neue Zeitschrift für Systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie* based on her 2023 lecture 'Against Infinite Nothingness' in Munich, with responses from Peter Adamson, Kerry McKenzie and Mohammad Saleh Zarepour. Silvia Schwarz Linder's project 'From the Greek Art of Living to Indian Liberation in this Life' also continues with extensive readings in texts across both traditions.

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God

Project Leaders: Prof. Benedikt P. Göcke, Dr Alan C. Herbert, Prof. Ricardo Silvestre Project Duration: 1st October 2020 – 30th April 2023

Divinity in some Indian religions, such as Vaiṣṇavism, Śaivism and Śaktism, is often conceived monotheistically, as a supreme OmniGod (much like Western accounts of God.) However, due to the plurality of concepts of God in India, we might ask: are Indian theistic traditions really monotheistic? Or, to put it in conceptual terms, is their concept of God a monotheistic one? Or, is their concept of divinity theistic at all?

Accepting that there are different conceptions of divinity among the Indian religious and philosophical traditions, we can then pose this question: how can these concepts of God be philosophically characterized? Are the Indian traditions' concepts of God really monotheistic in the Western sense of the term? Or are they closer to panentheism, henotheism or polytheism? What divine properties do the traditions ascribe to their respective divinity? What is their relationship with Western philosophical accounts of God?

The following proposed outputs have been completed:

- Online Conference/Workshop: God & Vaiṣṇavism. May 23-26, 2022. A conference that addressed some of the project questions above from a philosophical perspective. Chaired by Alan Herbert. Presenters were also authors in *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives* and the Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions Special Issue (see publications below).
- Online Workshop: Indian Religions & The Concept of God. Feb 13-14, 2023. A two-day online workshop that addressed some of the project questions above from a religious and philosophical perspective. Chaired by Alan Herbert.

Publications:

- Anthology: *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives* (eds. Ricardo Silvestre, Alan Herbert, Benedikt Göcke: Routledge, 2024).
- Journal Special Issue: Indian Religions and the Concept of God in *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*: 2025. The articles are already published online but the journal special issue is to be published in early 2025. Guest Editors: Ricardo Silvestre and Alan Herbert.

Three Articles:

- Alan Herbert and Ricardo Silvestre, "On Śaktis and their Divine Possessor: Towards a Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Concept of God" in *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge: 2024).
- Ricardo Silvestre and Alan Herbert, "The Concept of God in the *Bhagavad-Gītā*: A Panentheistic Account" in *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives* (Routledge: 2024).
- Alan Herbert, "Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism and Personal Identity: A Reductionist Approach". Sophia Special Issue 2025 (accepted, awaiting DOI).

Website: www.logicandreligion.com/vaishnava-concept-of-god

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Concepts of God and the Variety of Theisms in Indian Traditions: Towards a Theistic Theory of Consciousness

Project Leaders: Prof. Ricardo Sousa Silvestre, Prof. Benedikt Paul Göcke; Indian Studies lead researcher: Dr. Alan Herbert

Duration of Grantee's work on the Project: October 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026 This project is a continuation and expansion of the project "A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God", funded by John Templeton Foundation, which culminated last year having fulfilled all the projected goals.

The project is an initiative that has as general goals (1) to philosophically reconstruct concepts of God in Indian theistic (or theistically inclined) traditions such as Vaishnavism, Shaivism and Shaktism, and (2) to investigate the extent to which issues explored by these traditions can contribute to the philosophy of consciousness. It is supported by funding totalling \$260,000 from the John Templeton Foundation.

The project has promised to publish five articles, a handbook and, and two journal special issues as well as organize three conferences (Oxford, Delhi, Brazil), non-academic roundtables, and a paper incubator meant to help early career researchers produce high quality publishable papers on our research themes and questions. The project will help consolidate cross-cultural research within the analytic philosophy of religion that takes seriously the contributions and insights of underrepresented religions, such as those of the Indian subcontinent. It will also help sensitize religious studies scholars about the usefulness of analytic philosophy and analytic theology.

The following proposed outputs have been completed or are in progress:

- Conference: God and Consciousness in Indian Traditions. May 15-17 2024 at Worcester College, Oxford (Also streamed online) with 17 in-person and 4 online presenters over three days. The conference was chaired by Alan Herbert.
- Paper Incubator commenced on January 15, 2024. A competition was held for the best abstracts which were reviewed. The top 13 recommendations were accepted and matched with mentors. Reviews are ongoing.

Publications:

- Ricardo Silvestre: "Panentheism and Theistic Cosmopsychism: God and the Cosmos in the Bhavagad Gītā". Sophia: 2024. DOI: 10.1007/s11841-024-01017-x
- *Handbook on Indian Concepts of God*: To be published by the end of 2026 by a leading international publisher such as OUP, CUP or SUNY Press. 40 authors have committed to writing chapters (only 4 proposed chapters are presently authorless).
- Two Journal Special Issues are currently in planning, one organised by Benedikt Göcke and Swami Medhananda, the other by Alan Herbert and Ricardo Silvestre.

Website: <https://www.god-and-consciousness.com/>

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

From the Greek Art of Living to the Indian Liberation in This Life

Project Leader: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

This research project deals with certain ideals of human existence propounded in different cultural traditions, namely, the ancient Greek philosophical teachings about the art of living, and the Indian concepts of liberation while still alive (*jīvanmukti*).

The research takes its primary inspiration from the work of Pierre Hadot, who shows how for certain philosophical schools of the Greco-Roman late Antiquity—particularly Stoicism and Epicureanism—philosophy consisted not so much in the elaboration of theoretical systems or textual exegeses, as in a way of life itself; the aim of these ancient philosophers was to teach the art of leading a good and virtuous life, with the help of spiritual exercises envisaged as a therapy for the soul. Some scholars have discussed the possibility of applying Hadot's model of interpretation to certain Buddhist schools, and have highlighted—particularly the former—the limits and difficulties of adopting Hadot's perspective in these fields of Indian thought. In fact, unlike his Greek counterpart, the Buddhist philosopher is not concerned with the present life and the occurrence of death, his vision and final goal being projected beyond the circuit of mundane existence.

The working hypothesis of this research is that Hadot's interpretative method may have some bearing on the Tantric ideal of *jīvanmukti* propounded by the non-dualistic Śākta-Śaiva traditions. The latter may provide a more appropriate touchstone for the relevant Greek philosophical schools: in fact, the *jīvanmukta*, who has recognized the ultimate identity between his own self/soul and the supreme Self/Soul, thereby attaining the liberating knowledge, is nonetheless an individual active in the real world, who continues to take part in ordinary life, while maintaining an attitude of detachment and equanimity. In particular, it will be highlighted how the combination of non-dualism and realistic idealism characterizing the Śākta-Śaiva traditions—unlike the illusionistic Advaita Vedānta which envisages *jīvanmukti* in a world devoid of ontological substance and value—enables the reconciliation and harmonization of the spiritual state of final emancipation with a fulfilled human life in this world.

Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen and Dr Lucian Wong; Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr Ulrik Lyngs

The Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies project was founded by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Ulrik Lyngs and has developed the new OCHS Manuscript Database. The project is now led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Lucian Wong. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) is the Digital Lead and will continue as Digital Consultant for the project after the official launch of the OCHS Manuscript Database in Michaelmas Term 2024. Michael Elison (MPhil, Oxon) and Utsa Bose (DPhil candidate, Oxford) will continue as Digital Curators, and the researchers Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen will continue working on the Śākta dimension of the database. The Bengal database dimension is led by Dr Lucian Wong and is currently being developed with several digital curators and a large digital collection of Vaiṣṇava manuscripts donated by Tokyo University and facilitated by Dr Kiyokazu Okita.

The research project aims at establishing a state-of-the-art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. A new focus and aim for the project is creating AI models for handwriting and text recognition in South Asian manuscripts, which has groundbreaking potential.

The Śākta database that forms part of the OCHS Manuscript database aims at establishing the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies. It makes the core texts of the traditions as well as large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. A new collaboration with the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute has been initiated and their digital collection of tantric E-texts (the result of 22 years of digitalisation work) will be shared on the OCHS database in combination with metadata and manuscript images providing an ideal case scenario of what is possible.

The OCHS Manuscript Database uses the advanced Mirador 3 viewer and a custom-made OCHS viewer. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with metadata, critical apparatus, notes, and images of the original manuscripts. It is possible to download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV), overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text), and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The project has greatly expanded its manuscript and E-text volume. Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts are being made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions including the Muktabodha Indological Research Institute and the Matsya Digitization project resulting from an MoU with the Information Research Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Manuscript digitalisation of unknown source material in Nepal continues in 2023/2024 after the COVID-19 pandemic had caused a long pause to our work at the OCHS Kathmandu Office. In addition, the Prema Goet Nepal Manuscript collection is being digitised at the OCHS and added to the database together with the Sankhu collection and catalogue from Kathmandu.

The project has successfully entered the new phase producing:

- New workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including a 'Book builder' with the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in language of choice).
- A 'Text explorer' that makes it easy to perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages).
- A 'Text analyser' that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, and more.
- Uploading large amounts of data, including manuscript images, metadata and transliteration of manuscripts, both known core texts and new/unknown research material.

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary

Project Leaders: Dr Robert Czyżkowski and Dr Lucian Wong

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary, co-directed by Dr Robert Czyżkowski (Jagiellonian University) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), is a 2-year research project initiated in January 2023 and funded by €50,000 grant by Jagiellonian University's Strategic Program Excellence Initiative, with supplementary funding from the OCHS. The project brings a team of specialists together to examine how ideas of body and embodiment take shape in early modern Bengal's rich and multi-religious corpus of vernacular literature. Following its inaugural workshop in Krakow in January 2023 and double session panel at the annual conference of the EASR in September 2023, the project team came together at Jagiellonian University in June 2024 to workshop the volume of translations and critical essays it has been collectively working toward.

The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan

Project Leader: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

This academic year, the Beginnings of the Hindu Temple project has seen the following activities. Professor Ray curated the Buddhist Gallery at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai, which opened to the public in July 2023. The gallery showcases some extraordinary early terracotta artworks of the northwest region in this newly created gallery space. Besides this, the Museum has received many rare and invaluable objects associated with Buddhism such as crystal and stone reliquaries from Pitalkhora and Gandhara, metal images from the Himalayan region, ivories from Kashmir, manuscripts not only from India but also from Southeast Asian countries, a small but significant set of stone relief panels from Gandhara, and a good number of porcelain.

Professor Ray has published *The Buddha Within: Images of Piety and Devotion* (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, 2023), a book that guides the reader through the Buddhist gallery of CSMVS, Mumbai.

In August 2023 Professor Ray presented a paper on 'The Sun Temple at Gop in Context, Conference on Art and Architecture of Sun Temples in India, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Intersection of Hinduism and Contemporary Society

Project Leaders: Dr. Ace Simpson and Dr. Alan Herbert Research Group Members: Dr. Ace Simpson, Dr. Angela Burt, Dr. Cecilia Bastos, Dr. Alan Herbert

Hindus live and work in the world while simultaneously maintaining a separation from it. Sociological issues they may encounter in this intersection include, among other things, those of identity, value, affiliation, and ethnicity. The aim of this project is to increase the latitude of Indian studies to incorporate these social experiences of contemporary Hindu communities and adherents as they navigate life within, without, and on the fringes of their religious institutions and host communities. The project looks to redress the paucity of research into the key causes of these tensions while also identifying opportunities for dialogue and conflict resolution.

Research methods include but are not limited to standard sociological tools, such as surveys (interviews and questionnaires), field work, participant observation, case studies, experiments, ethnographies, and secondary data analysis. The research is theory-rich and multi-disciplinary, incorporating, for instance, philosophy, theology, and philology. Rather than produce data and ethnographies, the research blends experience with theory so as to illuminate trends and tensions affecting the societal lives of present and former adherents as well as the Hindu traditions themselves.

Invited Speaker Series. Past Guest Lectures 2023-2024

- 2nd March 2023: The Shakta Aghoris in Kamakhya: An Interview with Prema Goet (Documentary Researcher).
- 6th July 2023: "In Yoga, we are connected!" Examining the Fabric that makes Belonging with Jens Augspurger (SOAS).
- 12th October 2023: Giving Meaning to Humans, Work, Knowledge, Intrinsicity and Mind: Managing by the Bhagavad Gita with Prof. A. D. Amar (Seton Hall University, NJ).
- 7th December: Hare Krishna in the Twenty-First Century with Dr. Angela Burt (Australian Catholic University).
- 29th Feb 2024: Approaching the Body in Yoga Studies: Ethnographic Yoga Research Between Embodied Practice and Embodiment Theory with Dr. Laura von Ostrowski (University of Hamburg) and Dr. Lina Aschenbrenner (University of Erfurt).

Future Confirmed Guest Lectures 2024

- 1st August 2024: Foundations of a Gaudiya Vaishnava Eco-theology with Prof. Ravi Gupta (Utah State University)-
- TBA: When the 'esoteric' strikes back: Revising the field of tantric studies with Dr. Monika Hirmer (Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen–Nürnberg).
- TBA: Leading the Hare Krishna Movement: The Crisis of Succession in The International Society for Krishna Consciousness with Dr. Angela Burt (Australian Catholic University).

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
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Investment Strategy

These funds are managed on behalf of the OCHS by Sanderson Financial Limited. They are invested in a mix of equity, fixed income, and property funds. The investment adviser is mandated to recommend investments which conform to ethical investment principles as much as is possible and or available within specific asset classes and apply a cautious risk strategy to the overall portfolio, which over the long term provide steady positive income and capital growth.

The investment advisers approach to ethical investment principles is to try, as much as possible, within each asset class to recommend funds to the portfolio which undertake "negative screening" of their investments, thereby minimising the potential of the portfolio being invested in so called "sin stocks" such as companies which profit from the sale of tobacco, gambling and weapons.

Investment Performance and Target Returns

The Committee are happy to report that since the first investment made in October 2016 the Investment Portfolio has seen a net capital growth of 19.62%.

This capital growth has allowed the committee to distribute £61,825 of funds since 2019 to the OCHS to support its scholarship and research activities.

The committee aims to return 3.5% of the total Investment Portfolio on an annual basis to the OCHS to fund scholarships and research activities. This requires it to target annual net capital growth of 5%.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties and have carried out an annual review of their activities in this regard.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities ('SOFA') for the year has been produced on page 25 showing movements on unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. The OCHS received donations of £246,498 (2023: £884,304) during the year. Fee income of £145,591 (2023: £159,872) was received and the charity had costs of £741,304 (2023: £630,974). The net deficit for the year was £284,318 (2023: net surplus of £670,023).

Funds and reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2024 show a surplus of £780,474 (2023: £765,766) with designated reserves showing a surplus of £265,168 (2023: £278,880). After adjusting for fixed assets free reserves are - £192,897 (2023: £683,177). The OCHS has plans to increase this surplus with the acquisition of new premises, which will reduce costs and ensure the charity's long term sustainability.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Future Plans

The OCHS continues to expand and the charity continues to campaign for funds to enable the purchase of new premises in Oxford. This will ensure the OCHS can continue to develop its facilities and increase its student numbers.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Wenn Townsend were re-appointed auditors to the OCHS at the Trustees' meeting.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23 January 2025



Shaunaka Rishi Das

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 20 and 21, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

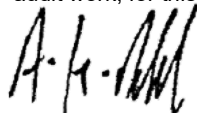
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
30 St Giles
Oxford
23 January 2025

Wenn Townsend is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming from:											
Donations											
- Other donations	2	133,131	78,817	34,550	-	246,498	720,519	153,604	10,181	-	884,304
- Government grants	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Legacy		-	-	-	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	265,000
Charitable activities	3	145,591	-	-	-	145,591	159,872	-	-	-	159,872
Investments	4	41,065	35	184	421	41,705	2,220	17	95	205	2,537
Total income		<u>319,787</u>	<u>78,852</u>	<u>34,734</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>433,794</u>	<u>1,147,611</u>	<u>153,621</u>	<u>10,276</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>1,311,713</u>
Expenditure on:											
Charitable activities	5	<u>649,375</u>	<u>75,378</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>7,387</u>	<u>741,304</u>	<u>507,161</u>	<u>104,973</u>	<u>11,364</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>630,974</u>
Total expenditure		<u>649,375</u>	<u>75,378</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>7,387</u>	<u>741,304</u>	<u>507,161</u>	<u>104,973</u>	<u>11,364</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>630,974</u>
Net gains/(loss) on investments	10	-	(3,727)	6,642	20,277	23,192	(2,488)	4,509	(3,128)	(9,609)	(10,716)
Net income/expenditure		(329,588)	(253)	32,212	13,311	(284,318)	637,962	53,157	(4,216)	(16,880)	670,023
Transfer between funds		<u>344,296</u>	<u>(13,459)</u>	<u>(330,837)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,237</u>	<u>(13,237)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		<u>14,708</u>	<u>(13,712)</u>	<u>(298,625)</u>	<u>13,311</u>	<u>(284,318)</u>	<u>651,199</u>	<u>39,920</u>	<u>(4,216)</u>	<u>(16,880)</u>	<u>670,023</u>
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2023		<u>765,765</u>	<u>278,880</u>	<u>400,671</u>	<u>203,045</u>	<u>1,648,361</u>	<u>114,566</u>	<u>238,960</u>	<u>404,887</u>	<u>219,925</u>	<u>978,338</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2024		<u><u>780,473</u></u>	<u><u>265,168</u></u>	<u><u>102,046</u></u>	<u><u>216,356</u></u>	<u><u>1,364,043</u></u>	<u><u>765,765</u></u>	<u><u>278,880</u></u>	<u><u>400,671</u></u>	<u><u>203,045</u></u>	<u><u>1,648,361</u></u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Balance sheet
At 31 March 2024**

	Note	2024		2023
		£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments	10	339,944		298,304
Tangible assets	11	2,802,263		266,209
			3,142,207	564,513
Current assets				
Debtors	12	33,988		65,882
Cash at bank and in hand		59,848		1,097,086
		93,836		1,162,968
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(138,838)		(79,120)
Net current assets			(45,002)	1,083,848
Amounts falling due after one year	14	(1,733,162)		-
			(1,733,162)	-
Net assets			1,364,043	1,648,361
Funds				
Unrestricted funds			780,473	765,765
Designated	15		265,168	278,880
Restricted funds	16a		102,046	400,671
Endowment funds	16b		216,356	203,045
Total funds			1,364,043	1,648,361

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 23 January 2025

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (analysed below)	1,510,499	722,563
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest/dividends received	7,572	2,537
Net cash (transferred in)/withdrawn from investment account	(19,650)	174,372
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,536,659)	(265,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(2,547,737)	(88,091)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(1,037,237)	634,472
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,097,086	462,614
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	59,849	1,097,086

Note:

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(284,318)	670,023
Adjustments for:		
Interest/dividends received	(8,241)	(2,537)
Depreciation charges	605	2,825
(Gain)/loss on investments	(23,194)	10,220
Gifted shares into investment portfolio	-	-
Investment management fees	1,872	2,922
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	31,896	1,577
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	1,792,880	37,533
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,510,499	722,563

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Fund accounting

The Charity's total funds consist of:

- I. Unrestricted funds are general funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- II. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The trustees may move funds between unrestricted and designated funds.
- III. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
- IV. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Giri Scholarship. This fund will be used to grant scholarships that the Centre deems appropriate, with the request that the Centre considers projects aimed at Bhakti traditions. Income arising on the endowment is to be used to fund the scholarships and is included in restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment manager's advice and legal advice relating to the fund are charged to the fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from charitable activities is CED online course fees.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Resources expended comprise the following:

- I. The costs of generating voluntary income relates to costs incurred to promote fundraising.
- II. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- III. Governance costs reflect the costs incurred which are directly attributable to the management of the Charity's assets, organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

e) Tangible assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line / 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance basis
Freehold and long leasehold property	-	Nil

f) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their value can otherwise be measured reliably.

g) Pension costs

The charity makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme for certain employees. The pension cost charged to the income and expenditure account represents contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

h) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

i) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees can only consider with reasonable certainty a budgetary period of 12 months from the year end due to the difficulty in securing voluntary income for unrestricted funds.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Deed of covenants	19,862	-	-	-	19,862	20,392
Individual donations	113,269	78,817	34,550	-	226,636	863,912
	<u>133,131</u>	<u>78,817</u>	<u>34,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>246,498</u>	<u>884,304</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Weekend Schools	6,842	-	-	6,842	19,480
BAP's lunches	4,488	-	-	4,488	3,479
Online course	132,013	-	-	132,013	135,616
Book Publishing	2,248	-	-	2,248	1,297
	<u>145,591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,591</u>	<u>159,872</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Interest receivable	5,924	11	56	161	6,152	519
Dividends receivable	1,008	24	128	260	1,420	2,018
Property income	34,133	-	-	-	34,133	-
	<u>41,065</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>41,705</u>	<u>2,537</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Staff costs	249,589	-	-	-	249,589	235,717
Lectures, scholarships and grants	133,810	69,962	8,750	6,000	218,522	267,456
Consultancy fees	27,115	-	-	-	27,115	-
Rent, rates and service charges	69,441	2,400	-	-	71,841	58,654
Insurance – professional indemnity	557	-	-	-	557	541
Insurance – general	5,792	-	-	-	5,792	2,572
Repairs and maintenance	6,272	2,517	-	-	8,789	1,087
Printing, postage and stationery	2,190	-	-	-	2,190	1,097
Telephone	1,624	-	-	-	1,624	1,336
Travelling and motor expenses	5,649	-	-	-	5,649	3,742
General expenses	18,777	430	-	-	19,207	18,607
Investment Management Charges	-	69	414	1,387	1,870	2,922
Interest and bank charges	90,760	-	-	-	90,760	2,926
Advertising and marketing	5,544	-	-	-	5,544	7,297
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs (note 6)	32,255	-	-	-	32,255	27,020
	<u>649,375</u>	<u>75,378</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>7,387</u>	<u>741,304</u>	<u>630,974</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2023 Total £
Professional fees	25,263	-	-	-	25,263	20,264
Audit fees	6,388	-	-	-	6,388	3,930
Depreciation	605	-	-	-	605	2,826
	<u>32,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,255</u>	<u>27,020</u>

7 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No Trustee received or waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

The Trustees/director received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,067 (2023: £1,052).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Director, Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das.

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das did not receive any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

8 Taxation

The OCHS is a registered Charity and is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
Administration, Continuing Education and Academic Staff	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	229,533	216,294
National insurance contributions	16,202	15,864
Pension contributions	3,854	3,559
	<u>249,589</u>	<u>235,717</u>

No members of staff received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2023: nil).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

10 Investments

Investment portfolio	Cash Reserves £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
<u>Market value</u>			
As at 1 April 2023	5,319	292,985	298,304
Cash transferred in	28,350	-	28,250
Cash withdrawn	(8,700)	-	(8,700)
Net disposals	4,730	(4,730)	-
Increase/(decrease) in market value	-	23,192	23,192
Interest Received	238	-	238
Dividends Received	432	-	432
Management Charges	(1,872)	-	(1,872)
As at 31 March 2024	<u>28,497</u>	<u>311,447</u>	<u>339,944</u>
Market value of UK quoted investments			339,944
Overseas quoted investments			-
			<u>339,944</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Freehold Property £	Total £
Cost				
At 1st April 2023	265,000	44,543	-	309,543
Additions	-	-	2,536,659	2,536,659
At 31st March 2024	<u>265,000</u>	<u>44,453</u>	<u>2,536,659</u>	<u>2,846,202</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2023	-	43,334	-	43,334
Charge for the period	-	605	-	605
At 31st March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>43,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,939</u>
Net book value				
At 31st March 2024	<u>265,000</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>2,536,659</u>	<u>2,802,263</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>265,000</u>	<u>1,209</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,384,815</u>

The library collection has been gifted to the Charity and has no cost or value in the financial statements. The Trustees deem the value of the library to total £200,000 but no formal valuation has been obtained as the Trustees feel that the cost of such a valuation would outweigh any benefit. No depreciation is provided on the charity's leasehold property, which is held on a long lease, or freehold property as the residual value of the properties is equal or greater than their carrying value. The properties are maintained in good condition ensuring their value does not diminish.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	12,480	13,040
Prepayments and accrued income	21,506	52,842
	<u>33,986</u>	<u>65,882</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	38,868	26,598
Other taxes and social security costs	21,091	5,666
Accruals and deferred income	78,879	46,856
	<u>138,838</u>	<u>79,120</u>

Included within accruals and deferred income is £20,460 (2023: £6,805) relating to income received in advance for courses/events held in the year ended 31st March 2025.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loans	1,733,162	-
	<u>1,733,162</u>	<u>-</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Designated funds

2024	1 April 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2024 £
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	17,764	(13,739)	(4,025)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	20,000	(13,469)	(6,531)	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	123,705	-	-	-	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	9,487	32	772	-	10,291
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	(2,989)	1,856	(4,836)	(424)	(6,393)
Library Equipment	340	2,400	(1,400)	-	1,340
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	34,581	10,899	(9,756)	-	35,724
Research Funds Academics	3,709	-	(700)	-	3,009
CED Development Fund	30,627	(14,519)	-	-	16,108
Academic Research Endowment Fund	25,740	-	(4,745)	-	20,995
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	6,150	4,959	-	(2,479)	8,630
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	17,620	-	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	285	-	-	-	285
Nepal Summer School	3,038	34,458	(28,792)	-	8,704
Fellowship – Surender M Bahl	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
E & G Krishna Estate	2,456	-	(2,517)	-	(61)
Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Saivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies	275	-	-	-	275
Estate of Late Dr Bharat Kumar Upadhyaya	-	1,003	77	-	1,080
	<u>278,880</u>	<u>78,852</u>	<u>(79,105)</u>	<u>(13,459)</u>	<u>265,168</u>
2023	1 April 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2023 £
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	15,232	(10,330)	(4,902)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	20,000	(15,228)	(4,772)	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	123,705	-	-	-	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	10,408	(537)	(384)	-	9,487
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	2,004	-	(4,994)	-	(2,989)
Library Equipment	141	200	-	-	341
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	11,720	22,862	-	-	34,581
Research Funds Academics	5,808	-	(2,099)	-	3,709
CED Development Fund	23,627	7,000	-	-	30,627
Academic Research Endowment Fund	20,677	5,063	-	-	25,740
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	4,389	7,125	(1,801)	(3,563)	6,150
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	17,620	-	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	605	180	(500)	-	285
Nepal Summer School	1,400	38,974	(37,336)	-	3,038
Fellowship – Surender M Bahl	-	7,000	-	-	7,000
E & G Krishna Estate	-	34,757	(32,301)	-	2,456
Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Saivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies	-	275	-	-	275
	<u>238,960</u>	<u>158,130</u>	<u>(104,973)</u>	<u>(13,237)</u>	<u>278,880</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

15 Designated funds (continued)

Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship was offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship was awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality and a holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship was provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship was given to scholars who furthered the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre and worked in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund

The Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Gopal and Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, who are long term supporters of the centre.

It is their desire that these funds are utilised by the centre in carrying out its academic, research and continuing education activities over the next several years.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

16a Restricted funds

2024	1 April 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2024
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	4,270	7,171	(6,150)	-	5,291
Bhumi project	334	-	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	(330,837)	-
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	9,570	967	(162)	0	10,375
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	35,167	16,137	(1,734)	0	49,570
Tristan Elby	6,993	851	(1,056)	-	6,888
Tagore Centre	-	5,317	(25)	-	5,292
Dr. Charu Chandra Dasgupta Memorial Bursary	-	10,933	(37)	-	10,896
	<u>400,671</u>	<u>41,376</u>	<u>(9,164)</u>	<u>(330,837)</u>	<u>102,046</u>

2023	1 April 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2023
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	2,769	10,181	(8,680)	-	4,270
Bhumi project	334	-	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	10,477	(523)	(384)	-	9,570
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	38,422	(2,013)	(1,242)	-	35,167
Tristan Elby	8,548	(497)	(1,058)	-	6,993
	<u>404,887</u>	<u>7,148</u>	<u>(11,364)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>400,671</u>

The Scholarship fund and Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary represents monies collected to fund student bursaries and scholarships.

The Bhumi project fund represents monies collected to fund our Bhumi project.

The New home for OCHS fund represents monies donated to the Charity to contribute to the planned purchase of new premises.

The Opportunity Scholarship was established to support a doctoral or post-doctoral student.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

16b Endowment funds

2024	1 April 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2024 £
Giri Scholarship	203,045	20,698	(7,387)	0	216,356
2023	1 April 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2023 £
Giri Scholarship	219,925	(9,404)	(7,476)	-	203,045

The Giri Scholarship is an endowment fund established with an initial donation of £200,000. Donations into the fund constitute a permanent and everlasting gift to the Centre towards establishing an endowed scholarship. It is intended that by 2041 the total donations to the Giri Scholarship fund will be £890,000.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

2024	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2024 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	2,558,637	265,168	102,046	216,356	3,142,207
Current assets	93,836	-	-	-	93,836
Liabilities	(1,872,000)	-	-	-	(1,872,000)
Total net assets	780,473	265,168	102,046	216,356	1,364,043
2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2023 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	266,209	33,241	62,018	203,045	564,513
Current assets	578,676	245,639	338,653	-	1,162,968
Liabilities	(79,120)	-	-	-	(79,120)
Total net assets	765,765	278,880	400,671	203,045	1,648,361

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Going concern

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is reliant on the continued support of its benefactors. The charity's property fundraising campaign is continuing. The acquisition of new premises will reduce costs and help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity.

19 Operating leases

A lease on the charity's charitable premises at 13/15 Magdalen Street Oxford was signed on 8th April 2016, covering a period of 5 years from 24th June 2013, at an annual rate of £45,000. The charity's total future minimum lease payments are as follows:-

A lease renewal was signed during the 19/20 financial year at an annual rate of £55,035 with a 3 year break clause.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Land & Buildings		
<1 year	45,749	55,035
Between 2 and 5 years	-	45,749
	<u>45,749</u>	<u>100,784</u>

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1074458

Accounts

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Charity Registration No: 1074458

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2023

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered charity number 1074458

Trustees: Prof Diwaker Acharya (Humanities Division representative)
Prof Francis X Clooney
Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Dr Mark Edwards (Theology Faculty representative)
Dr S Bhattacharya-Ford
Prof Richard Gombrich
Mr Pujan H Patel
Mr Ajay Piramal
Mrs Madhu Ruia
Mr Azad Shivdasani
Prof Mark Smith (Oriental Studies representative)
Mr Ramesh Venkataraman
Prof Himan Shruprabha Ray

Director: Shaunaka Rishi Das

Auditors: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Registered office: 15 Magdalen Street
Oxford
OX1 3AE

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
P O Box 333
Oxford
OX1 3HS

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Report by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statement of the Charity.

Structure, government and management

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is governed under a Trust Deed dated 1 February 1999 as amended by a Declaration of Trust dated 28th June 2006. Its registered charity number is 1074458. The Trustees of the Charity are shown on page 1.

Trustees' meetings are scheduled each year, with extra meetings called if required. The Director deals with the day-to-day management of the OCHS.

All decisions concerning policies and appointment of advisors and Trustees are referred to the Trustees. The Trustees keep the activities of the OCHS under regular annual review, identifying risks and mitigating them through internal controls and insurance. They approve the risk register annually.

Objectives and activities of the Charity

The OCHS is an academy for the study of Hindu culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world. The OCHS is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing and research. The OCHS is also a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University.

Achievements and performance of the charity

Teaching

Fellows of the Centre continued teaching students of the University, from undergraduates to doctorate students. Prof. Gavin Flood is currently supervising three DPhil students, Dr Jessica Frazier is supervising two DPhil students, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms each one DPhil student.

Dr Lutjeharms gave the lectures for the papers Hinduism: Sources and Formations and Modern Hinduism. Dr Frazier offered two lectures for the Religion & Religions paper, and both she and Dr Lutjeharms also lectured for the MSt in Study of Religions core course. Dr Wernicke-Olesen continues to teach the Sanskrit and Pāli Prelims course for the Faculty of Theology & Religion, which had 8 students this year. Together, fellows from the OCHS tutored 11 students in classical Hinduism, 5 in modern Hinduism, 20 in the first-year paper Religion & Religions, 3 students for the paper The Nature of Religion, as well as 4 students for the MSt in the Study of Religion. In addition, Dr Frazier taught 6 students Indian Philosophy for the Philosophy Faculty.

Especially encouraging has been the increase in students choosing to write their undergraduate dissertation on a Hinduism topic and the third-year students choosing the paper Further Studies in Hinduism, which allows them to research a topic of their choice. This year, fellows of the OCHS supervised 4 undergraduate dissertations and 4 students for the Further Studies paper.

Research

Below you can find an update on the developments on our research programmes and research projects.

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Māns Broo, Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr Lucian Wong

This academic year saw the launch of two new research projects: The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium, led by Prof. Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong; and a new project on the development of the concept of bhakti-rasa—central to Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava theology—led by Prof. Kiyokazu Okita. There were also two significant publications, with a third being in press. Details about the progress and output of individual projects in the research programme can be found below.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita applied for and received a four-year research grant (4,68 million yen, approx 25,700 British pounds) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. The project explores the historical development of the concept of *rasa* and *bhakti-rasa* in medieval India (i.e. after Abhinavagupta). Together with Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari he has also been editing and translating Vopadeva's *Harilīlā*, with Hemādri's commentary. With Dr S. Bhuvaneshwari and Dr Tomohiro Manabe he has been editing and translating Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's commentary on the first verse of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, and with Dr Naba Gopal Roy, Prof. Niwa Kyoko, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms he has been translating the *rāslīlā* section in Maladhar Basu's *Śrīkrṣṇavijay*.

Gauḍīya Patrikā Digital Database

Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong and Dr Sumantra Rudra

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), Kolkata, holds one of the richest standalone Bengali Vaiṣṇava periodical collections in the world. Dr Lucian Wong, co-director of the OCHS's Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism Research Programme, and Dr Sumanta Rudra, Dean of Academic Affairs at the BRC, have been leading an initiative to build a state-of-the-art, fully text-searchable digital database of the BRC's periodical collection. Earlier this year, the project entered into an official collaboration with Jadavpur University's School of Cultural Text's and Records (SCTR). The SCTR team, led by former SCTR Director, Prof. Sukanta Chaudhuri, FBA, will oversee the technical work of building the database, which is already underway.

Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period

Project Leaders: Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Dr Lucian Wong

This project, which was launched in 2015, undertakes the mapping, collection, translation and investigation of literature and any other relevant material related to, or dealing with, the modern development of Bengali Vaiṣṇavism from the mid-18th century to the mid-twentieth century.

The project recently published Indian edition of their 2020 publication *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by project co-directors Dr Ferdinando Sardella and Dr Lucian Wong.

The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium: Experiencing the Divine in Eastern India

Project Leaders: Dr Ayesha Irani and Dr Lucian Wong

This Working Group, led by Dr Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts Boston) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), brings together scholars from the fields of textual studies, literature, philosophy, anthropology, ritual studies, and art history, to share and inspire research that focuses specifically on the Vaiṣṇava sensorium. So far, some scholars have been directly working on the sensorium in the context of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, others have been working on it less consciously. This is an attempt to bring these scholars, working in various disciplines, into conversation with each other around the central focus of the Vaiṣṇava sensorium as it is understood in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy, poetry, drama, aesthetics, and practices of ritual and interiority. In this endeavor, we aim to bring together scholars who work on eastern India—erstwhile Mithila, Assam, greater Bengal, and Orissa, and scholars who work on the early modern, colonial, or the modern (and contemporary) periods. The aim is to look at both the roots of the Vaiṣṇava sensorium as it was understood in the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava canon but also to consider the ripple effects of this doctrine in the ways in which groups inspired by ideas seeded by the Gauḍīyas moved their understandings into new and fecund directions. A critical dimension of this project is to define the sensorial ontology of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. Ultimately, the aim is to chart a new poetics of perception and experience of the divine, among the Gauḍīyas and beyond.

The aim of the conveners of this Working Group is to eventually, and organically, pull together an edited volume on the Vaiṣṇava sensorium that would showcase the writings of these various scholars in a single volume. The project will be holding a symposium at the Annual Conference of South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin, in October 2023.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Haribhaktivilāsa

Sanātana Gosvāmin's Haribhaktivilāsa (ca. 1540) describes the normative ritual life of a Vaiṣṇava devotee. As it is one of the first Sanskrit texts of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition begun by Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486–1533) it presents a fascinating meeting between this ecstatic new religious movement and older, Brahminical tradition. On the basis of eleven manuscripts, Dr Måns Broo has been working for some years on a critically edition of the text and its commentary, together with an annotated translation. This year, the first volume of this project has been published by Brill, under the title Haribhaktivilāsa of Sanātana Gosvāmin, Volume 1: Mantras, Initiation and Preparing for Worship (Chapters 1–5). Critical Edition and Annotated Translation. The entire book is available, through open access, as a free download from the publisher's website. Dr Broo is currently working on the next volume in the series.

The Building of Vṛndāvana

The Building of Vṛndāvana: The book brings together scholarship on the early modern history of Vṛndāvana, the temple town devoted to Kṛṣṇa, exploring in particular how the physical buildings were located in the theological, ritual, artistic, and literary worlds of its devotees.

Gauḍīya Study Programme

In June 2023, the tenth cohort of students completed the Gauḍīya Study Programme, an online tutorial programme in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies. The programme, launched in Trinity Term 2020, introduces current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students from the UK, North America, India, Australia, and Asia. The programme is led by Dr Rembert Lutjeharms, and includes among its teachers Dr Måns Broo, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Anuradha Dooney, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Dr Kenneth Valpey, and Dr Lucian Wong. An in-person study retreat is planned for September 2023.

The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops, and seminars in Oxford as well as numerous volumes and articles.

Dr Wernicke-Olesen convened a Netratanttra Seminar at Campion Hall and the OCHS on Tuesday, 28th February 2023, 10.00-15.30. Amongst the contributors were Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Rajan Khatiwoda, Dr Ulrik Lyngs, Mr Michael Elison, Dr Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder.

New projects include a translation project of the Ṣaṭcakanirūpana aiming at a full English translation and annotated edition of the text. The project is led by Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and forms part of the newly established Scandinavian Indological Society.

In 2022 a high-profile research and publication project with Prof. Alexis Sanderson, Prof. Gavin Flood, and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen was added to the Śākta Traditions research programme. The project is now seeing its first results:

Tantra in South Asia: Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. Alexis Sanderson, and Prof. Gavin Flood

The Śākta and Śaiva tantric traditions are found in various places in India and Nepal. They form the ritual and philosophical core of many yogic and tantric traditions and movements that were exported to the rest of the world, and they have now become part and parcel of global religious history. Thus, an understanding of the Śākta Śaiva traditions, especially as they developed in Kashmir and beyond, is crucial for an understanding of the history of Indian religions as well as an understanding of modern yoga and tantra as it is practiced today in many places around the world.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

These traditions can be traced back many centuries but until recently, tantric worship in Kashmir had been understood simply as 'Kashmir Śaivism', the worship of the god Śiva including all deities related to him. But it is now evident that this understanding does not suffice to describe the actual practices and forms of religion found in the texts and lived by people. At the core of Śaiva worship and Śaiva philosophy, we find that Śākta worship, or worship of the Goddess, plays a prominent role. This insight means that much in our understanding of Indian religions is about to change, and the publications included in this project will contribute to the rewriting of the history of Indian Religions that Prof. Sanderson's work has precipitated. The Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir and Beyond project will therefore establish the OCHS as a central institution for Tantric and Śākta studies in the UK. The project outputs are:

A fully annotated translation of the Netratatra with an introduction in three volumes by Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda to be published in the Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions series. The first volume is currently being edited and will be submitted for publication in 2023. Consultants: Prof. Alexis Sanderson and Prof. Diwakar Acharya.

The lecture series Readings in the Tantrāloka I-VIII by Prof. Alexis Sanderson recorded at the OCHS has been edited and published online in Michaelmas 2022.

A multi-volume critical edition and translation of Abhinavagupta's Tantrāloka by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (forthcoming).

Weekly Netroddyota online reading sessions by Prof. Alexis Sanderson (July 2020 - July 2021) are currently being edited.

Weekly Netratatra translation seminars at the OCHS in Michaelmas Term every year by Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen for the Theology and Religion Faculty.

An international conference in Oxford on Śākta and Śaiva religion from Kashmir in 2024.

A volume on Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions (ed. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen) in The Oxford History of Hinduism series (General Editor: Gavin Flood) based on the Śākta Traditions online lectures series (forthcoming).

OCHS Kathmandu Office and Summer University in Nepal

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen and other affiliates of the research programme established a study and research centre for the Śākta Traditions programme in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitisation and fieldwork. While the work in Nepal came to a halt in the spring of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, the facilities have been secured and manuscript and fieldwork in Nepal has resumed, including visiting DPhil students and interns from Oxford. Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

The highly successful OCHS Summer University in Kathmandu with a focus on Śākta Hinduism in the Kathmandu Valley (summeruni.co.uk) will take place again this year at the Hyatt Hotel from the 31st of July to 13th of August 2023. Around 20-25 international students are going and many of the participants are Oxford students (including DPhils) that are or have been taught and supervised by Fellows of the OCHS. The OCHS Summer University combines lectures and workshops with excursions and fieldwork experiences in rituals, religious spaces, and traditional practices, i.e. understanding through participation. Lecturers and tutors include Prof. Gavin Flood (Oxford), Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen (Oxford), Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg), Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo), Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Oxford), Prema Goet (SOAS), Gitte Poulsen (Aarhus and Oxford), and Laura Anderson (Oxford) as well as local scholars including Prof. Kashinath Nyaupane from the Nepal Sanskrit University. The Summer University is ECTS accredited through a collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding with the MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society facilitated by Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen. The Summer University is managed by Gitte Poulsen and Laura Anderson with Dr Wernicke-Olesen and Tanja Louise Jakobsen as consultants. Tanja Louise Jakobsen is also responsible for web design and social medias assisted by Surabhi Acharya.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series

Conveners: Ms Lena Molin and Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen

The academic year further saw the continuation of the highly successful Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series supervised by Dr Wernicke-Olesen. The list of speakers in 2022/23 included renowned scholars in the field of Śākta Studies such as Prof. June McDaniel, Prof. Shaman Hatley, and Prof. Diwakar Acharya. Previous speakers include Prof. Alexis Sanderson, Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Wernicke-Olesen, Prof. David White, Prof. James Mallinson, Prof. Knut Jacobsen, Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, Dr Bihani Sarkar, Prof. Mandakranta Bose and Prof. Harunaga Isaacson.

The Project aims to carve out space for Śāktism as an area of research in its own right. The project is a compilation of the most prominent research already done in the field of Śākta Traditions, which can serve as educational material as well as a point of departure for further research on the subject. The Series comprises four related online lecture series presented during the academic years of 2020-2023. The main goal of the project is to open up the academic field of Śākta Studies to a wider audience. Due to the online format of the lecture series, these contributions (including downloadable handouts) are preserved and archived for the future and serve as an important resource for the public as well as for researchers and students in the field of Śākta Studies.

Amṛtānanda's Saubhāgyasudhodaya and Cidvilāsastava

This research project, led by Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, focuses on the work of Amṛtānanda (ca. 1325-1375), a learned exponent of the Tantric Śākta tradition of Tripurā, also known as Śrīvidyā. His most important work is his commentary (Dīpikā, "The Lamp") on the Yoginīhrdaya, one of the Śrīvidyā seminal sources; he explains and interprets the speculative, esoteric teachings of this work in the light of the Śākta-Śaiva dynamic non-dualism of the Trika system. Amṛtānanda also authored a paddhati, the Saubhāgyasudhodaya, and a stotra, the Cidvilāsastava.

The aim of the project is to produce a monographic study with annotated translations of Amṛtānanda's Saubhāgyasudhodaya and Cidvilāsastava. Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder has already produced the first annotated translation of the Cidvilāsastava (Eulogy of the Playful Manifestation of [the Supreme] Consciousness, forthcoming, Vienna 2023) which, like Abhinavagupta's hymns, can be classified in the category of the speculative stotras. This text of forty verses appears to be a work written by an erudite initiate and was intended for his peers. Since its concise allusions to speculative and ritual elements are in several places difficult to interpret, the translation is a preliminary, tentative effort to unravel this rich and complex text. Given its relevance, it would therefore be worth studying the other extant work of this author, the Saubhāgyasudhodaya (The Rising of the Nectar of Happiness), a paddhati composed of 142 verses and divided into six "developments" (prapañca). While the contents of this text may also shed light on some controversial passages of the Cidvilāsastava, an annotated translation would add to our knowledge of Amṛtānanda's contribution to the South Indian Śrīvidyā textual tradition.

The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology

Project Leader: Prof. Gavin Flood

The research project, Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology launched in September 2021 with an international online conference, and which resulted in a publication (see below), was followed up by a further colloquium on Theology and Contemplation funded by Campion Hall on 29 May 2023. This colloquium focused on the work of the poet and philosopher Prof. Kevin Hart. Responding to his work was Father Jean-Vyes Lacoste, an important philosopher in Phenomenology from Paris, along with two colleagues from Paris, Dr Stephanie Rupza and Dr Murray Littlejohn. The colloquium also featured an excellent opening lecture by Prof. Mark Wrathall from the Philosophy Faculty. It was well attended by about thirty-five people, one of whom came from Australia for it and another from Leiden. Dr Philip Moller, who did the practical arrangements, co-organized the colloquium with Prof. Flood and organized an excellent colloquium dinner. Prof. Flood will formulate a follow up conference in a couple of years on theology and contemplations, broadening the scope of the enterprise while retaining its high standard and quality of participants.

This year, Prof. Flood also completed a book, entitled Naming Invisible Light: A History and Phenomenology of Holiness, which, at 200,000 words, will be a significant book with impact. This has been submitted to Chicago University Press.

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The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

Project leaders: Prof. Ravi Gupta and Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

In the past year, the Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project has made progress in several areas:

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar (Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute), working with a small research team, procured funding for, and successfully published, the first volume of the much-awaited Bhāgavata Purāṇa bibliography. Prof. Bahulkar will present his work at the 10th Dubrovnik International Conference on Sanskrit Epics and Puranas.

Prof. Daniel Ehnborn, Dr Neeraja Poddar, and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta have been editing a volume on the art history of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, with contributions from scholars who work on illuminated manuscripts, textiles, scrolls, and film.

Dr Kenneth R. Valpey and Prof. Ravi M. Gupta have been developing an introductory course on the Bhāgavata Purāṇa, to be hosted by OCHS Continuing Education Department.

Dr Jivnesh Sandhan is beginning a project to digitize the Bhāgavata's Sanskrit commentaries and enable word-search capabilities, using Krishnashankar Shastri's edition as a starting point. Dr Sandhan's PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur was focused on leveraging natural language technology to enhance the accessibility of Sanskrit literature.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

Project Leaders: Dr Lucian Wong, Dr Avni Chag, and Dr Arun Brahmbhatt

The Rethinking Hinduism in Modern India project is a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. The project aims to generate a critical mass of scholarship that deploys these oft-neglected communities as a vital entry point onto the colonial Hindu landscape. In doing so, it aims to establish a model for studying Hinduism in modern India that neither conflates this potentially rich subject area with an attenuated notion of 'Modern Hinduism', nor is predetermined from the outset to reproduce variations on a well-worn 'tradition-modernity' motif.

All recordings from the project's successful 2022 virtual lecture series, New Direction in the Study of Modern Hinduism, are now available on the project website: https://rethinkinghinduism.org/lecture_schedule/. Project leaders, Dr Brahmbhatt, Dr Chag, and Dr Wong are currently in the process of editing a volume based on research presented at its 2022 virtual conference, Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India.

Comparative Philosophy Projects

Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

This year saw the inauguration of a Senior Seminar in Indian Philosophy series of invited work-in-progress seminars linking graduate students across the Philosophy, AMES, Classics and Theology & Religion Faculties, with senior scholars. In 2022-2023 speakers included Prof. Jan Westerhoff, Prof. Szilvia Szanyi, and Prof. Gavin Flood. These followed the Arguments in Indian Philosophy seminars in 2022, and the Against Infinite Nothingness series in 2023. Meanwhile the Indian Philosophy course in the Philosophy Faculty has continued. In November, Dr Jessica Frazier will be a project supervisor for the Anatman conference planned and run by Alice Hank Winham, Aamir Kaderbai, and Cassandra Dugi. We also look forward to welcoming Prof. Alex Watson and Prof. John Nemec as visiting scholars in Autumn of 2023.

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This academic year Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder, a research fellow at the OCHS, also developed a new research project:

**From the Greek Art of Living to the Indian Liberation in This Life
Project Leader: Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder**

This research project deals with certain ideals of human existence propounded in different cultural traditions, namely, the ancient Greek philosophical teachings about the art of living, and the Indian concepts of liberation while still alive (jīvanmukti).

The research takes its primary inspiration from the work of Pierre Hadot, who shows how for certain philosophical schools of the Greco-Roman late Antiquity – particularly Stoicism and Epicureanism – philosophy consisted not so much in the elaboration of theoretical systems or textual exegeses, as in a way of life itself; the aim of these ancient philosophers was to teach the art of leading a good and virtuous life, with the help of spiritual exercises envisaged as a therapy for the soul. Some scholars have discussed the possibility of applying Hadot's model of interpretation to certain Buddhist schools, and have highlighted – particularly the former – the limits and difficulties of adopting Hadot's perspective in these fields of Indian thought. In fact, unlike his Greek counterpart, the Buddhist philosopher is not concerned with the present life and the occurrence of death, his vision and final goal being projected beyond the circuit of mundane existence.

The working hypothesis of this research is that Hadot's interpretative method may have some bearing on the Tantric ideal of jīvanmukti propounded by the non-dualistic Śākta-Śaiva traditions. The latter may provide a more appropriate touchstone for the relevant Greek philosophical schools: in fact, the jīvanmukta, who has recognized the ultimate identity between his own self/soul and the supreme Self/Soul, thereby attaining the liberating knowledge, is nonetheless an individual active in the real world, who continues to take part in ordinary life, while maintaining an attitude of detachment and equanimity. In particular, it will be highlighted how the combination of non-dualism and realistic idealism characterizing the Śākta-Śaiva traditions – unlike the illusionistic Advaita Vedānta which envisages jīvanmukti in a world devoid of ontological substance and value – enables the reconciliation and harmonization of the spiritual state of final emancipation with a fulfilled human life in this world.

**Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary
Project Leaders: Dr Robert Czyżkowski and Dr Lucian Wong**

Although the Middle Bengali (or madhyajuger bangla) corpus is one of the most expansive premodern Indic vernacular spheres, it remains curiously neglected in Western scholarship. The corpus reflects a multiplex religious milieu that encompasses Śākta, Vaiṣṇava, Yogic, Tantric, and Sufi currents, among others. Texts within the corpus ubiquitously deploy body symbolism that, while evincing a diverse spectrum of attitudes toward embodied existence, invariably portrays the body as an indispensable site for human transformation.

Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary, co-directed by Dr Robert Czyżkowski (Jagiellonian University) and Dr Lucian Wong (OCHS), is a 2-year research project that aims to bring a varied team of specialists together to examine how ideas of body and embodiment take shape in premodern Bengal's rich and multi-religious corpus of vernacular literature, dating from c. 1400 CE to c. 1800 CE. This collaborative project, which was recently awarded a €50,000 grant by Jagiellonian University's Strategic Program Excellence Initiative, will collect, translate, and critically analyse a representative sample of this body discourse. The project will result in an international research network; a series of workshops; an international conference panel; and an Open Access volume of high-quality translations and critical essays.

The project held its inaugural workshop at Jagiellonian University's Institute for the Study of Religions in January 2023. Members of the project have since been meeting virtually on a monthly basis as a working group engaged in the close reading, translation, and discussion of Middle Bengali body-related literature. Project members will next be travelling to the Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions, in September 2023, where they will participate in a double-session panel on Bodily Technologies in the Middle Bengali Religious Imaginary.

For more info about the project, go to: ochs.org.uk/body-and-embodiment.

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Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen; Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr Ulrik Lyngs

The Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies / Śākta Database project is led by Dr Ulrik Lyngs and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) has been a Visiting Fellow at the OCHS in 2022/23 and continues as a Research Fellow at the OCHS working together with Michael Elison (MPhil, Oxon) as a Digital Curator, and the researchers Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen on the Śākta dimension of the database. The Bengal database dimension is led by Dr Lucian Wong and is currently being developed with a number of digital curators, including PhD Fellow Siddharth Chhabra.

The database project aims at establishing a state-of-the-art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies and makes large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. The database uses the advanced Mirador 3 viewer and a custom-made OCHS viewer, and will be made public in the summer 2023. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts, and download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV), overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text), and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material.

The project has greatly expanded its manuscript and E-text volume (now counting appr. 8000 entries). Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts are being made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions including the ASA Archives specialising in Newar Hindu and Buddhist Śākta material. Manuscript digitalisation of unknown source material in Nepal continues in 2023 after the Covid pandemic has caused a long pause to our work at the OCHS Kathmandu Office. Dr Ulrik Lyngs continues as our Digital Humanities Consultant for the research programme and in collaboration with Michael Elison and other computer specialists and researchers, the project has entered a new phase producing:

New workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including a 'Book builder' with the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in language of choice).

A 'Text explorer' that makes it easy to perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages).

A 'Text analyser' that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, and more.

**The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan
Project Leader: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray**

This academic year, the Beginnings of the Hindu Temple project produced two books.

The first, edited by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Dr Salila Kulshreshtha and Dr Uthara Suvrathan is the Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice (Routledge, 2023). This handbook is a comprehensive study of the archaeology, social history and the cultural landscape of the Hindu temple. Perhaps the most recognizable of the material forms of Hinduism, temples are lived, dynamic spaces. They are significant sites for the creation of cultural heritage, both in the past and in the present. Drawing on historiographical surveys and in-depth case studies, the volume centres the material form of the Hindu temple as an entry point to study its many adaptations and transformations from the early centuries CE to the 20th century. It highlights the vibrancy and dynamism of the shrine in different locales and studies the active participation of the community for its establishment, maintenance and survival. The illustrated handbook takes a unique approach by focusing on the social base of the temple rather than its aesthetics or chronological linear development. It fills a significant gap in the study of Hinduism and will be an indispensable resource for scholars of archaeology, Hinduism, Indian history, religious studies, museum studies, South Asian history and Southeast Asian history.

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The second book, *The Hindu Temple and its Sacred Landscape*, written by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray (Mandala Publishing, 2023). *The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape* illustrates how careful attention to the Hindu temple, its social history, and cultural landscape allows us to better appreciate how Hinduism has been practised and lived throughout history. The book provides a breadth of educational knowledge as a supplement to both academic coursework and the independent study of Hinduism. With the integration of discussion questions, suggested further reading, a glossary of key terms, and images throughout, *The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape* offers an accessible introduction to studying the history and significance of Hindu temples.

Hinduism in Modern Secular Society

Project Leaders: Dr Ace Simpson, Dr Angela Burt, Dr Cecilia Bastos, and Dr Alan Herbert

The project's online lecture series, in which scholars discuss and share research related to the experiences of contemporary Hindu communities and adherents in their intersections with their host communities, hosted two more talks this academic year. On 2 March 2023, Prema Goet presented "The Shakta Aghoris in Kamakhya", based on his experiences and ethnographic research with the Shakta Aghoris during the Ambubachi Mela at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam. On 6 July 2023, Jens Augspurger gave a talk entitled "In Yoga, We are Connected!" Examining the Fabric that Makes Belonging", in which he explored how spiritual tourists often grappled with reflecting on their own impact and identity during their travels, and discussed the diverse ways in which such persons have sought to maintain their connections to India, or Yogaland, whether through the computer camera-lens, their personal yoga practice, or imaginative acts of connection.

The research team is also actively amassing a database of scholars interested in the field, to facilitate international collaboration in the future.

A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God

Project Leaders: Prof. Benedikt P. Gšcke, Dr Alan C. Herbert, Prof. Ricardo Silvestre

The Hindu Vaiṣṇava tradition is often viewed as a monotheistic tradition. We find evidence for this in many of its scriptural sources (such as *Bhavad-gītā*, *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, *Viṣṇu Purāṇa*, some *Upaniṣads* and many *Pāñcarātras* and *Āgamas*) as well in the teachings of its theologians. It might be argued, however, that this is too hasty a conclusion. Vaiṣṇavism addresses the concept of God within several contexts. First, it supports the idea that the Supreme Personal God Viṣṇu manifests himself in different divine forms (usually referred to as "avatāras"), such as Kṛṣṇa and Rāma, often with an ontological hierarchy existing between them. Second, Vaiṣṇavism traditionally accepts the existence of other deities in the Hindu pantheon, such as Brahmā, Śiva, Durgā, Indra, Varuṇa and the Goddess Lakṣmī. Third, the relation between Viṣṇu and some of these deities, notoriously Śiva and Lakṣmī, is ambiguous, sometimes being described as one of identity and sometimes as one of difference. And fourth, the relation between Viṣṇu and His potencies (*prakṛti*, in *sāṅkhya* terminology, and *śakti*, in *Purāṇic* terms)—these encompassing entities ranging across deities like Lakṣmī, individual souls and the world—is a major theme, which has brought about its own set of controversies. While Madhva (13th century) emphasizes a dualism whereby Viṣṇu differs from His potencies (although he is their source), others such as Rāmānuja (11th century), Nimbārka (12th century) and Jīva (16th century) argue, with slightly different implications, that in some sense Viṣṇu is both different (*bheda*) and non-different (*abheda*) from them.

Given all this, we might wonder: is Vaiṣṇavism really a monotheistic tradition? Or, to put it in conceptual terms, is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God a monotheistic one? More importantly, how can the Vaiṣṇava concept of God be philosophically characterized? What divine properties does the Vaiṣṇava God possess? Can it be described in a consistent way? Or is it a contradictory concept of God? If so, how would this affect its intelligibility? Does the Vaiṣṇava concept of God have some advantage over traditional philosophical accounts of God? How does it relate to more well-known accounts of God, such as classical theism, pantheism, panentheism, process theism, open theism, etc.? What are the difficulties peculiar to it? Is there a positive-conceptual basis for rationally accepting the Vaiṣṇava account of God, i.e., is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God fruitful?

The general goal of this project is to answer these questions and approach the Vaiṣṇava concept of God from a contemporary philosophical perspective. Although the project is plural in the sense of taking into account all Vaiṣṇava traditions, it has a specific goal, which is to philosophically reconstruct through a divine attribute approach the concepts of God found in two Vaiṣṇava texts: Jīva Gosvāmī's *Ṣaṭ-sandarbhāḥ* (sixteenth century) and *Bhavad-gītā*. Whereas the latter text is central for all Vaiṣṇava traditions, the former belongs to one tradition, Caitanya Vaiṣṇavism, that is both unique and interdependent with the other Vaiṣṇava traditions due to its dialogical composition.

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This John Templeton Foundation funded project was publicly launched last year, with a two-day online conference on *Indian Religions and the Concept of God*. Papers from that conference will be published by Routledge in 2024, under the title *Vaiṣṇava Concepts of God: Philosophical Perspectives*.

In February 2023, a second online conference on *God & Vaiṣṇavism* was held, with participants from the UK, Europe, Brazil, India, Australia, and the USA.

Publications

Journal of Hindu Studies

In the academic year 2022-23 there were three issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies*, published by Oxford University Press in collaboration with the OCHS: one issue containing open submissions, and two themed issues, "The Buddha and the Banyan Tree", guest edited by Joel Bordeaux, and an issue on "Vaiṣṇava Material Culture", guest edited by Elisa Freschi.

Routledge OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series

This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture and society of Hindus living in India and abroad.

The following new volume appeared in the last year:

The Making of Contemporary Indian Philosophy Krishnachandra Bhattacharyya, edited By Daniel Raveh, Elise Coquereau-Saouma.

Archaeology and Religion in South Asia

Two new volumes were published in the *Archaeology and Religion in South Asia Series*, edited by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray and published by Routledge India:

The Archaeology of the Nātha Sampradāya in Western India, 12th to 15th century, by Vijay Sarde.

Religion, Landscape and Material Culture in pre-modern South Asia, edited by Tilottama Mukherjee and Nupur Dasgupta.

Fellows' Publications

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar

"Modern Vedavyāsa: Pandit Satavalekar", in *Pañkajaśrīḥ: Dr Pankaj Chande Felicitation Volume*, edited by Shrinivas Varkhedi and Nanda Puri. Ramtek: Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, 2022, pp. 207–215.

Dr Måns Broo

Haribhaktivilāsa of Sanātana Gosvāmin, Volume 1: Mantras, Initiation and Preparing for Worship (Chapters 1–5). Critical Edition and Annotated Translation. Leiden: Brill, 2023. Prof. Francis X. Clooney

St. Joseph in South India: Poetry, Mission and Theology in Costanzo Gioseffo Beschi's Tēmpāvaṇi. Publications of the de Nobili Research Library Series. Volume XXXIX. Wien: Verein, 2022.

"On the Power of Imperfect Words: An Inquiry into the Revelatory Power of One Hindu Verse", in *Sophia*, 2022.

"Restoring Faith, Curing Doubt: Kṛṣṇa's Instruction in the Bhagavad Gītā", in *Faith, Hope, and Love: The Theological Virtues and Their Opposites. Boston Studies in Philosophy, Religion, and Public Life*, edited by M. David Eckel. Springer, 2022, pp. 27-46.

"Tread softly! all the earth is holy ground': A Comparativist Responds Constructively to Terrence Merrigan's Sacramental Theology of Religions", in *Answerable for Our Beliefs: Reflections on Theology and Contemporary Culture Offered to Terrence Merrigan*, edited by Peter De Mey, Kristof Struys, and Viorel Coman. Peeters, 2022, pp. 489-508.

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"Teaching and Learning Interreligiously in a Time of Change: Beginning (But Not Ending) with Primary Texts", in *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, edited by Lucinda Mosher. Georgetown University Press, 2022, pp. 281-290.

"Mimamsa as Introspective Literature and as Philosophy", in *Hinduism and Tribal Religions*, by edited by Pankaj Jain, Madhu Khanna, Jeffery Long, and Rita Sherma. Springer Publishing, 2022, pp. 939-948.

"God, God's Perfections, and the Good: Some Preliminary Insights from the Catholic-Hindu Encounter," in *The Monist* 105, 2022, pp. 420-433.

"Comparative Theology's Interesting Asymmetries with Receptive Ecumenism," in *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning: Walking the Way to a Church Re-formed*, edited by Paul Murray and Gregory A. Ryan. Oxford University Press, 2022.

"Catholic Roots for the Discipline" and "The Hindu-Catholic Encounter: A Natural Home for Comparative Theology," in *The Brill Companion to Comparative Theology*. Edited by Pim Valkenberg. Brill, 2022.

"The World and the (Non)Transcendent: A Reflection on Some Abundant and Elusive Possibilities from the Brahminical Traditions," in *God or the Divine? Religious Transcendence beyond Monism and Theism, between Personality and Impersonality*, edited by Bernhard Nitsche and Marcus Schmücker. De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 283-302.

"On the Meeting of Wisdom and Religions: Reflections Marking the 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr Radha Burnier," in *Brahmavidya*, 2023.

"Intense Love of God, Tireless Service of the Neighbour," in *Prabuddha Bharata* 128.1, 2023. 125th Anniversary of the Ramakrishna Math, Special Issue, pp. 248-251.

Dr Santanu Dey

Sri Srimat Kedarnath Datta Bhaktivinod Thakurer Svalikhita Jivani (1245-1301): Ek Adhunika Vaishnava sadhaker Atmakathan, Dey's publishing and Bhaktivedanta Research Center, Kolkata, 2023 (ISBN: 9788119033546).

Prof. Gavin Flood

(Editor) "Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology" in *The Heythrop Journal*, vol. 64 (2), 2023.

"Phenomenology as Philosophical Anthropology," in *the Heythrop Journal* vol 64 (3), 2023, pp. 155-61.

"Eastern Philosophy and Idealism", in *The Routledge Handbook of Idealism and Immaterialism*, edited by Joshua Farris and Benedikt Paul Göcke. London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 13-23.

Dr Jessica Frazier

Being and the Divine. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

"Solitude in Indian Philosophies", in *Solitude* (Oxford Philosophical Concepts), edited by Aaron Kachuck Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

"Indian Philosophies of Being", in *Philosophy Compass*, forthcoming.

"The Metaphysics of Omnipresent Powers in Vedāntic Sāṅkhya Philosophy", in *Omnipresence*, edited by Anna Marmodoro, Ben Page, Damiano Migliorini. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

"A 'New Humanism': Hindus, Christians and Scholars in Rome", in *Pro Dialogo: Journal of the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue*, forthcoming.

"The Metaphysics of Creative Powers: Divine Play in Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Philosophy", in *Divine Play*, edited by Daniel Soars, forthcoming.

"A Little History of the Fierce Goddess" & "The Vedic Canon", in *Engelsberg Ideas*, June 2022 & April 2023.

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"Emotion as Indian Philosophy of Value: From Pleasure and Pain to Rasa in Hindu Ethics", in *Global Dialogues in the Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Yujin Nagasawa and Mohammad Saleh Zarepour. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

"Pluralistic Epistemologies: Knowledge, Inference, and Virtue in the Caraka Saṃhitā", in *Pluralism in South Asia*, edited by Brian Black and James Madaio. Routledge, 2023.

"The Ground of All: Spinoza and Bhedābheda Vedānta on Substance, Aseity and Modes", in *Panentheism in Indian and Western Thought*, edited by Swami Medhananda. Routledge, 2023.

"The Destiny of Phenomenology", in *The Heythrop Journal* 64.3, 2023.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

"The Makings of a Successful Sanskrit Commentary: Śrīdhara Svāmī's Bhāvārtha-dīpikā and the Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Tradition," in *Bhakti in the Vaishnava Tradition*, edited by Shakuntala Gawde. Mumbai: Dev Publishers, 2023.

Dr Alan Herbert

"The Art of Visualising Reality: Jīva Gosvāmī's Aesthetics and the Role of Ritual Imagination", in *Journal of Hindu Studies* 16.1 (2023), pp. 1-32.

Prof. Dermot Killingley

Review of *A Sanskrit Treasury: A Compendium of Literature from the Clay Sanskrit Library*, edited by Camillo A. Formigatti (Bodleian Library, 2019), *Religions of South Asia* 17, pp. 109-110.
Dr Rembert Lutjeharms.

"The Perfection of All Beauty and Joy: A Gauḍīya Vedāntic theology of devotional love", in *ISKCON Communications Journal* 13 (2022), pp. 125-149.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

"A Response to (1) 'Entrapping the Elusive' by Sajjad Sharif (2) 'Bhāvanā theke kavītāya' by Srijato Bandyopadhyay", *SASC International Conference Series Vol.1*, 2023, pp. 26-30.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape. Mandala Publishing, 2023.

(Edited, with Salila Kulshreshtha and Uthara Suvrathan) *Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice*. Routledge, 2023.

"Colonial Archaeology in South Asia: Epigraphic Research" in *Oxford Research Encyclopaedias, Anthropology*, 2022.

"Sacred Landscapes and Spaces: Sacred Architecture Before Walls," in *A History of Hindu Architecture in India*, edited by Cathleen A. Cummings. Ebverlag, Gottingen, 2022, pp. 243–254.

"Where the Ganga Meets the Sea: Coastal Archaeology and the Fluvial Network of Bengal", in *Down by the Water: Interdisciplinary Studies in Human-Environment Interactions in Watery Spaces*, edited by Veronica Walker Vaddillo, Emilia Mataix Ferrándiz and Elisabeth Holmqvist, BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2022, pp. 67–76.

Dr Silvia Schwartz Linder

"Amṛtānanda's Cidvilāsastava / An Annotated Translation", in *To the Heart of Truth: A Felicitation Volume for Eli Franco on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday*, edited by Hiroko Matsuoka, Shinya Moriyama, & Tyler Neill. Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde, Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien Universität Wien, Vienna 2023.

"The Dynamic Non-Dualism of the Śrīvidyā", in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Non-duality in Indian Thought*, edited by Jonathan Duquette and James Madaio. Bloomsbury, London. Forthcoming.

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Prof. Patrick Olivelle

Collected Essays III: Reading Texts and Narrating History. Delhi: Primus Books, 2022.

Bālakrīḍāvyākhyā Vacanamālā: A Sub-Commentary on Viśvarūpa's Commentary Bālakrīḍā on the Yājñavalkya Dharmaśāstra. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publications, 2022.

"The Pañcatantra as a Nītiśāstra and its Relationship to Kauṭilya's Arthaśāstra." in Of Thieves and Therīs, Potters and Pativratās: Essays on Early Indian Social History for Kumkum Roy, eds. Uma Cakravarti, Naina Dayal, Bharati Jagannathan, and Snigdha Singh, pp. 65–80. Delhi: Primus books, 2023.

"Mining the Past to Construct the Present: Some Methodological Considerations from India." in Bridging Two World: Comparing Classical Political Thought and Statecraft in India and China," eds. Amitav Acharya, Daniel A. Bell, Rajeev Bhargava, and Yan Xuetong. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023, pp. 39–58.

"To Kill or Not to Kill: The Hermeneutics of the Ethical Axion ahimsā." in Science and Society in the Sanskrit World. Ed. Christopher Fleming, Toke L. Knudsen, Anuj Misra, and Vishal Sharma. Leiden: Brill, 2023, pp. 263–275.

"How to Change Law in Classical India: Hermeneutics in the Service of the Legal Profession", in Religion of South Asia 17-1 (2023), pp. 6–22.

Dr Neeraja Poddar

"Materiality and Narrative in an Early Mewar Bhāgavata", in The Long Arc of South Asian Art: Essays in Honour of Vidya Dehejia, edited by Annapurna Garimella. New Delhi: Women Unlimited, in association with Mumbai: The Marg Foundation, 2022, pp. 50-61.

Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

"Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī", in Oxford Bibliographies. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.

"Vinode Vani Dasi (Daisy Cecilia Bowtell): A Little Known Gaudiya Pioneer in the West", in Journal of Vaishnava Studies, vol. 30, no. 2, 2022.

Prof. Amiya P. Sen

(Editor) Special issue on "Hinduism and Hindu Nationalism" for the journal Religions, 2023.

Review of Hindu Nationalism in India, by Tanaika Sarkar (Hurst & Co. 2021), New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies, 22.1 (2022).

Review of Tagore's University, by Swati Ganguly (Permanent Black, 2022), India Quarterly (2023).

Review of The Widows of Colonial Bengal, by Aishika Chakraborty (Primus Books, 2022), New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies (2023).

Review of Guru to the World: The Legacy of Swami Vivekananda, by Ruth Harris (Harper Collins, 2022), Biblio (2023).

Dr Kenneth R. Valpey

"Whither Bovinity? Hindu Dharma, the Indian State, and Conflicting Moral Perspectives over Cow Protection", in Animal Ethics and Animal Law, edited by Andrew Linzey and Clair Linzey. Lexington Books, 2023.

"In the Service of All that Lives: Gandhi's Vision of Engaged Nonviolent Animal Care", in Animal Theologians, edited by Andrew Lindzey and Clair Lindzey. Oxford University Press, 2023.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Haṭhpradīpikā (extended edition), Højbjerg: Forlaget Univers, 2023.

Tantra in Medieval India and Nepal: An annotated edition and translation of the Tantra of the Eye, the Netra Tantra, Vol. 1, Oxford: Routledge, forthcoming.

Classical Sanskrit Grammar and Reader, 2 vols. (English translation of Gudernes Sprog – Klassisk Sanskrit på Dansk), forthcoming.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Dr Lucian Wong

The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong, New Delhi: Routledge, 2023.

"Bengal Renaissance", in Oxford Bibliographies: Hinduism. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Visiting Fellow's Report

Valters Negribs

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Michaelmas term 2022

I benefitted greatly from being the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Fellow during Michaelmas term 2022. The fellowship allowed me to carry on with new research while I was waiting for my doctoral viva which I passed shortly afterwards.

My work focused on the Sanskrit epics, early history of yoga, and the links between early Hindu and Buddhist traditions. I received valuable feedback on my work in progress after delivering two lectures entitled "The luminous ātman within: Beliefs about afterlife and voluntary death of sages in the Sanskrit epics" and "The relationship between āsana (posture), sukha (bliss), and meditation in early yoga".

I started drafting two research articles based on the two talks and will continue working on them in early 2023.

I also co-organised a Pali reading group with Shree Nahata from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. As my research seeks to demonstrate, reading the Sanskrit epics alongside early Buddhist texts in Pali and other languages can generate new insights. The reading group complemented the Pali teaching provided at the OCHS to further promote the study of this language.

The OCHS remains an invaluable resource for scholars of Hinduism. It is a place where one can meet and interact with a variety of people, including the permanent members of the OCHS, professors and students from other Oxford institutions, as well as other visiting fellows and religious practitioners.

Dr June McDaniel

Shivdasani Fellow, Michaelmas term 2022

I was the Shivdasani Visiting Research Fellow during the Michaelmas term of 2022 at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. My visit had a dramatic beginning. As I was about to leave for England, a hurricane hit Charleston, and the airport was closed down. I got to Oxford, but later than I had planned. This was one challenge- there was also illness, and then on the way back to the USA, there was a 'security situation' at Heathrow airport, with sirens and orders to evacuate. However, the plane left on time, and I returned safely.

I gave two lectures during my time at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. One was "Visualization in Some Bengali Hindu Contemplative Traditions: Vaishnava Bhakti, Shakta Tantra, Baul Songs and Raja Yoga." It illustrated techniques of meditative visualization used by these groups, with over one hundred images. It showed the ways that Hindu meditation techniques work with images and symbols, and it is part of my broader research on Hindu mysticism. The lecture had a good turnout, and the audience was enthusiastic and interested.

The second lecture was on a very different topic, my last book. It was on "Lost Ecstasy: Its Decline and Transformation in Religion." In this book, I examine the ways that ecstatic experience has been condemned in modern academia- in the fields of Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, and other areas. It discussed how this has narrowed our ability to understand some of the deepest and most powerful experiences that people can have. The paper also included some suggestions for future directions for the OCHS. This lecture also had a large crowd, with many interesting questions.

I also gave two other lectures during my time at Oxford. One was an invited Zoom lecture for a conference in Kalimantan, Indonesia, on "Ideals of Love and Wisdom in Some Major World Religions. The other was on Contemplative Psychedelic Psychology: Some Eastern, Western and Visionary Models of the Mind," for the Oxford Psychedelic Society.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

I was able to do research at the Bodleian library for several writing projects, including two papers on Hindu Shaktism (in modern and folk traditions) for journals, and a broader project on Hindu mysticism. I appreciate the invitation for the Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship, and for the opportunity to meet the OCHS scholars and learn how the study of Hinduism in the USA compares with this study in Britain. I look forward to a long intellectual and professional relationship with the OCHS community.

Dr Rajan Khatiwoda
Shivdasani Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

The Oxford Centre for Hinduism (OCHS) is a prestigious institution dedicated to the study and comprehension of Hindu traditions. Serving as a platform for academic research and knowledge dissemination, the centre encompasses various aspects of Hinduism. As a visiting fellow, my primary responsibilities focused on editing the Netratatra (a Śākta text that has been distinctly preserved in a Nepalese recension). Concurrently, I contributed to the development of an online manuscript database. The Netratatra offers profound insights into the mystical and spiritual practices of the Śākta path, encompassing topics such as deity worship, meditation techniques, and ritual observances. During the editing process, meticulous examination of the original manuscripts was undertaken, with close collaboration with esteemed experts Prof. Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen to ensure accuracy and consistency.

In addition to editing the Netratatra, I had the opportunity to review other significant Śākta texts, such as the Nīśvāsataṭṭvasaṃhitā, which is one of the earliest lay Śaiva canons, and the Svachchandantra. I was also actively involved in the development of the OCHS Online Manuscript Database, with a specific focus on tantric texts. This digital platform aimed to enhance accessibility and preservation of valuable tantric manuscripts. Serving as a repository of digitized manuscripts, the database aims at providing scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts with a user-friendly resource that facilitated easy searching and navigation.

I contributed to develop a comprehensive and scientifically grounded cataloguing scheme for the manuscripts, as well as sharing my expertise in the digitization process to ensure high-quality imaging, accurate metadata tagging, and appropriate measures for digital preservation. Collaborating with experts in the field of digital archiving, I helped in establishing standardized protocols for metadata management and to the development of a user-friendly interface that allowed users to explore manuscripts, access translations and commentaries, and engage in scholarly discussions and annotations.

The combined experience of editing tantric texts and contributing to the development of the manuscript database provided me with invaluable insights into the Śākta traditions and the broader field of tantric studies. I am deeply grateful to the Oxford Centre for Hinduism for granting me the opportunity to serve as a visiting fellow, which has significantly enriched my understanding and expertise in the field of Śākta traditions.

Prof. Chris Dorsett
J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

It has been a privilege to hold the J.P. and Beena Khaitan visiting fellowship. The position allowed me to dedicate Hilary term 2023 to researching the work of the British authority on Indian art, Philip Rawson (1924-1995). As a result, the term was transformed into an extremely useful opportunity to test and extend my ideas about the approach Rawson took to curating the 1971 Tantra exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery. For museum and gallery audiences in the UK this show was a groundbreaking moment in the reception of Indian religious and philosophical thought. However, Tantra's impact is curiously under-researched and the process of preparing and presenting two lectures at the Centre for Hindu Studies consolidated a topic that has long influenced me both as an academic and as an artist-curator.

My lectures compared Rawson's exhibition-making to my own experiments at the interface between contemporary art and the museum world. The feedback I received was, as one would expect, deeply insightful and extremely stimulating. Indeed, the informal conversations that followed, often occurring during the weekly lunches at OCHS, encouraged me to take a further, more speculative step in which I set Rawson's ambitions as an art educator alongside his curatorial practices. Consequently, in my second lecture, I was able to link the life-long interest Rawson had in teaching drawing to his innovative use of exhibition design and, by extension, his practice-based engagement with the aesthetic theories of the tantric sage Abhinavagupta. I believe it is the first time anyone has brought these different dimensions of the Tantra exhibition together and I will now write-up my findings with a view to publication. I am very grateful to the Centre and the sponsors for providing the platform for this new work.

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**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Dr Ulrik Lyngs
Visiting Fellow, Hilary Term 2023

It was a delight for me to be an OCHS visiting fellow in Hilary term 2023. The purpose of my visiting fellowship was to continue development of the OCHS Manuscript Database project, which will make tools from the digital humanities easily available for scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. The project vision is to make thousands of manuscripts available, drawn from the OCHS Kathmandu digitisation project, the National Archives of Nepal, the ASA archives, and more. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library, our database will offer a more advanced interface which, for example, allows users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts. The database will also include computational tools for easy textual analysis and concordance, and automatic generating of formatted PDFs or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts.

With assistance from digital curator Michael Elison, we made substantial progress on this project during my fellowship. On Tuesday 28th February, we presented our work-in-progress at Campion Hall in Oxford, using the Netra Tantra as an example. The database now includes more than 1700 manuscripts and includes functionality to view photos and text side-by-side. All photos are documented according to the International Image Interoperability Framework standards (iiif.io) and can be viewed with the open-source IIIF viewer Mirador (projectmirador.org) or our own OCHS Viewer. The website also includes a 'Book builder', which generates formatted books in PDF, Word, or HTML format; a 'Text explorer', which can search for sequences of text across our manuscripts; and a 'Text analyser' that can count word frequencies, analyse how often specific words occur close together, and more.

The OCHS Manuscript Database has significant potential to augment traditional scholarly workflows, and I am excited to be part of its development.

Professor Indrani Chatterjee
Shivdasani Fellow, Trinity Term 2023

The Oxford Center of Hindu Studies provided me the most salubrious environment for my intellectual growth. First, it allowed me to completely draft and revise a paper that I had sketched out briefly at a seminar led by Dr. Lucian Wong on Modern Hinduism in 2021-22. The holdings of the library as well as the intellectual stimulation from colleagues and fellow visitors to the center provided the stimulation not merely to write the first draft, but also receive feedback from both Dr. Wong and Dr. Stewart, and revise the paper for final submission. Titled "Unseeing' Monastic Subjects", the essay uses inscriptions dated to the late seventeenth-early nineteenth century. The inscriptions speak of groups of villagers dedicated to serve the temples of the founders. I argue that the dates of these 'gifts' of people to the temples coincides with warfare that rippled through the region. The likelihood is great that these gifted villagers were either prisoners-of-war or refugees from war. However, when the English East India Company defeated the Burmese armies and annexed the Brahmaputra river valley to their Indian colony in 1826, the Company government imposed a regime of taxation that actually degraded the temple servants further. But the most important result was administrative and ideological: the very concept of 'monastic subjects' became illegible to the state.

In addition to submitting the paper above for review, I also delivered the Visiting Fellow's lecture on May 11. My talk was titled 'Gendering Jajmani, Re-Casteing Capital' to the assembled audience of OCHS fellows. It was based on re-reading a collection of old Bengali language documents dated to the same period as the earlier essay: between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth century. But the terrain on which the events unfolded was that of western and plains Bengal, in the vicinity of the early colonial capital of Kolkata. The talk dilated on the relationships between non-brahman patrons and their poorer brahman clients. Though the former became increasingly enmeshed in colonial capitalist networks, they maintained their ritualized obligations towards their client brahmans. This persistence of vertical and unequal relationships also amplifies and refines a theory about caste propounded by Louis Dumont in 1971.

In the course of the eight weeks that I was at OCHS, I also advanced my research by working at the Bodleian Library, especially in the Weston Reading Room in manuscript materials, especially locating the files of one of Bengal's earliest indigo merchants-cum-bankers, John Palmer. In the course of collecting this evidence, I also found sources that suggest another collaborative project in the future with other scholars of the OCHS – such as Dr. Prema Goet.

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

It is a measure of the success of the OCHS personnel and programming that a stranger to Oxford such as myself found herself at home within the first week. Apart from making me personally welcome at the Wednesday lunches held at the Center, the Directors and other Fellows went out of their way to include me in various other social occasions. Everyone – from Tanja Jacobsen the administrator to Professor Flood, the academic director – ensured that my needs were attended to quickly, and they went out of their way to involve me in ways that made me feel like an ‘insider’ very quickly. I am very grateful for the range and depth of the intellectual, financial and social support that the OCHS provided to me, and can never praise its work enough. I wish it a very long and happy future.

Professor Tony Stewart

J.P. And Beena Khaitan Fellow, Trinity Term 2023

Lectures

‘Challenging Expectations: Interpreting the Bengali Satya Nārāyaṇ Puthi of Kavivallabh.’ In this exercise in interpreting a curious text that shows the main character Satya Pīr to be alternately a Sufi, Khodā, or Allah, Nārāyaṇ, Kṛṣṇa, and Śiva. Participants read the translation that just six weeks ago appeared in my anthology of unabridged translations titled *Needle at the Bottom of the Sea: Bengali Tales from the Land of the Eighteen Tides* (University of California Press, 2023). In last year’s Trinity Term—also as a Khaitan Visiting Fellow—I finished up the translation and dispatched it to the press, so it was only fitting that we examine one of those tales in a seminar setting at OCHS. I donated a copy of the anthology to the OCHS library.

‘Alternatives to the Gosvāmī Master Narrative: Vernacular Explorations in the Vaiṣṇav Imagination of the 16th-18th centuries.’ In this completely new work, I surveyed more than fifty unpublished Bangla manuscripts on various aspects of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava and related traditions of Bengal. The works were chosen from more than 150 manuscripts I had initially read in 1981-82 during dissertation research in Calcutta and only recently rediscovered after my retirement from teaching at Vanderbilt University. My goal was to look for ‘fault lines’ in the hegemonic narratives of the tradition established by Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj in his magisterial biography of Caitanya Caritāmṛta with the idea that there were theological and ritual issues detailed in these manuscripts that were not totally resolved by the mainstream tradition.

Research: Three closely related projects

As I had done last year, I continued to investigate the nature of the close associate of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486-1533) who is known in the early biographies as Jaban Haridās or Haridās Ṭhākura. In early modern Bangla, Jaban indicates a foreigner of indeterminate provenance, though usually designating a Musalmān. Haridās is famous in the tradition as the greatest exponent and teacher of chanting the names of god (kīrtan, jap), and the textual evidence suggests that Jaban Haridās was a Chishti Sufi who practised dhikr/zikir using Kṛṣṇa as his preferred name for god. Often referred to as a ‘converted’ Muslim, there is no evidence that was so, rather till his death he remained a Sufi who loved Kṛṣṇa. I retranslated one major tale and developed a complete outline of the monograph.

I translated passages from the first Bangla biography of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya by Vṛndāvan Dās, originally known as the Caitanya Maṅgal but now famous as Caitanya Bhāgavat. The exercise was to determine the viability of undertaking such a massive translation which would likely take the most of a decade. No final decision has been taken.

Relevant to both projects was the material that constituted the manuscript presentation noted above.

Publication

I completed and submitted an article titled ‘Dancing in Shackles: On Translating the Caitanya Caritāmṛta of Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj.’ The article will appear in a special issue of *The Journal of Vaiṣṇava Studies*.

Student Advising

I worked with Utsa Bose, OCHS scholarship student, who was making his first professional presentation at the Annual American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Conference. He is investigating the ways epidemics and pandemics were presented in English and Bengali books, medical journals, and newspapers. The popular and scientific etiologies of various ailments, often with connections to Hindu mythology, provided a fruitful comparison with today’s Covid pandemic reporting. It should be noted that I have worked on Śitalā, goddess of smallpox, including translations of portions of the Śitalā Maṅgal of Kṛṣṇarām Dās, and translated the Olābibī Jagaraṇ Pālā of Išvaracandra Sarkār that tells the story of the Musalmāni matron of Cholera, Śitalā’s ‘sister.’

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Other activities

I participated in a number of activities around James Fitzgerald's Radhakrishnan Lectures at All Souls (04, 11, 18 May); Fitzgerald was my first Sanskrit instructor with whom I have worked closely over the last forty-five years.

I attended the public lectures by Indrani Chatterjee, the Sivdasani Visiting Fellow (11 May) and reviewed one of her unpublished articles titled 'Satrubali and the Forgotten Past of Oblations to Temples.' I attended the OCHS lecture by visitor, Robert Czyżykowski (03 May), and met with him frequently to discuss his published and planned work on the sahajiyā traditions.

I met several times each week with Lucian Wong, whose own work dovetails with mine. In addition to his work on the *Vaṃśī Śikṣā* of Premdās Miśra and the Bāghnapāḍā school (I was able to give him an old print version of the text), we assessed at length the proposed contributions to The Oxford Handbook of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies. We also explored the possibility of including short translations in The Journal of Hindu Studies. I agreed to participate in his joint project with Robert Czyżykowski titled 'Bodily Technologies in the Middle Bengali Religious Imaginary,' with participation in the European Association for the Study of Religion in Vilnius, 04-08 September 2023.

On several occasions, I met to discuss current projects with Faisal Devji (St. Antony's College) and Mallica Landrus (Keeper of Asian Art, Ashmolean Museum), the latter of whom continues to generate exciting new exhibition ideas about South Asian art. At her request, I am slated to examine previously unpublished photographs of 19th-century religious and ethnic groups in South Asia as part of a planned exhibition.

And of course, I sojourned at the Bodleian. I think it important to add that the library at OCHS has an increasingly rich collection of materials, including many Bangla titles not found in the Bodleian but essential to my work. And in spite of cramped space, Rembert Lutjearms has proved very resourceful in locating things for me. I will also be meeting Rembert to discuss his important paper, 'A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of the Early Gauḍīyas in Braj,' which he is presenting at the 39th Annual Sanskrit Traditions Symposium later today, but unfortunately which I will not be able to attend in person.

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

Inaugural Workshop of the Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary 16-18 January 2023, Jagiellonian University, Poland

The Body and Embodiment in the Middle Bengali Imaginary project held its inaugural workshop, funded by the OCHS, on 16-18 January 2023 at the Institute of Religious Studies at Jagiellonian University. Participants presented papers examining the theme of the body and embodiment in such diverse religious currents as Śūfism, Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism, Śāktism, regional epic literature, Hāṭha-yoga, and Tantra. Over the next 2 years, this working group will continue to develop these papers through monthly virtual meetings, an EASR conference panel, and a second workshop in Krakow in June 2024. The project will culminate in an Open Access volume of critical essays and translations, which will make some of this fascinating premodern Bengali body-discourse available in the English language for the first time.

Workshop participants (in the order of presentation):

Joel Bordeaux (Leiden University)
Keith Cantu (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Rebecca Manring (Indiana University Bloomington)
Mriganka Mukhopadhyay (University of Amsterdam)
Naba Gopal Roy (Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University)
Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts)
Lucian Wong (Oxford Center for Hindu Studies)
Robert Czyżykowski (Jagiellonian University)
Ishan Chakrabarti (University of Chicago)

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

God & Vaiṣṇavism

13-14 February 2023, held online

This second workshop of the research project A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God was held online. The purpose of this workshop was to approach the concepts of God found in Vaiṣṇava traditions and texts in order to locate them within a global philosophical framework. The speakers of the workshop were invited to answer the following question What is the Vaiṣṇava concept of God? Or more specifically: What attributes does God possess according to particular textual sources and traditions in Vaiṣṇavism? The workshop brought together scholars from around the globe. The following scholars presented papers:

Graham Oppy (Monash University)
Rebecca Chan (San José State University)
Benedikt Göcke (Ruhr-University Bochum)
Gavin Flood (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies & University of Oxford)
Edwin F. Bryant (Rutgers University)
Ricardo Sousa Silvestre (Federal University of Campina Grande)
Angelika Malinar (University of Zurich)
Suganya Anandakichenin (University of Hamburg)
Frederick M. Smith (University of Iowa)
Shrinivasa Varakhedi (Central Sanskrit University)
Swami Medhananda (Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education)
Alan Herbert (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)
Kenneth R. Valpey (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)
Vijay Ramnarace (Georgetown University)

Theology and Contemplation

29 May 2023, Champion Hall

This colloquium, part of Prof. Gavin Flood's The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology project, focused on the work of the poet and philosopher Kevin Hart. Responding to his work was Father Jean-Vyes Lacoste, an important philosopher in Phenomenology from Paris, along with two colleagues from Paris, Dr Stephanie Rupza and Dr. Murray Littlejohn. The colloquium also featured an excellent opening lecture by Prof. Mark Wrathall from the Philosophy Faculty. It was well attended by about thirty-five people, one of whom came from Australia for it and another from Leiden. Dr. Philip Moller, who did the practical arrangements, co-organized the colloquium with Prof. Flood and organized an excellent colloquium dinner.

The 39th Sanskrit Traditions Symposium

2 June 2022, Trinity College, Oxford

The 39th session of the Sanskrit Traditions Symposium took place on Friday 2 June, at Trinity College, Oxford - for the first time in person since the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Although coinciding with a rail strike, the symposium brought together scholars from Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and, from further afield, the Netherlands and India. The papers discussed covered ancient Indian asceticism, the development of the pilgrimage sites in Vārāṇasī as well as Vṛndāvana, and early modern Vedāntic debates. The speakers and respondents were Dr Jessica Frazier, Olli-Pekka Littunen and Prof. Gavin Flood, Dr Vinoth Murali and Dr Jonathan Duquette, and Dr Rembert Lutjeharms and Dr Christopher Fleming.

Netra Tantra Seminar

Tuesday 28th February, Champion Hall and Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Convenor: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Welcome by Professor Gavin Flood

The Netratatra: Its Vision and Themes by Professor Gavin Flood

Tradition of Manuscript Production: Nepalese Recension of the Netratatra in the National Archives of Nepal by Dr Rajan Khatiwoda

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Readings in the Netratntra: Chapter 7 on Subtle Visualising Meditation (sūkṣmadhyāna) by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies: Building a Śākta Manuscript Database by Dr Ulrik Lyngs and Michael Elison

Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya (Routledge Hindu Studies Series) by Dr Silvia Schwarz Linder

Graduate Seminars

Convenor: Dr Jessica Frazier

The Senior Seminars in Indian Philosophy have thrived this year; they bring together professional scholars and graduate students in shared discussion. Topics this year included the philosophy of idealism, consciousness, topography and perception, modal grounding and ultimate truths. Speakers included Jan Westerhoff, Gavin Flood, Szilvia Szanyi and a number of students across different Faculties sharing their research in a lively environment. The seminars were well attended, and will continue bringing together Oxford's Indian Philosophy community in the coming year.

Investment Strategy

These funds are managed on behalf of the OCHS by Sanderson Financial Limited. They are invested in a mix of equity, fixed income, and property funds. The investment adviser is mandated to recommend investments which conform to ethical investment principles as much as is possible and or available within specific asset classes and apply a cautious risk strategy to the overall portfolio, which over the long term provide steady positive income and capital growth.

The investment advisers approach to ethical investment principles is to try, as much as possible, within each asset class to recommend funds to the portfolio which undertake "negative screening" of their investments, thereby minimising the potential of the portfolio being invested in so called "sin stocks" such as companies which profit from the sale of tobacco, gambling and weapons.

Investment Performance and Target Returns

The Committee are happy to report that since the first investment made in October 2016 the Investment Portfolio has seen a net capital growth of 19.62%.

This capital growth has allowed the committee to distribute £61,825 of funds since 2019 to the OCHS to support its scholarship and research activities.

The committee aims to return 3.5% of the total Investment Portfolio on an annual basis to the OCHS to fund scholarships and research activities. This requires it to target annual net capital growth of 5%.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties and have carried out an annual review of their activities in this regard.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities ('SOFA') for the year has been produced on page 25 showing movements on unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. The OCHS received donations of £884,304 (2022: £340,468) during the year. Fee income of £159,872 (2022: £222,155) was received and the charity had costs of £630,974 (2022: £570,722). The net surplus for the year was £670,023 (2022: net surplus of £40,646).

Funds and reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2023 are showing a surplus of £765,765 (2022: £114,566) with designated reserves showing a surplus of £278,880 (2022: £238,960). After adjusting for fixed assets free reserves are £683,177 (2022: £83,599). The OCHS has plans to increase this surplus with the acquisition of new premises, which will reduce costs and ensure the charity's long term sustainability.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Future Plans

The OCHS continues to expand and the charity continues to campaign for funds to enable the purchase of new premises in Oxford. This will ensure the OCHS can continue to develop its facilities and increase its student numbers.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

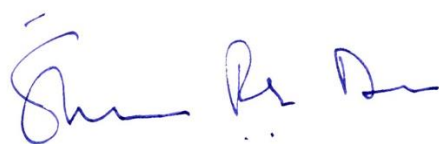
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Wenn Townsend were re-appointed auditors to the OCHS at the Trustees' meeting.

This report was approved by Trustees on ...18/01/2024



Shaunaka Rishi Das

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 20 and 21, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Wenn Townsend

Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
30 St Giles
Oxford

18/01/2024

Wenn Townsend is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming from:											
Donations											
- Other donations	2	720,519	153,604	10,181	-	884,304	242,774	76,718	20,976	-	340,468
- Government grants	2	-	-	-	-	-	40,022	-	-	-	40,022
- Legacy		265,000	-	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	159,872	-	-	-	159,872	222,155	-	-	-	222,155
Investments	4	2,220	17	95	205	2,537	515	7	41	84	647
Total income		<u>1,147,611</u>	<u>153,621</u>	<u>10,276</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>1,311,713</u>	<u>505,466</u>	<u>76,725</u>	<u>21,017</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>603,292</u>
Expenditure on:											
Charitable activities	5	<u>507,161</u>	<u>104,973</u>	<u>11,364</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>630,974</u>	<u>528,816</u>	<u>28,567</u>	<u>11,728</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>570,722</u>
Total expenditure		<u>507,161</u>	<u>104,973</u>	<u>11,364</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>630,974</u>	<u>528,816</u>	<u>28,567</u>	<u>11,728</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>570,722</u>
Net gains/(loss) on investments	10	(2,488)	4,509	(3,128)	(9,609)	(10,716)	4,860	(3,233)	956	5,493	8,076
Net income/expenditure		637,962	53,157	(4,216)	(16,880)	670,023	(18,490)	44,925	10,245	3,966	40,646
Transfer between funds		<u>13,237</u>	<u>(13,237)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,801</u>	<u>(18,801)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		651,199	39,920	(4,216)	(16,880)	670,023	311	26,124	10,245	3,966	40,646
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2022		<u>114,566</u>	<u>238,960</u>	<u>404,887</u>	<u>219,925</u>	<u>978,338</u>	<u>114,255</u>	<u>212,836</u>	<u>394,642</u>	<u>215,959</u>	<u>937,692</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2023		<u><u>765,765</u></u>	<u><u>278,880</u></u>	<u><u>400,671</u></u>	<u><u>203,045</u></u>	<u><u>1,648,361</u></u>	<u><u>114,566</u></u>	<u><u>238,960</u></u>	<u><u>404,887</u></u>	<u><u>219,925</u></u>	<u><u>978,338</u></u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Balance sheet
At 31 March 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	10	298,304		485,817	
Tangible assets	11	266,209		4,035	
			564,513		489,852
Current assets					
Debtors	12	65,882		67,459	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,097,086		462,614	
		1,162,968		530,073	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(79,120)		(41,587)	
Net current assets			1,083,848		488,486
Net assets			1,648,361		978,338
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			765,765		114,566
Designated	14		278,880		238,960
Restricted funds	15a		400,671		404,887
Endowment funds	15b		203,045		219,925
Total funds			1,648,361		978,338

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18/01/2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shaunaka Rishi Das
Director

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (analysed below)	722,563	22,320
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest/dividends received	2,537	647
Net cash (transferred in)/withdrawn from investment account	174,372	(12,500)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(265,000)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(88,091)	(11,853)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	634,472	10,467
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	462,614	452,147
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,097,086	462,614

Note:

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	670,023	40,646
Adjustments for:		
Interest/dividends received	(2,537)	(647)
Depreciation charges	2,825	3,366
(Gain)/loss on investments	10,220	(8,076)
Gifted shares into investment portfolio	-	-
Investment management fees	2,922	3,124
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,577	1,545
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	37,533	(17,638)
Net cash provided by operating activities	722,563	22,320

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Fund accounting

The Charity's total funds consist of:

- I. Unrestricted funds are general funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- II. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The trustees may move funds between unrestricted and designated funds.
- III. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
- IV. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Giri Scholarship. This fund will be used to grant scholarships that the Centre deems appropriate, with the request that the Centre considers projects aimed at Bhakti traditions. Income arising on the endowment is to be used to fund the scholarships and is included in restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment manager's advice and legal advice relating to the fund are charged to the fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from charitable activities is CED online course fees.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Resources expended comprise the following:

- I. The costs of generating voluntary income relates to costs incurred to promote fundraising.
- II. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- III. Governance costs reflect the costs incurred which are directly attributable to the management of the Charity's assets, organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

e) Tangible assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line / 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance basis

f) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their value can otherwise be measured reliably.

g) Pension costs

The charity makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme for certain employees. The pension cost charged to the income and expenditure account represents contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

h) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

i) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees can only consider with reasonable certainty a budgetary period of 12 months from the year end due to the difficulty in securing voluntary income for unrestricted funds.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Deed of covenants	20,392	-	-	-	20,392	22,153
Individual donations	700,127	153,604	10,181	-	863,912	318,315
Government grants receivable	-	-	-	-	-	40,022
	<u>720,519</u>	<u>153,604</u>	<u>10,181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>884,304</u>	<u>380,490</u>

Included within Government grants receivable for the charity is £Nil (2022: £40,022) of Government grants relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Weekend Schools	19,480	-	-	19,480	25,243
BAP's lunches	3,479	-	-	3,479	-
Online course	135,616	-	-	135,616	195,663
Book Publishing	1,297	-	-	1,297	1,249
	<u>159,872</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>159,872</u>	<u>222,155</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Interest receivable	462	2	10	45	519	34
Dividends receivable	1,758	15	85	160	2,018	613
	<u>2,220</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>2,537</u>	<u>647</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs	235,717	-	-	-	235,717	238,753
Lectures, scholarships and grants	150,038	100,358	11,000	6,060	267,456	171,743
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent, rates and service charges	56,197	2,457	-	-	58,654	61,884
Insurance – professional indemnity	541	-	-	-	541	541
Insurance – general	2,572	-	-	-	2,572	2,166
Repairs and maintenance	1,087	-	-	-	1,087	1,389
Printing, postage and stationery	1,097	-	-	-	1,097	1,359
Telephone	1,336	-	-	-	1,336	1,765
Travelling and motor expenses	3,742	-	-	-	3,742	2,348
General expenses	18,413	194	-	-	18,607	12,431
Investment Management Charges	1,078	64	364	1,416	2,922	3,257
Interest and bank charges	2,926	-	-	-	2,926	6,985
Advertising and marketing	7,297	-	-	-	7,297	9,458
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	26,073
Governance costs (note 6)	25,120	1,900	-	-	27,020	30,570
	<u>507,161</u>	<u>104,973</u>	<u>11,364</u>	<u>7,476</u>	<u>630,974</u>	<u>570,722</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

6 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Professional fees	20,264	-	-	-	20,264	24,000
Audit fees	3,930	-	-	-	3,930	3,204
Depreciation	926	1,900	-	-	2,826	3,366
	<u>25,120</u>	<u>1,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,020</u>	<u>30,570</u>

7 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No Trustee received or waived any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil).

The Trustees/director received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,052 (2022: £2,813).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Director, Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das.

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das did not receive any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil).

Donations from the trustees totalled £500,000.

8 Taxation

The OCHS is a registered Charity and is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023	2022
Administration, Continuing Education and Academic Staff	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	216,294	223,985
National insurance contributions	15,864	11,154
Pension contributions	3,559	3,614
	<u>235,717</u>	<u>238,753</u>

No members of staff received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2022: nil).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

10 Investments

Investment portfolio	Cash Reserves £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
<u>Market value</u>			
As at 1 April 2022	15,033	470,784	485,817
Cash transferred in	(174,372)	-	(174,372)
Net disposals	167,083	(167,083)	-
Increase/(decrease) in market value	-	(10,716)	(10,716)
Interest Received	97	-	97
Dividends Received	400	-	400
Management Charges	(2,923)	-	(2,923)
As at 31 March 2023	<u>5,319</u>	<u>292,985</u>	<u>298,304</u>
Market value of UK quoted investments			298,304
Overseas quoted investments			-
			<u>298,304</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	-	44,543	44,543
Additions	265,000	-	265,000
Cost at 31 March 2023	<u>265,000</u>	<u>44,543</u>	<u>309,543</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	-	40,508	40,508
Charge for the year	-	2,826	2,826
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>43,334</u>	<u>43,334</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2023	<u>265,000</u>	<u>1,209</u>	<u>266,209</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>4,035</u>	<u>4,035</u>

The library collection has been gifted to the Charity and has no cost or value in the financial statements. The Trustees deem the value of the library to total £200,000 but no formal valuation has been obtained as the Trustees feel that the cost of such a valuation would outweigh any benefit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	13,040	-
Prepayments and accrued income	52,842	67,459
	<u>65,882</u>	<u>67,459</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	26,598	-
Other taxes and social security costs	5,666	7,410
Accruals and deferred income	46,856	34,177
	<u>79,120</u>	<u>41,587</u>

Included within accruals and deferred income is £6,805 (2022: £11,092) relating to income received in advance for courses/events held in the year ended 31st March 2024.

14 Designated funds

2023	1 April 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2023 £
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	15,232	(10,330)	(4,902)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	20,000	(15,228)	(4,772)	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	123,705	-	-	-	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	10,408	(537)	(384)	-	9,487
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	2,004	--	(4,994)	-	(2,989)
Library Equipment	141	200	-	-	341
Janauji Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	11,720	22,862	-	-	34,581
Research Funds Academics	5,808	-	(2,099)	-	3,709
CED Development Fund	23,627	7,000	-	-	30,627
Academic Research Endowment Fund	20,677	5,063	-	-	25,740
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	4,389	7,125	(1,801)	(3,563)	6,150
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	17,620	-	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	605	180	(500)	-	285
Nepal Summer School	1,400	38,974	(37,336)	-	3,038
Fellowship – Surrender M Bahl	-	7,000	-	-	7,000
E & G Krishna Estate	-	34,757	(32,301)	-	2,456
Nainka's Bursary for Kashmiri Saivism and Kashmir Hindu Studies	-	275	-	-	275
	<u>238,960</u>	<u>158,130</u>	<u>(104,973)</u>	<u>(13,237)</u>	<u>278,880</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

14 Designated funds (continued)

2022	1 April 2021	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	132,705	-	-	(9,000)	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	10,294	176	(62)	-	10,408
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	4,642	-	(2,638)	-	2,004
Library Equipment	99	42	-	-	141
Janauji Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	8,661	3,059	-	-	11,720
Research Funds Academics	8,000	-	(2,192)	-	5,808
CED Development Fund	7,500	28,171	(12,044)	-	23,627
Academic Research Endowment Fund	24,079	(3,402)	-	-	20,677
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	9,500	(6,205)	(3,295)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	7,000	(4,882)	(2,118)	-
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	-	8,777	-	(4,388)	4,389
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	-	17,620	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	-	1,149	(544)	-	605
Nepal Summer School	-	1,400	-	-	1,400
	<u>212,836</u>	<u>73,492</u>	<u>(28,567)</u>	<u>(18,801)</u>	<u>238,960</u>

Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship was offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship was awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality and a holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship was provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship was given to scholars who furthered the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre and worked in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund

The Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Gopal and Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, who are long term supporters of the centre.

It is their desire that these funds are utilised by the centre in carrying out its academic, research and continuing education activities over the next several years.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

15a Restricted funds

2023	1 April 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2023
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	2,769	10,181	(8,680)	-	4,270
Bhumi project	334	-	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	10,477	(523)	(384)	-	9,570
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	38,422	(2,013)	(1,242)	-	35,167
Tristan Elby	8,548	(497)	(1,058)	-	6,993
	<u>404,887</u>	<u>7,148</u>	<u>(11,364)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>400,671</u>
2022	1 April 2021	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2022
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	5,302	8,145	(10,678)	-	2,769
Bhumi project	3	331	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	10,363	176	(62)	-	10,477
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	25,492	13,162	(232)	-	38,422
Tristan Elby	9,145	159	(756)	-	8,548
	<u>394,642</u>	<u>21,973</u>	<u>(11,728)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>404,887</u>

The Scholarship fund and Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary represents monies collected to fund student bursaries and scholarships.

The Bhumi project fund represents monies collected to fund our Bhumi project.

The New home for OCHS fund represents monies donated to the Charity to contribute to the planned purchase of new premises.

The Opportunity Scholarship was established to support a doctoral or post-doctoral student.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

15b Endowment funds

2023	1 April 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2023 £
Giri Scholarship	219,925	(16,675)	(7,476)	-	203,045
2022	1 April 2021 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2022 £
Giri Scholarship	215,959	5,577	(1,611)	-	219,925

The Giri Scholarship is an endowment fund established with an initial donation of £200,000. Donations into the fund constitute a permanent and everlasting gift to the Centre towards establishing an endowed scholarship. It is intended that by 2041 the total donations to the Giri Scholarship fund will be £890,000.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2023 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	266,209	33,241	62,018	203,045	564,513
Current assets	578,676	245,639	338,653	-	1,162,968
Liabilities	(79,120)	-	-	-	(79,120)
Total net assets	765,765	278,880	400,671	203,045	1,648,361
2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2022 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	4,035	197,234	68,658	219,925	489,852
Current assets	152,118	41,726	336,229	-	530,073
Liabilities	(41,587)	-	-	-	(41,587)
Total net assets	114,566	238,960	404,887	219,925	978,338

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

17 Going concern

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is reliant on the continued support of its benefactors. The charity's property fundraising campaign is continuing. The acquisition of new premises will reduce costs and help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity.

18 Operating leases

A lease on the charity's charitable premises at 13/15 Magdalen Street Oxford was signed on 8th April 2016, covering a period of 5 years from 24th June 2013, at an annual rate of £45,000. The charity's total future minimum lease payments are as follows:-

A lease renewal was signed during the 19/20 financial year at an annual rate of £55,035 with a 3 year break clause.

	2023 £	2022 £
Land & Buildings		
<1 year	55,035	55,035
Between 2 and 5 years	45,749	100,784
	<u>100,784</u>	<u>155,819</u>

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1074458

Accounts

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Charity Registration No: 1074458

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2022

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered charity number 1074458

Trustees: Prof Diwaker Acharya (Humanities Division representative)
Prof Francis X Clooney
Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Dr Mark Edwards (Theology Faculty representative)
Dr S Bhattacharya-Ford
Prof Richard Gombrich
Mr Pujan H Patel
Mr Ajay Piramal
Mrs Madhu Ruia
Mr Azad Shivdasani
Prof Mark Smith (Oriental Studies representative)
Mr Ramesh Venkataraman
Prof Himan Shruprabha Ray

Director: Shaunaka Rishi Das

Auditors: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Registered office: 15 Magdalen Street
Oxford
OX1 3AE

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
P O Box 333
Oxford
OX1 3HS

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Report by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statement of the Charity.

Structure, government and management

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is governed under a Trust Deed dated 1 February 1999 as amended by a Declaration of Trust dated 28th June 2006. Its registered charity number is 1074458. The Trustees of the Charity are shown on page 1.

Trustees' meetings are scheduled each year, with extra meetings called if required. The Director deals with the day-to-day management of the OCHS.

All decisions concerning policies and appointment of advisors and Trustees are referred to the Trustees. The Trustees keep the activities of the OCHS under regular annual review, identifying risks and mitigating them through internal controls and insurance. They approve the risk register annually.

Objectives and activities of the Charity

The OCHS is an academy for the study of Hindu culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world. The OCHS is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing and research. The OCHS is also a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University.

Achievements and performance of the charity

Teaching

At the start of this academic year, Dr. Jessica Frazier position as Research Lecturer in the Faculty of Theology & Religion was renewed, and Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms became Research Lecturer in Hindu Studies. These appointments secure the teaching of Hinduism on both an undergraduate and graduate level in the Faculty, and also increase the options for supervision of DPhil students in Hindu Studies. This will also lead to a closer working relationship between the University of Oxford and the OCHS, solidifying 25 years of collaboration.

OCHS Faculty continued to provide teaching to the University in Hinduism and Indian Philosophy and related subjects, as well as Sanskrit and (for the first time this year) Pali, to the Faculty of Theology & Religion as well as the Faculty of Philosophy, for undergraduates, masters students, in addition to the supervision of doctoral student. The body of University students interested in Hindu Studies continues to grow, in part because more undergraduate and graduate students come to Oxford to with the desire to study Hinduism, but also because many of the undergraduate students are now exposed to Hinduism in their first year and inspired to pursue this further, primarily due to the teaching of Dr. Jessica Frazier.

Prof. Gavin Flood tutored five undergraduate students in Hinduism, one MSt in the Study of Religion student, and continued to supervise three DPhil students. He also continued leading the very successful Readings in Phenomenology, which attracts students and scholars from across the University and, while it was held online, from across the globe.

Dr. Jessica Frazier continues to teach Indian Philosophy for the Faculty of Philosophy. Now in its third year, this course has been very successful in engaging Philosophy students with Hindu ideas. This year, she taught six Philosophy students, and supervised two undergraduate dissertations on Hindu philosophical thought. She also taught an equal amount of undergraduate students in classical and modern Hinduism for the Faculty of Theology and Religion. She supervised four final-year undergraduate students in their independent research in Hindu traditions, taught three MSt in the Study of Religion students, as well as two undergraduate students for the course Feminist Approaches to Religion. In addition to this, she taught 13 first-year undergraduate students for the "Religion & Religions" course, and one student for the Nature of Religion course. She is also supervising a DPhil student.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms still offers the lectures in Hinduism: Sources and Formation, and Modern Hinduism for the Faculty of Theology & Religion, and tutored three students in those subjects. He also supervised the dissertation of two MSt students. He is currently supervising one DPhil student in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. He also continues to offer Readings in Vedānta, this year reading the Advaita-makaranda of Lakṣmīdhara Kavi, an influential fourteenth century Advaita text, and the Anuvyākhyāna, the magnum opus of the 13th century Vaiṣṇava Vedāntist Madhva.

Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen has developed a new Sanskrit and Pali Prelims course for the Faculty of Theology & Religion. Pali students now attend the same 'Sanskrit and Pali' classes as Sanskrit students in Michaelmas Term and weeks 1-4 of Hilary Term. From week 5 of Hilary Term, Pali and Sanskrit students will be taught in separate classes, i.e. Sanskrit Prelims and Pali for Sanskritists. This means that students of Pali and classical Buddhism will be able to view these in the broader perspective of Vedic-Brahmanic Hinduism and Sanskrit. During the course students will read classical Theravāda Buddhist discourses from the Pāli Canon such as the *Fire Sermon* (*Ādittapariyāya-sutta*) and *Dependent Origination* (*Paṭiccasamuppāda*) as well as passages from the *Dhammapada* and the *Jātaka* tales. The students will analyse these texts philologically drawing on their Sanskrit background and learn to appreciate the interpretative nature of translation as a central discipline for the Study of Religions.

This year, Dr. Wernicke-Olesen taught Sanskrit Prelims to eight students from Theology & Religion and Pali to three students from Theology & Religion. He also gave tutorials on Śāktism, Sanskrit and manuscript reading for MPhil and DPhil students from Theology & Religion and from Oriental Studies. He tutored two students in Hinduism: Sources and Formation, and two students in Modern Hinduism. He supervised one final-year undergraduate student in Śākta *bhakti* in Bengal, and a Classics Special Thesis student on asceticism in ancient India and Greece. He also tutored two students in the Religion and Religions course.

Research

The lifting of the coronavirus lockdowns has made the fellows of the OCHS more eager for collaborative work, and, as reflected below, several of the OCHS's research activities have thus naturally focussed on planning for the future—organising conferences, planning publications, and (re)thinking research projects—in addition to the ongoing work of publishing the fruits of research.

Below you can find an update on the developments on our research programmes and research projects.

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr. Māns Broo, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr. Lucian Wong

The academic year 2021-2022 has been a year of endings and new beginnings for the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme. Since last June, when the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme was launched, the scholars involved have been busy planning for the future—laying the foundations for future conferences, Sanskrit and Bengali reading retreats, establishing a research network, collaborative publication projects, and teaching. It has thus been a busy and energising year for the group, especially in Trinity Term which several Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava scholars spent at Oxford. But, as detailed below, several projects that had been years in the making were also completed this year.

In addition to their involvement in the various projects listed below, each scholar also continued their individual work. Dr. Māns Broo (Åbo Akademi, Finland) completed a Finnish translation of and commentary on the *Śāṇḍilya-* and *Nārada-bhakti-sūtras* (published by Gaudeamus, 2021), and developed a course on Vaiṣṇavism and wrote its course book for the Continuing Education Department of the OCHS. Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms has worked on several articles on the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava views of *bhakti*, analysing the understanding of devotion as a state of perfection, examining Rūpa Gosvāmī's view whether Advaitins can know devotion, and exploring the relationship between hatred of God and devotional love.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita (Sofia University, Tokyo) researched the history of *bhakti-rasa*, mainly focusing on Vopadeva's *Muktāphala* and Hemādri's *Kaivalya-dīpikā* commentary. With Prof. Yuko Yokochi (Kyoto University), Dr. Tomohiro Manabe (Hokkaidō University), and Mr. Yutaka Ishii (Independent scholar), he has been editing chapter eleven of the *Muktāphala*, based on three manuscripts and two printed editions. Together with Dr. S. Bhuvaneshwari (Independent scholar, Chennai) and Dr. Tomohiro Manabe (Hokkaidō University) he has also been editing and translating Madhusūdhana Sarasvatī's commentary on the first verse of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, based on four printed editions and three manuscripts.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Matya Digitization Project

In the 1980s, the Matsya Project, led Prof. Charles S.J. White, microfilmed hundreds of Vaiṣṇava manuscripts from across the Indian subcontinent. Prof. Kiyokazu Okita (Sofia University, Tokyo) has been working with The Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, who funded this, to digitise these microfilms. This work of digitisation has now been completed, and the OCHS is currently working with Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to make these digitised paper and palm leaf manuscripts available online, so that scholars around the world have easy access to them.

The Building of Vṛndāvana

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita and Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms have finalised the editing of *The Building of Vṛndāvana*: The book brings together scholarship on the early modern history of Vṛndāvana, the temple town devoted to Kṛṣṇa, exploring in particular how the physical buildings were located in the theological, ritual, artistic, and literary worlds of its devotees. The book, to be published by Brill, is expected to be available in the next academic year. Bengali Vaiṣṇava Periodicals Project.

One of the most vibrant forms through which the project of Bengali Vaiṣṇava retrieval was carried out in the colonial period was periodical literature. This voluminous corpus nevertheless remains largely untapped both in scholarship on Bengali Vaiṣṇavism and modern Hindu intellectual history more broadly. The existing periodical corpus itself is scattered across various public libraries and archives, not just within Bengal but also beyond, in Brindaban and in certain international institutions, such as the British Library. The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), Kolkata, holds one of the richest standalone Vaiṣṇava periodical collections in the world. Members of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism Research Programme are continuing to collaborate with the BRC to create an open access, state-of-the-art digital Bengali Vaiṣṇava archive of the periodical corpus.

Hari-bhakti-vilāsa

This year Dr. Māns Broo completed the first volume (of a projected 4-volumes) of his critical edition and annotated translation of the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa*, an encyclopaedic ritual text compiled by Sanātana Gosvāmī in the early sixteenth century, and the author's own Sanskrit commentary.

Gauḍīya Study Programme

The Gauḍīya Study Programme, an online tutorial programme in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies that was launched in Trinity Term 2020, has continued to introduce current academic research on Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism to Vaiṣṇava students from the UK, North America, and India. The programme is led by Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, and includes among its teachers Dr. Māns Broo, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Anuradha Dooney, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Dr. Kenneth Valpey, and Dr. Lucian Wong. Seven cohorts of students have now graduated through the programme, and we are currently planning on increasing the programme with in-person study retreats.

The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Professor Gavin Flood FBA

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism.

This year a high profile research and publication project with Professor Alexis Sanderson, Gavin Flood and Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen has been added to the Śākta Traditions research programme:

Tantra in South Asia: Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir

The Śākta and Śaiva tantric traditions are found in various places in India and Nepal. They form the ritual and philosophical core of many yogic and tantric traditions and movements that were exported to the rest of the world, and they have now become part and parcel of global religious history. Thus, an understanding of the Śākta Śaiva traditions, especially as they developed in Kashmir and beyond, is crucial for an understanding of the history of Indian religions as well as an understanding of modern yoga and tantra as it is practiced today in many places around the world.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

These traditions can be traced back many centuries but until recently, tantric worship in Kashmir had been understood simply as 'Kashmir Śaivism', the worship of the god Śiva including all deities related to him. But it is now evident that this understanding does not suffice to describe the actual practices and forms of religion found in the texts and lived by people. At the core of Śaiva worship and Śaiva philosophy, we find that Śākta worship, or worship of the Goddess, plays a prominent role. This insight means that much in our understanding of Indian religions is about to change, and the publications included in this project will contribute to rewriting the history of Indian Religions that Professor Sanderson's work has precipitated. The Śākta and Śaiva Religion from Kashmir project will therefore establish the OCHS as the central institution for Tantric and Śākta studies in the UK. Project outputs are:

- A multi-volume critical edition and translation of Abhinavagupta's *Tantrāloka* by Professor Alexis Sanderson.
- A lecture series on the *Tantrāloka* by Professor Alexis Sanderson at the OCHS that is currently in process of being recorded and will be shared online.
- The production of a Continuing Education online course on Śaivism from Kashmir by Professor Alexis Sanderson.
- Weekly *Netroddyota* online reading sessions by Professor Alexis Sanderson (July 2020 - July 2021).
- A fully annotated translation of the *Netratatra* with an introduction in three volumes by Professor Gavin Flood, Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda to be published in the *Routledge Studies in Tantric Traditions series*.
- Weekly *Netratatra* translation seminars at the OCHS in Michaelmas every year by Professor Gavin Flood and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen for the Theology and Religion Faculty.
- An international conference in Oxford on Śākta and Śaiva religion from Kashmir in 2024.
- A volume on Śāktism and the Tantric Traditions (ed. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen) in *The Oxford History of Hinduism series* (General Editor: Gavin Flood) based on the Śākta Traditions online lectures series.

The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

Project leaders: Dr. Ravi Gupta and Dr. Kenneth R. Valpey

The *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* Research Project had a productive year in 2021-22, despite some plans being cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic. In no particular order:

- The BhP Research Project received a donation of £17,600. Some of these funds will be used to create a *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* wiki that would contain detailed historical and textual information about the Sanskrit text.
- We are in the process of preparing a course on the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* that will be offered in the OCHS CED online programme.
- Daniel Ehnborn (University of Virginia) and Neeraja Poddar (Philadelphia Museum of Art) organized a well-received panel at the annual conference of the American Council for Southern Asian Art at Emory University in Atlanta. The papers from this panel will be collected for a volume on the visual culture of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*. (Dr. Poddar leads the project's art history initiative.)
- The project's documentary film, "India's Book of Wisdom: The *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*," has garnered over 20,000 views on YouTube. The film, which is designed for classroom use, will be a central part of the aforementioned OCHS online course.
- Dr. Shrikant Bahulkar (Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune) received funding to compile a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of vernacular texts that are derived from the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*. He has hired a team to search manuscript and print-book libraries throughout India.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Comparative Philosophy Project

Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

This has been a year of consolidating wider awareness of Indian Philosophy's many valuable insights. The Indian Philosophy course in the Philosophy Faculty completed its third year, with many students confirming that it had been the most inspiring course in their degree. Two undergraduate dissertations took specialist research on Hindu traditions to the next level, while a student arriving next year to study for a D.Phil on Hindu Philosophical traditions won one of the Theology Faculty's most prestigious funding awards.

Two publications emerged from the Indian Philosophy course in which Jessica Frazier aimed to bring scholarship on Hindu Philosophies up to speed with that on Buddhist Philosophies: "Ethics in Hindu Philosophy" (2021) and "Monism in Indian Philosophy" (2022). These are now part of the syllabus of the course; the first shows how Hinduism provides practical and philosophically robust solutions to ethical questions, and the second advances Hindu arguments for the unity of all things in a single foundational reality, based on arguments advanced by Śaṅkara against Buddhists and Atomists of his time. In the coming year these publications will be further developed by articles invited by other scholars in the field, exploring 'Emotions and Intrinsic Value in Indian Philosophy' (Yujin Nagasawa and Mohammad Zarehpour eds, 2023), 'The Metaphysics of Powers and Causation in Indian Philosophy' (Anna Marmodoro ed. 2023), 'Foundationalism and Substance in Indian Philosophy' (Swami Medhananada ed. 2024), 'The Metaphysics of Creative Powers in Caitanya Vaisnava Philosophy' (Daniel Soars ed. 2024), and 'Metaphysics as Mysticism: Visions of Being in the Upanisads' (Louise Nelstrop ed. 2024). Dr. Frazier will also be championing scholarship on Indian Philosophy with invited lectures at the Global Philosophy of Religion Conference in June 2022, and the European Society for the Philosophy of Religion Conference in September 2022. Appearances in the media on the BBC's *In Our Time*, in the *Panpsycast* philosophy podcast and in its forthcoming book series, at the Axson-Jonson Engelsberg Symposium and television channel, in *Psyche* popular philosophy magazine, and on the US popular philosophy television programme *Closer to Truth*, have continued to spread interest in the insights that Hindu traditions of philosophy have to offer.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

Project Leaders: Dr. Lucian Wong, Dr. Avni Chag, and Dr. Arun Brahmbhatt

The Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project (rethinkinghinduism.org), which was launched at the beginning of 2021, aims to consolidate and coordinate research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India, and thereby generate a critical mass of scholarship that deploys these oft-neglected communities as a vital entry point onto the colonial Hindu landscape. In doing so, the project aims to establish a model for studying Hinduism in colonial India that neither conflates this potentially rich subject area with an attenuated notion of 'Modern Hinduism', nor is predetermined from the outset to reproduce variations on a well-worn 'tradition-modernity' motif.

Conference

The project successfully held its inaugural conference online on 5-6 February, 2022. The event provided a forum for the focused exploration of colonial sampradāyic dynamics beyond regional boundaries, showcasing cutting-edge research that addressed colonial Hindu-related themes including, commentarial and scholastic practices; legal and institutional frameworks; theological innovation; manuscript and print cultures; vernacular literary networks; and gender roles and dynamics. Twenty specialists in this area delivered presentations at the conference. The event also drew a large international audience, presenting a vital opportunity for critically rethinking the texture of Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture. The project directors are currently in the planning stages of an edited volume based on the presentations and rich conversations that took place at the conference.

Virtual lecture series

In addition to this, the project directors convened a series of online talks on "New Directions in the Study of Modern Hinduism" in Hilary and Trinity terms. These talks showcased recent work in the area of Modern Hinduism that has sought in various ways to challenge the limitations and distortions of the 'Reform'-centered paradigm that has long been dominant in this area of study.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr. Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen; Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr. Ulrik Lyngs

The Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies project was launched last year. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) has been a Visiting Online Fellow at the OCHS in 2020 and 2021 and continues as a Research Fellow at the OCHS working together with Michael Elison (MPhil, Oxon) as a Digital Curator, and the researchers Dr Rajan Khatiwoda and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen on the Śākta dimension of the database. Furthermore, the database has been expanded with a Bengal text dimension led by Dr Lucian Wong with PhD Fellow Siddharth Chhabra as Digital Curator.

The database project aims at establishing a state-of-the art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies and makes large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. The database uses the advanced Mirador 3 viewer and will be made public in the summer 2022. Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts, and download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV) overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text) add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material.

From Michaelmas 2022 the project will greatly expand its mss volume. Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts have been made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions including the ASA Archives specialising in Newar Śākta material. Manuscript digitalisation of unknown source material in Nepal will resume in 2022 after the Covid pandemic has caused a pause to our work at the OCHS Kathmandu Office. Dr Ulrik Lyngs continues as our Digital Humanities Consultant for the research programme and in collaboration with Michael Elison and other computer specialists and researchers, the project will enter a new phase with a focus on the following:

- new workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in language of choice)
- easily perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages)
- automated transliteration of hand-written manuscripts

The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan Project Leader: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

In the past academic year, the following were accomplished:

- Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray submitted the completed manuscript of Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice, which she edited with Salila Kulshrestha and Uthara Suvrathan. The Handbook includes twenty-five papers by leading scholars divided into six sub-themes. Each section starts with a historiographic survey of writings on the theme and has been prepared by one of the editors.
- Prof. Ray has also been working on a book entitled Hindu Temples: Of deities, patrons and worshippers in India for the OCHS–Mandala series, which is now in press.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Hinduism in Modern Secular Society

Project Leaders: Dr. Ace Simpson, Dr. Angela Burt, Dr. Cecilia Bastos, and Dr. Alan Herbert

Hindus, their communities, and their traditions face a wide variety of sociological challenges in assimilating into or avoiding modern secular societies. Underpinning these tensions is the fact that many Hindus live and work in the world while simultaneously maintaining a separation from it. Sociological issues they may encounter include, among other things, those of identity, value, affiliation, and ethnicity. This project's aim is to increase the latitude of Indian studies to incorporate these social experiences of contemporary Hindu communities and adherents as they navigate life within, without, and on the fringes of their religious institutions and host communities. The project looks to also redress a paucity of research into the key causes of these tensions while also identifying opportunities for dialogue and conflict resolution. Additionally, it facilitates scholarly research on social issues among Hindus as well as discourse and productive interaction with and between all types of Hindu tradition and practitioner. Its function is therefore to develop a community of scholars and practitioners working on these issues.

The project has recently hosted an online conference. The proceeds from it will form a publication. It has also conducted nearly forty interviews with former Vaishnava ashram residents that will yield at least two papers.

Publications

Journal of Hindu Studies

Last summer, Dr. Jessica Frazier, one of the founding editors of the *Journal of Hindu Studies* 15 years ago, became a consulting editor of the Journal, and passed on her role as managing editor to the team of editors, Dr. Avni Chag, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Dr. James Madaio, and Dr. Lucian Wong, who now collectively manage the Journal. Early in 2022, Dr. Giulia Buriola also joined the team as the new Reviews Editor.

In the academic year 2021-22 there were three issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies* including a themed issue on "Deliberating Dharma in Premodern South Asian Narrative" and two open issues.

Routledge OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series

This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture and society of Hindus living in India and abroad.

The following four new volume appeared in the last year:

- *Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya*, by Silvia Schwarz Linder.
- *Hindu-Christian Dual Belonging*, edited by Daniel J. Soars and Nadya Pohran.
- *Politics and Religion in Eighteenth-Century India: Jaisingh II and the Rise of Public Theology in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism*, by Sachi K. Patel.
- *Vaiśeṣikasūtra – A Translation*, by Ionut Moise and Ganesh U. Thite.

Fellows' Publications

Prof. John Brockington

- "Paṇḍit Seu to Mānaku: a pictorial Rāmāyaṇa with Sanskrit text", *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 2022, pp. 1-17.

Dr. Måns Broo

- *Bhaktin: Filosofía ja Käytäntö: Śaṅḍilya- ja Nārada-bhakti-sūtra*. Gaudeamus, 2021.
- "ISKCON and intelligent design: The case of Leif A. Jensen and Rethinking Darwin", *Approaching Religion* 12.2 (2022), pp. 4-17. <https://journal.fi/ar/article/view/112484>

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Prof. Francis X. Clooney

- *St. Joseph in South India: Poetry, Mission and Theology in Costanzo Gioseffo Beschi's Tēmpāvaṇi*. Publications of the de Nobili Research Library Series, edited by Gerhard Oberhammer and Karin Preisendanz. Volume XXXIX. Wien: Verein "Sammlung de Nobili — Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Indologie und Religionsforschung," 2022.
- "Lessons Learned: Some Lessons from Christian-Hindu Studies for Jewish-Hindu Studies" *Contemporary Jewry*, June 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12397>
- "How Should We Read Ramakrishna? Guarded Praise for Maharaj's Analytic Turn," *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 25.1 (2021), pp. 93-99.
- "Jesuits and Jews, and the Way We Dare to Think: A Jesuit's Reflections on James Bernauer's Jesuit Kaddish," *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 47.8 (October), pp. 1001-1012.
- "Facing Up to Some of the Challenges to Comparative Theology Today," in French as "La théologie comparée en question," in *La théologie comparée. Vers un dialogue interreligieux et interculturel renouvelé ?* edited by Christophe Chalamet, Elio Jaillet, Gabriele Palasciano. Genève: Labor et Fides, 2021, pp. 113-175.
- "God's Suffering in the Hindu-Christian Gaze," in *Atonement and Comparative Theology*, edited by Catherine Cornille. New York: Fordham University Press, 2021.
- "Much Ado about Nothing? Some Reflections on Hegel's Encounter with Bhagavad Gītā 6.25," *The Owl of Minerva* 52.1-2 (2022), pp. 51-71.
- "Comparative Theology's Interesting Asymmetries with Receptive Ecumenism," in *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning: Walking the Way to a Church Re-formed*, edited by Paul Murray and Gregory A. Ryan. Oxford University Press, 2022.
- "'Tread softly! all the earth is holy ground': A Comparativist Responds Constructively to Terrence Merrigan's Sacramental Theology of Religions," in *Answerable for Our Beliefs: Reflections on Theology and Contemporary Culture Offered to Terrence Merrigan*, edited by Peter De Mey, Kristof Struys, and Viorel Coman. Peeters, forthcoming 2022.

Dr. Santanu Dey

- "The Quest for Identity: Institutionalizing processes among Gaudiya Vaishnavas of colonial Bengal" in *Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Society*, edited by Ruby Sain. New Delhi: Mittal Publications, 2021, pp. 93-110.
- "Caitanya's 'better half': Viṣṇupriyā in Vaiṣṇava tradition and history", *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 30.2 (2022), pp. 47-66.

Prof. Gavin Flood

- *A Phenomenology of Holiness: Politics, Experience, Life*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, forthcoming.
- (Editor) *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd edition. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022.
- "Eastern Philosophy and Idealism" in *The Routledge Handbook of Idealism and Immaterialism*, edited by Joshua Farris and Benedikt Paul Göcke. London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 13-23.
- "Hinduism and Meditation: Tantra" in *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, edited by Miguel Farias, David Brazier, and Mansur Lalljee. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021, chapter 4.
- "Introduction" & "The Śaiva Traditions" in *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd edition. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022, pp. 181-208.
- "Śaiva-Śākta Meditation as Expanded Awareness", *Entangled Religions* 14, 2022.
- "Tantric Religion and Social Change", in *Rapid Religious Change*, edited by Derrick Lemon. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- "Modalities of God in the Netra Tantra", in *Festschrift for Shashi Prabha Kumar*, forthcoming.
- "The Netra-tantra as unifying cultural diversity", *Festschrift for Mislav Ježić*, edited by Ivan Andrijačić, forthcoming.
- "Mystical Ascent in Comparative Perspective", in *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Mysticism*, edited by Louise Nelstrop. London: Routledge, forthcoming.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Dr. Jessica Frazier

- "Visions of Being: Metaphysics as Mysticism in the Upaniṣads" in *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Mysticism*, edited by Louise Nelstrop. London: Routledge, forthcoming.
- "Beyond Pleasure and Pain: Rasa as Phenomenology of Intrinsic Value," *Global Philosophy of Religion: From Religious Experience to the Afterlife*, edited by Mohammad Zarehpour and Yujin Nagasawa. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- "The Metaphysics of Creative Powers: Divine Play in Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Philosophy", in *Divine Play*, edited by Daniel Soars, forthcoming.
- "Pluralistic Epistemologies: Knowledge, Inference, and Virtue in the Caraka Saṃhitā", in *Pluralism and Plurality in Classical and Contemporary India*, edited by Brian Black and James Madaio. Abingdon: Routledge, forthcoming.
- "Foundations of Indian Philosophy", in *Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd edition, edited by Gavin Flood. Oxford: Blackwell, 2022.
- "Gadamer on Play as the Clue to Ontological Explanation", in *Truth and Method: A Polyphonic Commentary*, edited by Greg Lynch and Cynthia Nielsen. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022.
- "Monism in Indian Philosophy: the coherence, complexity, and connectivity of reality in Śaṅkara's arguments for brahman". *Religious Studies, Special Issue on The Existence and Nature of Deities*, edited by Mohammad Saleh Zarehpour, 2022.
- "Ethics in Classical Hindu Philosophy: Provinces of Consequence, Agency, and Value in the *Bhagavad Gītā* and Other Epic and Śāstric Sources." *Religions* 12.1029. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12111029>
- "The Self in Meditation: The Art of the Self", in *Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, edited by Miguel Farias, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- "Battling Serpents, Marrying Trees: Towards an Ecotheology of the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*", *Journal of Dharma Studies*, 2021:4, pp. 29-37.

Dr. Alan Herbert

- "Ritual and Rasa: a Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Recasting of the Role of Ritual Imagination." *Journal of Dharma Studies* (2022). <https://rdcu.be/cOVWT>
- "Reality Imagined: Aesthetic Participation in Indian Religious Visualisation," in *Imagination in Religion: Perspectives from the Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Espen Dahl, Jan-Olav Henriksen, and Marius T. Mjaaland. Zürich: LIT Verlag Münster, 2021, pp. 177-195.

Prof. Dermot Killingley

- "Vivekananda et la réinterprétation du yoga" in *Yoga: L'encyclopédie*, edited by Ysé Tardan-Masquelier. Paris: Albin-Michel. 2021, pp. 455-463.
- "Vivekananda, Swami" in *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Stew Goetz and Charles Taliaferro. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2021.

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms

- "The Perfection of All Beauty and Joy: A Gauḍīya Vedāntic theology of devotional love", *ISKCON Communications Journal* 13 (2022).
- "A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of Early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas", in *The Building of Vṛndāvana*, edited by Kiyokazu Okita and Rembert Lutjeharms. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- "A Genealogy of Divine Paramour: Rūpa Gosvāmī *Ujjvalanīlamanī* in the History of Sanskrit Dramaturgy and Literary Criticism", *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* 30:1 (2021), pp. 225-244.
- "Bhakti" in *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro, Vol.1, pp. 219-226. Hoboken: Wiley Blackwell, 2022.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
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Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- "Archaeology of Buddhism in post-partition Punjab: The Disputed Legacy of Gandhara," *The Rediscovery and Reception of Gandharan Art*, edited by Wannaporn Rienjang & Peter Stewart. Oxford: Archaeopress, 2022, pp. 124-135.

Dr. Silvia Schwartz Linder

- *Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya*. Routledge Series of Hindu Studies. London: Routledge, 2022.
- "The Dynamic Non-Dualism of the Śrīvidyā", in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Non-duality in Indian Thought*, edited by Jonathan Duquette and James Madaio. London: Bloomsbury (forthcoming).

Prof. Amiya P. Sen

- *Sarada Devi. Holiness, Charisma and Iconic Motherhood*. New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2022.
- "Remembering Rammohun" (original English, translated into Bengali), *Desh*, 17 May 2022.
- "Remembering Rammohun Roy", *Daily Star* (published from Bangladesh), 23 May 2022
- "Rammohun Roy and Religious Modernity" in *Dharmasadhan* (Journal of the Deccan Brahmo Samaj), Vol. 26, May 2022.

Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- With Gavin Flood & Rajan Khattiwoda, *Tantra in Medieval India and Nepal: An annotated edition and translation of the Tantra of the Eye, the Netra Tantra, Vol. 1*, Oxford: Routledge (forthcoming 2022).
- 'Haṭhayoga i et nyt lys' ('Haṭhayoga in a New Light'), in: *Haṭhapradīpikā – Haṭhayogaens hovedværk* (extended edition), Højbjerg: Forlaget Univers, 2022, pp. 1-26.
- 'Bhagavadgītā' (select passages in new translation), in *Hinduisme i Danmark og i verden* ('Hinduism in Denmark and in the World'), edited by Marianne Q. Fibiger. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press (forthcoming 2022).

Conference papers and lectures by Fellows

Dr. Santanu Dey

- "Crisis and Conflict Resolution in India: A historical perspective", *National Seminar on 'Planetary crisis and Liberation'* sponsored by Indian Council for Philosophical Research held at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda centenary College, Rahara, 27-28 December 2021
- "Contextualizing Gender in Bengal Vaishnava Tradition", *International Faculty Development Programme*, jointly organized by Stockholm University, St. Xavier's College, Ramakrishna Vidyamandira, and KSAS, Kolkata, 4-10 April 2022.

Dr. Daniel Ehnborn

- "Rajput Painting: Concepts and Realities." Presentation for the course *Arts of the Book in South Asia* at Jnanpravaha, Mumbai, 15 September 2021.
- "Gandharan Sculpture from the Alan D and Ann K Wolfe Collection," The Fralin Museum of Art, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 15 March 2022.

Prof. Gavin Flood

- "Śaiva-Śākta Meditation as Expanded Awareness", *An Enquiry into the Development of the Dzogchen Tradition*, University of Bochum, June 2021.
- "The Importance of Comparative Religion", *Irish Institute of Catholic Studies*, Limerick, 8 March 2022.
- Response, colloquium on my book *Religion and the Philosophy of Life*, organised by Marten Bjork, Campion Hall, October 2021.

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Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- "What is Hinduism? Straightforward Questions, Complex Answers." Seminar on Global Hinduism, hosted by the Provincial Leadership Council, Hindu National Organization, Denpasar, Bali. September 2021.
- "New Directions in Gaudiya Vaishnava Studies." *The Annual Conference on South Asia*, University of Wisconsin Madison. October 2021.
- "The Teacher-Disciple Relationship in Vaishnava Hinduism," Symposium at the University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru. February 2022.
- "Can Empirical Observation Influence Scriptural Testimony? An Exploration through Jiva Gosvami's *Sarva-samvadini*," *International Conference on Hindu Philosophy*, University of Mumbai. February 2022.

Prof. Dermot Killingley

- "Rammohun Roy the Modern Vedantin." *The Many Worlds of Rammohun Roy: A 250th Birth Anniversary Conference*. Kolkata, 29 August 2021.

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms

- "Threading Verses: The dual authorship of Rūpa Gosvāmī's *Padyāvalī*", *Vaishnavism as Fine Literature*, Yale University, 27-29 May 2022.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- "A Short History of Devotional Aesthetic Sentiment (*Bhaktirasa*): Up to the Thirteenth Century", *The 72nd Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies*, 4 September 2021.
- "Making a Case for *Bhakti-rasa*: Vopadeva-Hemādri's Engagement with the *Nāṭya-Alaṅkāra* Tradition", *International Conference on Hindu Philosophy*, Center for Hindu Philosophical Studies, University of Mumbai, 25 February 2022.
- "*Bhakti* in Dvaita Vedānta: Based on Madhvācārya's *Bhāgavatātātparyā* 1.1.1-3", *International Conference on Bhakti in Vaiṣṇava Traditions*, Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai, 22 March 2022.
- "Rethinking Hindu-Muslim Relations: A Critical Religion Approach to the Premodern Hagiographies of Caitanya", The Sixth Meeting of the ILCAA Joint Research Project *Formation of the Indic World: From the Perspective of Frontiers*, Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 28 March 2022.
- "Scholars Won't Get It but Devotees Will: A Contested Place of Devotion in the History of Sanskrit Aesthetics", *Vaishnavism as Fine Literature*, Yale MacMillan Center, Yale University, 28 May 2022.

Prof. Patrick Olivelle

- "How to Change Law in Classical India: Hermeneutics in the Service of the Legal Profession." *Sanskrit jurisprudence and hermeneutics on how to solve legal controversies*, 26th European Conference on South Asian Studies, Vienna, Austria, 26-29 July 2021.

Dr. Neeraja Poddar

- "In the Age of Non-Mechanical Reproduction: Copying in South Asian Illustrated Manuscripts", *Arts of the Book in South Asia*, Jnanapravaha Mumbai, Fall 2021.
- "Krishna in the Kathmandu Valley: An Illustrated *Bhāgavata* from Nepal", *The Bhāgavata Purāṇa in the Visual Arts*, Symposium of the American Council for Southern Asian Art, Athens and Atlanta, GA, Spring 2022.

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Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- "Decolonising Maritime Heritage in Monsoon Asia," *Satadru Sen Memorial Lecture*, Presidency University, Kolkata, 27 October 2021.
- "The Discovery and Dispersal of Relics: The Modern History of Buddhism", India International Centre Lecture in the series *History and Heritage: The Afterlife of Monuments*, 27 December 2021.
- "Early Christian Sailing Circuits in the Western Indian Ocean," *16th Dr. Mani Kamarkar Endowment Lecture*, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 4 January 2022
- "The Indianisation of Southeast Asia," & "The Pallavas and Cholas", *Jaipur Literature Festival*, 28 January-1 February 2022.
- "Coastal Temples and Cultural Links with Southeast Asia," *Devayatanam – An Odyssey of Indian Temple Architecture*, International Conference on Temple Architecture at Hampi, Karnataka. 25-26 February 2022.
- "Vadnagar and its Sailing Networks," *Vadnagar International Conference for Promoting Archaeological Heritage & Culture*, Gandhinagar, 18–20 May 2022.

Dr. Silvia Schwartz Linder

- "Ritual Elements of the Śrīvidyā within the Mythical Narrative of the *Tripurārahasya*." Universität Wien, Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde, May 20th 2022.

Dr. Kenneth Valpey

- "From a Local to an International Pilgrimage: A Krishna-centered pilgrimage replication in northeast India" *Sacred Journeys 8*, Indiana University & Purdue University, Indianapolis, 30 June 30-2 July 2021.
- "The Pursuit of 'Spiritual Truth' through 'Communities of Practice'." *Conscious Sustainable Social Development online conference*, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, 6-10 September 2021.
- "A World of Difference and the Logic of Nondifference: Toward applications of 'therapeutic nonduality' in four social contexts of alterity." *Logic and Society online conference*, Federal University of Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, 8-12 November 2021.
- "Warning Signs: Eco-semiotics in the Bhāgavata Purāṇa". *Hindu Philosophy: Exploration of Scriptures, History, Politics, Trade, Commerce, Economics, Sociology, Spirituality, Peace and Ecology*. Center for Hindu Philosophical Studies, University of Mumbai, 26 February 2022.
- "To Take Place: Marking Sacred Territory in Vaisnava Hagiography". *International Conference on Bhakti in Vaisnava Traditions*. University of Mumbai, Department of Sanskrit, 22 March 2022.
- "God as the Supreme Teacher: Swami Prabhupada's Modern Gaudīya Vaiṣṇava Mission to Reveal 'The Supreme Personality of Godhead'" *God and Vaishnavism* (online conference), Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies & University of Birmingham, 23-26 May 2022.
- "Ambedkar and Gandhi on Untouchability: Two Modern Indian Efforts to Re-cast Caste". *Past, Present, Future 2022: The Other—Stereotype and Prejudice in History*. University of Pula, 28 May 2022.

Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- "Orders of Discourses and Levels of Phenomenology in the Study of Religions: The Conceptual Modeling of a Religious Tradition and its Anthropology in Medieval India", *The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology Conference*, 5 October 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=886KrCJYBZo&t=24s>
- *Global Tantra Book Launch*, respondent, 1 June 2022.

Exhibitions by Fellows

Dr. Daniel Ehnbohm

- *Gandharan Sculpture from the Alan D and Ann K Wolfe Collection*, The Fralin Museum of Art, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 6 February to 31 December 2022.

Dr. Neeraja Poddar

- *Encounters in Exile: From the Ramayana (The Journey of Rama)*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, March 2022-February 2023.

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Visiting Fellows Reports

Dr Hrvoje Čargonja

Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Michaelmas Term 2021

I am very grateful for the opportunity to spend Michaelmas term in 2021 as a Shivdasani Visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. I benefitted tremendously from the interaction with the scholars at the OCHS and the facilities that Oxford University and Bodleian library provide. I have participated in various lectures at the Centre and the University and have made important contacts. The stay allowed me to further my ongoing work on the phenomenology of religious experience in the Hare Krishna movement and Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism. I had the opportunity to give a lecture at the Centre entitled "'Ecstatic' selfhood and 'arranged' sameness: narrative identity and stories of religious experience among Hare Krishnas", for which I got valuable feedback.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and inspiring stay during which I made a significant step further in my research.

Professor Alexis Sanderson

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellow, Hillary and Trinity Term, 2022

During weeks of my tenure as the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Visiting Scholar I have given four readings of the Tantrāloka of Abhinavagupta at the OCHS. These have been made available on YouTube. I have also given two lectures to the Graduate Indology Seminar of Oxford University under the title "Why Ritual? The Opposed Views of the Saiddhāntika Śaiva and Śākta Śaiva Ācāryas of Kashmir". The rest of my time here has been devoted to writing a monograph on religious change in Kashmir during the centuries before Islamic rule, concentrating on the development of Vaiṣṇavism in the region from the seventh to ninth centuries under the Vaiṣṇava rulers of the Kārkoṭa dynasty.

Professor Knut A. Jacobsen

Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Hillary Term, 2022

I was the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow for the Hillary term 2022 at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. Until the last week before I arrived the COVID-19 situation was uncertain, but when I arrived on January 24, society was opening up, libraries were open and people returning to their offices at the centre. I had a very productive term and was able to complete several writing projects. Researchers on Hinduism are usually alone at their institutions, and spending time together with other Hindu scholars at the Centre for Hindu Studies has been great in many ways. I had many inspiring and helpful conversations with Jessica Frazier, Gavin Flood, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen, Rembert Lutjeharms, Lucian Wong and Shaunaka Rishi Das.

I gave two lectures on Hindu pilgrimage traditions, one of the lectures on its earliest known sources and one on its most recent forms, Hindu sites of pilgrimage in the Hindu diasporas in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Europe, and North America. The lectures were followed by very helpful discussions. I also attended lectures at the Centre and some research seminars at the Oriental Institute. I divided my time between the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and the Bodleian libraries. Both have fantastic library resources and expertise and this helped me much in my research.

I am very thankful for the invitation for the Shivdasani Visiting Fellow and for this excellent opportunity. Spending time together with other Hindu scholars at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and being able to use the research resources at the University of Oxford has been great.

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Dr Arun Brahmbhatt
Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Trinity Term, 2022

I am very grateful to the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies for inviting me to serve as Shivdasani Visiting Fellow for the Trinity Term in 2022. Since I am an early-career researcher, this fellowship comes at a critical juncture in my academic trajectory. The fellowship afforded me the space, resources, and intellectual dialogue necessary to make progress on a book manuscript titled *Debating Sanskrit: The Scholastic Imperative in Modern Hinduism*. The book is a historical study of scholastic debate in the Swaminarayan Sampradaya, an influential Hindu religious tradition in western India. The book examines how this rapidly growing community used the register of Sanskrit debate to participate in a transregional scholastic public to authorise innovative theological tenets and devotional practices. I explore scholastic debate through three public disputations and scriptural commentary. In doing so, I demonstrate how religious traditions negotiate the dialectics of Sanskrit and the vernacular, the local and translocal, and "tradition" and "modernity." The book demonstrates the longevity of Sanskrit knowledge systems and practices through periods of radical political, social, and technological transformation. The final section of the book debates the position of Sanskrit in a Gujarati religious community, outlining the processes by which Sanskrit materials are rendered accessible far beyond an elite audience. In the process, I chart the continued use of Sanskrit in various genres of text in modern Hinduism, with attention to how this shaped religious traditions in colonial India, and continues to inform these traditions now.

My time in Oxford has been crucial to the progress of this book. Firstly, I was able to conduct some research necessary for three key chapters of the manuscript at the Bodleian Library. I was able to access to Sanskrit manuscripts, colonial-era records, and out-of-print texts unavailable in most libraries. I also had easy access to secondary scholarship—both print and electronic—that my home institution could not readily provide. Currently, I am a tenure-track professor of South Asian religions at a small liberal arts institution in the United States. My teaching is very enriching, and my colleagues in Religious Studies and Asian Studies are important interlocutors who press me to make my work speak beyond an audience of scholars of Hindu Studies. However, as one of only three faculty in the humanities and social sciences working on South Asia, and the only person working on Hinduism, there is a certain element of intellectual isolation. I felt very much at home being in residence at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, participating in weekly lunches and attending talks. Most important for me was the opportunity to present material from two chapters of my book project to the OCHS community. I received valuable engagement and feedback that has helped me significantly revise and reshape this material. Further, it was a pleasure to be invited to participate as a tutor in the OCHS Vaiṣṇavism Weekend School, where I gave a presentation on "Vaiṣṇavism in Gujarat."

I will return to New York refreshed and rejuvenated, eager to complete the book manuscript. I look forward to sharing this once it is complete. Additionally, I look forward to a lifelong intellectual and professional relationship with the OCHS community.

Professor Tony Stewart
J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellow, Trinity Term, 2022

My time at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies as the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellow for Trinity Term 2022 has been very productive. But let me provide some background to clarify how my current and proposed projects tie together forty years of research and why this time has been so fruitful.

Relevant prior research. The first half of my career was dedicated to the study of the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava hagiographies of Kṛṣṇa-Caitanya of the sixteenth century, resulting in the translation of the *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* of Kṛṣṇadāsa Kavirāja with Edward C. Dimock (Harvard, 1999) and the monograph, *The Final Word: The Caitanya Caritāmṛta and the Grammar of Religious Tradition* (Oxford, 2010). That work led me to the literatures of Satya Pīr, who is understood to be a divine figure combining Nārāyaṇ-Kṛṣṇa and Allāh-Khodā, which resulted in a number of theoretical articles examining the relationship of Vaiṣṇavs and Sufis, and an anthology of translations that appeared as *Fabulous Females and Peerless Pīrs: Stories of Mad Adventure in Old Bengal* (Oxford, 2004). Those stories—one might imagine "inevitably"—led to a major investigation of the widely popular mythic *pīrs*, *phakīrs*, and *bibīs* of the Bangla-speaking world, tales that were widespread, but never previously examined in any serious academic way. In my previous affiliation with OCHS as the J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellow (Michaelmas 2016, Hilary 2017, Trinity 2017), I finished a study of those stories, a monograph titled *Witness to Marvels: Sufism and Literary Imagination* (California, 2019), which subsequently won the Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize of the Association for Asian Studies (2021). This has led to my current work at OCHS.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Trinity Term Research Completed. In the first two weeks at OCHS in Trinity Term 2022, I was able to track down missing resources for an article on the fictional colloquy of Muhammad and Iblis (Satan) titled "Not What it Is, but What it Does: How the Fictional Tales of Bengali *Sūphis* Function as Islamic Religious Literature" (Pennsylvania, forthcoming). As soon as that was completed, I was plunged into the final redline edits of an anthology tales of the fictive *pīrs* titled *Needle at the Bottom of the Sea: Bengali Tales from the Land of the Eighteen Tides* (California, in press [January 2023]), unabridged versions of the stories found in *Witness to Marvels*.

Trinity Term Research Initiated. My Trinity Term project starts to tie together this decades-long trajectory of exploring Hindu-Muslim interactions by turning my attention to the historical figure of Haridās Thākur, who was known as Jaban [foreigner, *musalmān*] Haridās, the Sufi who chanted the name of Kṛṣṇa. Haridās was one of the five or six closest companions of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya, but he was a practicing Chishti Sufi and was not a convert, as he is often nervously described today. I first presented preliminary material on this topic to an OCHS-sponsored workshop titled "Bengal Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period" (March 2015). My OCHS presentation on 09 June 2022 extended this work with a formal semiotic analysis of how it was possible for Jaban Haridās to practice among Caitanya's cohort, and how Chishti Sufi and Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava theologies and practices could be compatible. That earlier presentation and this most recent one will constitute chapters in my monograph on Jaban Haridās.

Foundation for Future Projects. Part of my agenda for Trinity Term was to explore the feasibility of establishing a working group from among OCHS faculty and fellows for two closely related spinoff projects of substantial size and import: a translation of *Caitanya Bhāgavat*, and a concordance of the hagiographies of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya.

Translation. Many of the tales of Jaban Haridās are found in Vṛndāvan Dās's *Caitanya Bhāgavat*, the earliest Bengali and the longest of the many hagiographies of Kṛṣṇa Caitanya. Considering its historical importance and popularity, it is surprising that this text has never been translated in full. Within the tradition, this text has been paired with the *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* of Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj, which I had previously translated with Dimock (Harvard 1999). My readings of the Jaban Haridās materials this term have confirmed the need for a complete, unabridged translation with academic commentary and apparatus. This group project would initially include OCHS faculty Lucian Wong and Rembert Lutjeharms. The prospect for major external funding from the US National Endowment for the Humanities is a distinct possibility.

Concordance. Over the last twenty years, any number of scholars have indicated that one of the most useful tools appended to my translation of Kṛṣṇadās Kavirāj's *Caitanya Caritāmṛta* is the comprehensive indexing covering thousands of topics/citations. If we undertake to translate Vṛndāvan Dās's *Caitanya Bhāgavat*, we will index in an analogous manner. And those two texts together constitute approximately half of Caitanya's hagiographical materials from the sixteenth century. For my initial research on those hagiographies, I prepared similar, but less comprehensive, indexes for the remaining Bangla and Sanskrit hagiographies. While an index is not a concordance, those indexes would provide the most basic foundation for a complete concordance of the hagiographies, a tool that would serve scholars and devotees for generations to come. This project is perfect for Digital Humanities funding.

I will be submitting a proposal for these projects shortly.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Conferences

The Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology

4-6 October 2021, Online conference

Convener: Prof. Gavin Flood FBA

This international conference addressed the importance of Phenomenology of Religion partly in response to its critique in recent decades and partly driven by the need to understand religions in ways that are philologically and historically rigorous while drawing out the meanings and importance of philosophical and theological claims. The conference was a great success. There were papers by faculty of OCHS as well as major figures in the field such as Professor Kevin Hart (UVA), Prof. Emmanuel Falque (Paris), Prof. Anthony Steinbock (Stony Brook), Prof. Satoko Fujiwara (Tokyo), Prof. Gert-Jan van der Heiden (Nijmegen), Prof. Hent de Vries (Cornell), and Prof. Anne Vinga (Copenhagen). There were also papers by graduate students. A very fine website was created by the conference administrator Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen, hosted by the OCHS (newphenomenology.org). A selection of papers will be published in *The Heythrop Journal*.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India

4-6 February 2022, Online conference

Conveners: Dr. Lucian Wong, Dr. Avni Chag, Dr. Arun Brahmbhatt

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Online Conference

Feb 4—6, 2022

No history of Hinduism can be written without reference to the plethora of initiatory religious communities (*sampradāya*, *panth*, *mārga*, *maṭha*, etc.) that have long comprised a fundamental component of the Hindu religious landscape. For centuries, these organisational formations have profoundly shaped collective and individual Hindu life. They have played a central role in the transmission of religious teachings, rituals, and codes of behavior, and aligned themselves, to varying degrees, with local regimes of power. Yet, while there is no dearth of scholarship on such formations in classical, medieval, and early modern India, they have, by comparison, featured surprisingly little in the study of colonial period developments within Hinduism.

Bringing together scholars working on initiatory Hindu modalities across colonial India, this virtual conference served to create a forum for the exploration of *sampradāyic* dynamics beyond regional boundaries and a vital opportunity for critically rethinking the texture of Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture.

The 38th Sanskrit Traditions Symposium

28 May 2022, Online conference

The 38th session of the Sanskrit Traditions Symposium (formerly known as 'Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World') took place on Friday 28th May, with participants joining us from Boston, Zagreb, Chicago, Vienna and the UK, and an audience tuning in from around the globe. It was a rich discussion spanning Sanskrit sources from Vedānta to Āyurveda, devotional theology, and colonial satire. The speakers and respondents included Ivan Adrijanic, Cristina Pecchia, Radha Blinderman, Charles S. Preston, Jessica Frazier, Christele Barois, Rembert Lutjeharms, and Arun Brahmbhatt. With the completion of this successful event, we look forward to meeting again in person for further discussions next year.

God & Vaiṣṇavism

23-26 May 2022, Online conference

Conveners: Prof. Ricardo Sousa Silvestre, Dr. Alan Herbert, and Prof. Benedikt Paul Göcke.

This online workshop, which was held in collaboration with the OCHS, was part of A Philosophical Approach to the Vaiṣṇava Concept of God research project. The project is funded by the John Templeton Foundation. The workshop was held between May 23rd to 26th. All thirteen presenters are authors of an Edited Volume and Journal Special Issue to be published next year as part of the project's goals. The project tries to answer the question: how can the Vaiṣṇava concept of God be philosophically characterized? The general goal is to approach the Vaiṣṇava concept of God from a contemporary philosophical perspective. The workshop functioned to allow a flow of ideas between the authors and to offer a forum to explore issues or problems they might have already come across. Up to fifty participants joined every day. Two of the first day's presentations were from authors looking at issues on the concept of God within the philosophy of religion and how the philosophical study of Vaiṣṇavism might proceed. The rest of the presentations explored the concept of God in the Vaiṣṇava texts and traditions.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

The presenters and presentations were:

- Graham Oppy (Monash University, Australia): *Thinking about God*
- Rebecca Chan (San José State University, USA): *Philosophical Issues with the Concept of God*
- Angelika Malinar (University of Zurich, Switzerland): *Expounding God's Singularity in the Mahābhārata Epic*
- Ricardo Silvestre (Federal University of Campina Grande, Brazil): *The Concept of God in the Bhagavad Gītā: A Panentheistic Account*
- Edwin Francis Bryant (Rutgers University, USA): *Form and Beauty: God in the Bhagavata Purāṇa*
- Gavin Flood (University of Oxford, UK): *Reflections on Pāñcarātra Conceptions of Deity*
- Swami Medhananda (Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education, India): *Harmonizing the Personal God with the Impersonal Brahman: Situating Sri Ramakrishna vis-à-vis Vaiṣṇava Vedānta Traditions*
- Suganya Anandakichenin (University of Hamburg, Germany): *The Ālvār concept of God: A Look at Tōṇṭaraṭṭipōṭi Ālvār's and Maturakavi Ālvār's Objects of Worship*
- Shrinivasa Varakhedi (Central Sanskrit University, India) and Srinivasa Kumar Acharya (Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India): *The Concept of God in Madhva's Tatva-vada*
- Kenneth R. Valpey (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, UK): *God as the Supreme Teacher: Swami Prabhupada's Modern Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Mission to Reveal 'The Supreme Personality of Godhead'*
- Vijay Ramnarace (Georgetown University, USA): *Non-theism and Theism in the Nimbārka Sampradāya*
- Frederick M. Smith (University of Iowa, USA): *God in Puṣṭimārga*
- Alan Herbert (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, UK): *A Polyvalent Concept of God in the Caitanya Vaiṣṇava Tradition*

The Intersection of Hinduism and Contemporary Society

2-3 June 2022, Online conference

Conveners: Dr. Ace Simpson, Dr. Angela Burt, Dr. Cecilia Bastos, and Dr. Alan Herbert

On June 2nd and 3rd, an online conference was held as part of the OCHS Hinduism in Modern Secular Society Project. Twelve scholars representing six continents presented on a wide range of topics concerning the intersections between Hindus/Hinduism and wider contemporary society. The purpose of the conference was to facilitate a community of scholars working on similar issues and to yield content for a future publication, which is now being discussed. Between twenty-five and thirty participants joined for each day of the conference. The presenters and papers presented were:

- Angela Burt: *The Changing Relationship of the Hare Krishna Movement with Mainstream Society: An Alignment Perspective*
- Gustavo H. P. Moura: *World Kirtan: Music and Spirituality in a Transcultural Whirlpool*
- Ace Simpson and Alan Herbert: *Rapture and Rupture: Experiences of Former Ashram Residents*
- Tuhina Ganguly: *The Wonder of Darshan: Going Beyond the Local and the Visual*
- Hrvoje Čargonja: *Dialectics of Narrative Identity in the Hare Krishna Stories of Religious Experience*
- Cecilia Bastos: *Mind, Body and Subjectivity: The Performance of Yoga and Meditation Practitioners*
- Richa Shukla: *Contemporary Hindu Woman: Strangled Soul or an Emancipated One?*
- Sraddha Shivani Rajkomar: *Hinduism and Creole Cultural Memory in Present-day Mauritius*
- Gowda Gomathi & Babu Lenin G: *Memorial Stones as Social Identity in the Past*
- Paolo E. Rosati: *Cultural Identity and Cultural Memory at Kāmākhya: A Preliminary Study*
- Michael Sheludko: *Russo-Ukrainian War and Problems of Violence Justification Among Russian and Ukrainian Vaishnavas*
- Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson: *Acting in the Underground: Life as a Hare Krishna Devotee in the Republic of Lithuania (1979–1989)*

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Awards for Students

Amit Mishra Bursary	Maanya Devi Patel
Gopal and Elizabeth Krishna Bursary	Barbora Sojgov
Dr Sivaswami & Renuka Nagraj	Utsa Bose
Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary	Ranjamrittika Bhowmik
Hanuman Bursary	Imran Visram, Barbora Sojkova
Jiva Gosvami Scholarship	Maanya Devi Patel
Nainika's Bursary for Kashmir Shaivism & Kashmiri Hindu	Sasha Taylor
Narasimhacharya Bursary	Valters Negribs
Parvathi Foundation	Yizhou Liu
Prof. Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book prize	Visvapriya Desai
Wernicke Olesen's Bursary for Sanskrit and Pali Studies	Visvapriya Desai
Ramalah Alagappan Bursary	Sharvi Maheshwari, Smridhi Chadha
Sri Gnianananda Giri Peetam Society	Mohini Gupta, Poorva Palekar,
Tristan Elby Bursary	Lucas Quinn

Library

After nearly two years of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, the OCHS Library opened its doors again at the beginning of the academic year, when the University resumed its in person teaching. While it has taken a while for the students—now so used to accessing digital material—to make their way back to the OCHS Library, by the start of Trinity term, we were back at pre-pandemic numbers, if not higher.

Behind the scenes, cataloguing of our extensive collection has been ongoing. Mrs. Elizabeth Krishna, a librarian of the former Indian Institute Library, Oxford, continued to devote much of her time to the cataloguing of the OCHS collection, and Mr. Utsa Bose, a current graduate student at the University of Oxford, has helped with the cataloguing of Bengali books from the collection of Prof. Joseph T. O'Connell.

This year, the OCHS library has been enriched with a very large collection: it is the new home of the library of The Tagore Centre UK (London), which built the largest collection in Europe of books by and about Rabindranath Tagore.

The Library also received donations from Gwen Harris, Tara Prakashan, Peggy Morgan, Prabhakara Bhatta, Gavin Flood, and Prema Goet.

Investment Strategy

These funds are managed on behalf of the OCHS by Sanderson Financial Limited. They are invested in a mix of equity, fixed income, and property funds. The investment adviser is mandated to recommend investments which conform to ethical investment principles as much as is possible and or available within specific asset classes and apply a cautious risk strategy to the overall portfolio, which over the long term provide steady positive income and capital growth.

The investment advisers approach to ethical investment principles is to try, as much as possible, within each asset class to recommend funds to the portfolio which undertake "negative screening" of their investments, thereby minimising the potential of the portfolio being invested in so called "sin stocks" such as companies which profit from the sale of tobacco, gambling and weapons.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Investment Performance and Target Returns

The Committee are happy to report that since the first investment made in October 2016 the Investment Portfolio has seen a net capital growth of 26.35% which implies an annual net rate of return of 3.76%.

This capital growth has allowed the committee to distribute £56,700 of funds since 2019 to the OCHS to support its scholarship and research activities

The committee aims to return 3.5% of the total Investment Portfolio on an annual basis to the OCHS to fund scholarships and research activities. This requires it to target annual net capital growth of 5%.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties and have carried out an annual review of their activities in this regard.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities ('SOFA') for the year has been produced on page 25 showing movements on unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. The OCHS received donations of £340,468 (2021: £295,908) during the year. Fee income of £222,155 (2021: £306,659) was received and the charity had costs of £570,722 (2021: £589,557). The net surplus for the year was £40,646 (2021: net surplus of £190,581).

Funds and reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2022 are showing a surplus of £114,566 (2021: £114,255) with designated reserves showing a surplus of £238,960 (2021: £212,836). After adjusting for fixed assets free reserves are £83,599 (2021: £67,284). The OCHS has plans to increase this surplus with the acquisition of new premises, which will reduce costs and ensure the charity's long term sustainability.

Future Plans

The OCHS continues to expand and the charity continues to campaign for funds to enable the purchase of new premises in Oxford. This will ensure the OCHS can continue to develop its facilities and increase its student numbers.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

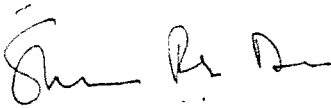
The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Wenn Townsend were re-appointed auditors to the OCHS at the Trustees' meeting.

This report was approved by Trustees on 4th October..... 2022.



Shaunaka Rishi Das

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 17, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
30 St Giles
Oxford

04.12.2022

Wenn Townsend is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming from:											
Donations											
- Other donations	2	242,774	76,718	20,976	-	340,468	218,637	49,548	27,723	-	295,908
- Government grants	2	40,022	-	-	-	40,022	107,758	-	-	-	107,758
Charitable activities	3	222,155	-	-	-	222,155	306,659	-	-	-	306,659
Investments	4	515	7	41	84	647	695	24	72	506	1,297
Total income		505,466	76,725	21,017	84	603,292	633,749	49,572	27,795	506	711,622
Expenditure on:											
Charitable activities	5	528,816	28,567	11,728	1,611	570,722	533,110	23,697	18,556	14,194	589,557
Total expenditure		528,816	28,567	11,728	1,611	570,722	533,110	23,697	18,556	14,194	589,557
Net gains/(loss) on investments	10	4,860	(3,233)	956	5,493	8,076	12,625	10,667	6,228	38,996	68,516
Net income/expenditure		(18,490)	44,925	10,245	3,966	40,646	113,264	36,542	15,467	25,308	190,581
Transfer between funds		18,801	(18,801)	-	-	-	(500)	500	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		311	26,124	10,245	3,966	40,646	112,764	37,042	15,467	25,308	190,581
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2021		114,255	212,836	394,642	215,959	937,692	1,491	175,794	379,175	190,651	747,111
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2022		114,566	238,960	404,887	219,925	978,338	114,255	212,836	394,642	215,959	937,692

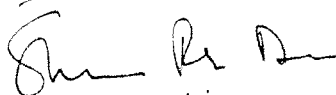
The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Balance sheet
At 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	485,817	468,365
Tangible assets	11	4,035	7,401
		<u>489,852</u>	<u>475,766</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	67,459	69,004
Cash at bank and in hand		462,614	452,147
		<u>530,073</u>	<u>521,151</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(41,587)	(59,225)
Net current assets		<u>488,486</u>	<u>461,926</u>
Net assets		<u>978,338</u>	<u>937,692</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		114,566	114,255
Designated	14	238,960	212,836
Restricted funds	15	404,887	394,642
Endowment funds	15	219,925	215,959
Total funds		<u>978,338</u>	<u>937,692</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 4th October 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shaunaka Rishi Das
Director

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31st March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (analysed below)	22,320	82,829
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest/dividends received	647	1,297
Net cash (transferred in)/withdrawn from investment account	(12,500)	13,300
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(3,023)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(11,853)</u>	<u>11,574</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	10,467	94,403
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	452,147	357,744
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u><u>462,614</u></u>	<u><u>452,147</u></u>

Note:

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	40,646	190,581
Adjustments for:		
Interest/dividends received	(647)	(1,297)
Depreciation charges	3,366	3,791
Gain on investments	(8,076)	(68,516)
Gifted shares into investment portfolio	-	(33,338)
Investment management fees	3,124	2,029
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,545	(26,402)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(17,638)	15,981
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>22,320</u></u>	<u><u>82,829</u></u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, including a revision of expectations for the potential impact of COVID-19 on the charity. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Fund accounting

The Charity's total funds consist of:

- I. Unrestricted funds are general funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- II. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The trustees may move funds between unrestricted and designated funds.
- III. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
- IV. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Giri Scholarship. This fund will be used to grant scholarships that the Centre deems appropriate, with the request that the Centre considers projects aimed at Bhakti traditions. Income arising on the endowment is to be used to fund the scholarships and is included in restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment manager's advice and legal advice relating to the fund are charged to the fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from charitable activities is CED online course fees.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

The charity receives government grants in respect of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. These grants are recognised using the accrual model and as such are recorded in the SOFA in the period in which the charity is entitled to such grants as a result of having furloughed staff members.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Resources expended comprise the following:

- I. The costs of generating voluntary income relates to costs incurred to promote fundraising.
- II. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- III. Governance costs reflect the costs incurred which are directly attributable to the management of the Charity's assets, organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

e) Tangible assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line / 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance basis

f) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their value can otherwise be measured reliably.

g) Pension costs

The charity makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme for certain employees. The pension cost charged to the income and expenditure account represents contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

h) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

i) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees can only consider with reasonable certainty a budgetary period of 12 months from the year end due to the difficulty in securing voluntary income for unrestricted funds.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Deed of covenants	22,153	-	-	-	22,153	23,402
Individual donations	220,621	76,718	20,976	-	318,315	272,506
Government grants receivable	40,022	-	-	-	40,022	107,758
	<u>282,796</u>	<u>76,718</u>	<u>20,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>380,490</u>	<u>403,666</u>

Included within Government grants receivable for the charity is £40,022 (2021: £107,758) of Government grants relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Weekend Schools	25,243	-	-	25,243	44,783
BAP's lunches	-	-	-	-	600
Online course	195,663	-	-	195,663	259,174
Book Publishing	1,249	-	-	1,249	2,102
	<u>222,155</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,155</u>	<u>306,659</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Interest receivable	34	-	-	-	34	342
Dividends receivable	481	7	41	84	613	955
	<u>515</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>647</u>	<u>1,297</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Staff costs	238,753	-	-	-	238,753	225,258
Lectures, scholarships and grants	146,492	13,873	11,378	-	171,743	194,097
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	-	4,567
Rent, rates and service charges	61,145	739	-	-	61,884	61,451
Insurance – professional indemnity	541	-	-	-	541	427
Insurance – general	2,166	-	-	-	2,166	1,309
Repairs and maintenance	1,389	-	-	-	1,389	532
Printing, postage and stationery	1,359	-	-	-	1,359	556
Telephone	1,765	-	-	-	1,765	3,035
Travelling and motor expenses	2,348	-	-	-	2,348	2,537
General expenses	12,431	-	-	-	12,431	12,507
Interest and bank charges	6,985	-	-	-	6,985	7,677
Advertising and marketing	9,458	-	-	-	9,458	13,469
Professional fees	14,080	11,993	-	-	26,073	25,300
Investment management charges	1,234	62	350	1,611	3,257	2,984
Governance costs (note 6)	28,670	1,900	-	-	30,570	33,851
	<u>528,816</u>	<u>28,567</u>	<u>11,728</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>570,722</u>	<u>589,557</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

6 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Professional fees	24,000	-	-	-	24,000	27,000
Audit fees	3,204	-	-	-	3,204	3,060
Depreciation	1,466	1,900	-	-	3,366	3,791
	<u>28,670</u>	<u>1,900</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>30,570</u>	<u>33,851</u>

7 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No Trustee received or waived any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil).

The Trustees/director received reimbursement of expenses totalling £2,813 (2021: £1,736).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Director, Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das.

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das did not receive any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil).

8 Taxation

The OCHS is a registered Charity and is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2022	2021
Administration, Continuing Education and Academic Staff	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Employment costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	223,985	204,970
National insurance contributions	11,154	16,787
Pension contributions	3,614	3,501
	<u>238,753</u>	<u>225,258</u>

No members of staff received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2021: nil).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

10 Investments

Investment portfolio	Cash Reserves £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
<u>Market value</u>			
As at 1 April 2021	4,661	463,704	468,365
Cash transferred in	12,500	-	12,500
Net disposals	996	(996)	-
Increase/(decrease) in market value	-	8,076	8,076
Interest Received	2	-	2
Dividends Received	226	-	226
Management Charges	(3,352)	-	(3,352)
As at 31 March 2022	<u>15,033</u>	<u>470,784</u>	<u>485,817</u>
Market value of UK quoted investments			197,235
Overseas quoted investments			288,582
			<u>485,817</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	44,543	44,543
Cost at 31 March 2022	<u>44,543</u>	<u>44,543</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	37,142	37,142
Charge for the year	3,366	3,366
At 31 March 2022	<u>40,508</u>	<u>40,508</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2022	<u>4,035</u>	<u>4,035</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>7,401</u>	<u>7,401</u>

The library collection has been gifted to the Charity and has no cost or value in the financial statements. The Trustees deem the value of the library to total £200,000 but no formal valuation has been obtained as the Trustees feel that the cost of such a valuation would outweigh any benefit.

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	67,459	69,004
	<u>67,459</u>	<u>69,004</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

13 Creditors: amounts falling due
within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxes and social security costs	7,410	5,413
Accruals and deferred income	34,177	53,812
	<u>41,587</u>	<u>59,225</u>

Included within accruals and deferred income is £11,092 (2021: £18,814) relating to income received in advance for courses/events held in the year ended 31st March 2023.

14 Designated funds

2022	1 April 2021 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2022 £
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	132,705	-	-	(9,000)	123,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	10,294	176	(62)	-	10,408
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	4,642	-	(2,638)	-	2,004
Library Equipment	99	42	-	-	141
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	8,661	3,059	-	-	11,720
Research Funds Academics	8,000	-	(2,192)	-	5,808
CED Development Fund	7,500	28,171	(12,044)	-	23,627
Academic Research Endowment Fund	24,079	(3,402)	-	-	20,677
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	9,500	(6,205)	(3,295)	-
Khaitan Fund	-	7,000	(4,882)	(2,118)	-
Journal of Hindu Studies Profit Share	-	8,777	-	(4,388)	4,389
Bhagavata Purana Research Project	-	17,620	-	-	17,620
Oxford Kirtan Funds	-	1,149	(544)	-	605
Nepal Summer School	-	1,400	-	-	1,400
	<u>212,836</u>	<u>73,492</u>	<u>(28,567)</u>	<u>(18,801)</u>	<u>238,960</u>
2021	1 April 2020 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2021 £
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	132,705	-	-	-	132,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	9,217	2,050	(973)	-	10,294
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	16,917	4,050	(18,725)	2,400	4,642
Library Equipment	99	-	-	-	99
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	-	8,661	-	-	8,661
Research Funds Academics	-	10,400	-	(2,400)	8,000
CED Development Fund	-	7,500	-	-	7,500
Academic Research Endowment Fund	-	24,079	-	-	24,079
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	3,500	(4,000)	500	-
	<u>175,794</u>	<u>60,240</u>	<u>(23,698)</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>212,836</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

14 Designated funds (continued)

Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship was offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship was awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality and a holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship was provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship was given to scholars who furthered the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre and worked in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund

The Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Gopal and Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, who are long term supporters of the centre.

It is their desire that these funds are utilised by the centre in carrying out its academic, research and continuing education activities over the next several years.

15a Restricted funds

2022	1 April 2021	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2022
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	5,302	8,145	(10,678)	-	2,769
Bhumi project	3	331	-	-	334
New home for OCHS	330,837	-	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	10,363	176	(62)	-	10,477
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	25,492	13,162	(232)	-	38,422
Tristan Elby	9,145	159	(756)	-	8,548
	<u>394,642</u>	<u>21,973</u>	<u>(11,728)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>404,887</u>
2021	1 April 2020	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2021
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	7,651	9,616	(11,965)	-	5,302
Bhumi project	463	4,107	(4,567)	-	3
New home for OCHS	329,337	1,500	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	8,926	2,008	(571)	-	10,363
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	11,521	15,062	(1,091)	-	25,492
Tristan Elby	7,777	1,730	(362)	-	9,145
	<u>379,175</u>	<u>34,023</u>	<u>(18,556)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,642</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

15a Restricted funds (continued)

The Scholarship fund and Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary represents monies collected to fund student bursaries and scholarships.

The Bhumi project fund represents monies collected to fund our Bhumi project.

The New home for OCHS fund represents monies donated to the Charity to contribute to the planned purchase of new premises.

The Opportunity Scholarship was established to support a doctoral or post-doctoral student.

15b Endowment funds

2022	1 April 2021 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2022 £
Giri Scholarship	215,959	5,577	(1,611)	-	219,925
	<u>215,959</u>	<u>5,577</u>	<u>(1,611)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>219,925</u>
2021	1 April 2020 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2021 £
Giri Scholarship	190,651	39,502	(14,194)	-	215,959
	<u>190,651</u>	<u>39,502</u>	<u>(14,194)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,959</u>

The Giri Scholarship is an endowment fund established with an initial donation of £200,000. Donations into the fund constitute a permanent and everlasting gift to the Centre towards establishing an endowed scholarship. It is intended that by 2041 the total donations to the Giri Scholarship fund will be £890,000.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2022 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	4,035	197,234	68,658	219,925	489,852
Current assets	152,118	41,726	336,229	-	530,073
Liabilities	(41,587)	-	-	-	(41,587)
Total net assets	<u>114,566</u>	<u>238,960</u>	<u>404,887</u>	<u>219,925</u>	<u>978,338</u>
2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2021 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	5,502	198,910	55,395	215,959	475,766
Current assets	167,978	13,926	339,247	-	521,151
Liabilities	(59,225)	-	-	-	(59,225)
Total net (liabilities)/assets	<u>114,255</u>	<u>212,836</u>	<u>394,642</u>	<u>215,959</u>	<u>937,692</u>

18 Going concern

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is reliant on the continued support of its benefactors. The charity's property fundraising campaign is continuing. The acquisition of new premises will reduce costs and help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

19 Operating leases

A lease on the charity's charitable premises at 13/15 Magdalen Street Oxford was signed on 8th April 2016, covering a period of 5 years from 24th June 2013, at an annual rate of £45,000. The charity's total future minimum lease payments are as follows:-

A lease renewal was signed during the 19/20 financial year at an annual rate of £55,035 with a 3 year break clause.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Land & Buildings		
<1 year	55,035	55,035
Between 2 and 5 years	100,784	13,759
	<u>155,819</u>	<u>68,794</u>
	<u><u>155,819</u></u>	<u><u>68,794</u></u>
	2022	2021
	£	£
Photocopier		
<1 year	-	288
	<u>-</u>	<u>288</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>288</u></u>

20 Post Balance Sheet Events

Since the year end, COVID-19 has had impacts on many aspects of business and personal life and, along with many other charities, our activities have also been affected. It is difficult at this stage to determine the exact impact on the charity's operations and reserves. The Trustees are actively monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action to ensure the continued operations of the charity.

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1074458

Accounts

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Charity Registration No: 1074458

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 March 2021

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered charity number 1074458

Trustees: Prof Diwaker Acharya (Humanities Division representative)
Prof Francis X Clooney
Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das
Lord Dholakia, OBE, DL
Dr Mark Edwards (Theology Faculty representative)
Dr S Bhattacharya-Ford
Prof Richard Gombrich
Mr Pujan H Patel
Mr Ajay Piramal
Mrs Madhu Ruia
Mr Azad Shivdasani
Prof Mark Smith (Oriental Studies representative)
Mr Ramesh Venkataraman
Prof Himan Shruprabha Ray

Director: Shaunaka Rishi Das

Auditors: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Registered office: 15 Magdalen Street
Oxford
OX1 3AE

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
P O Box 333
Oxford
OX1 3HS

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Report by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statement of the Charity.

Structure, government and management

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS) is governed under a Trust Deed dated 1 February 1999 as amended by a Declaration of Trust dated 28th June 2006. Its registered charity number is 1074458. The Trustees of the Charity are shown on page 1.

Trustees' meetings are scheduled each year, with extra meetings called if required. The Director deals with the day-to-day management of the OCHS.

All decisions concerning policies and appointment of advisors and Trustees are referred to the Trustees. The Trustees keep the activities of the OCHS under regular annual review, identifying risks and mitigating them through internal controls and insurance. They approve the risk register annually.

Objectives and activities of the Charity

The OCHS is an academy for the study of Hindu culture, society, philosophies, and languages, in all periods and in all parts of the world. The OCHS is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing and research. The OCHS is also a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University.

Achievements and performance of the charity

Academic report

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the doors of the OCHS have been closed for most of the past year. As a result, there have been no Wednesday Lunches, during which the students and scholars of Hindu Studies in Oxford usually meet each week during term, nor has the OCHS Library welcomed as many readers as it usually does. But behind those close doors, the scholars and staff of OCHS have had a very busy year, and all the core activities of the Centre—research, teaching, and publishing—have not just continued, but indeed expanded in the past academic year.

A new Research Programme—the Gaudīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme, headed by four Fellows of the OCHS—was launched in Trinity Term, as were two new projects. The first aims to bring the emerging field of Digital Humanities into the realm of Hindu Studies; the second brings together scholars from across the globe to rethink Hinduism in Colonial India. The other Research Projects and Programme also continued to develop.

The OCHS's teaching to the University of Oxford has continued, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in Theology & Religion as before, but mostly online. But this too has expanded to another Faculty: Dr. Jessica Frazier and Dr. Lucian Wong have been teaching Indian Philosophy to the Faculty of Philosophy, which offers now, for the first time, an Indian Philosophy undergraduate course. More fellows of the OCHS are now also supervising doctoral degrees. And beyond Oxford, the online Continuing Education Department has reached more students in the past year than ever before.

In publishing too, the OCHS has continued to thrive. The *Journal of Hindu Studies*, published by Oxford University Press, and the two book series the OCHS publishes with Routledge, have seen new volumes, and the editors have been hard at work to prepare new volumes in the CED book series, to be published in the coming months by Mandala Publishing. But the OCHS has also moved into a new area of publishing: the Śākta Research Programme has been publishing lectures by leading scholars online, on Youtube.

Teaching

Prof. Gavin Flood continued to supervise 2 DPhil students, supervised 2 MSt students, and 2 undergraduate students in Theology & Religion. In addition, he has taught 9 undergraduate students, in both 'Religion and Religions' and 'Hinduism: Sources and Formations'. He has also served on the MSt. Exam Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, acted as an examiner for its Final Honour School, and worked for the National Research Excellence Framework (REF) for the Faculty.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Dr. Jessica Frazier ran and taught a successful year of the Philosophy Faculty's first ever Indian Philosophy undergraduate course, with a number of the seven students saying it had been their favourite module. She tutored a total of 18 undergraduate students, two dissertations, two Master's students, and one doctoral student. Together with Dr Lutjeharms, she continued to co-organise the Hinduism I and II papers, and the Further Studies paper, as well as teaching for the Feminist Approaches to Religion paper. She also ran a series of discussion seminars on 'Arguments in Indian Philosophy', and in 2020 was elected to a stipendiary lectureship at Mansfield as well as Trinity college.

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms has continued to give the lectures for the 'Hinduism: Sources and Formations' (in Michaelmas) and 'Modern Hinduism' (in Hilary) papers, which he continues to co-organise with Dr. Frazier. These lectures were pre-recorded and made available to the students online, followed by a live 'Q&A' session for each lecture. He also tutored 7 students in those subjects. He also continued to read Vedānta texts in Sanskrit with interested students (now for the tenth year), this year reading selections from Madhva's *Anuvyākhyāna* commentary on the *Brahma-sūtras*. This reading seminar was this year attended not just by current OCHS students, but also by former students who joined the online readings from as far away as New Zealand. In addition, he has been supervising two DPhil students, and acted as examiner for the MSt. in the Study of Religion and the Final Honour School.

Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen taught Sanskrit Prelims for 9 students (6 from Theology & Religion, and 3 auditing students). He is the paper setter for Sanskrit Prelims and has developed the course to include a range of relevant Hindu and Buddhist texts. He has written his own Sanskrit grammar with a reader in two volumes, which is currently being translated into English and used in the course. He also taught 3 students Buddhist Sanskrit at the OCHS and advanced Sanskrit tutorials for MPhil and DPhil students from Theology and Religion and from Oriental Studies. He tutored 3 students Hinduism I and II and supervised an MA dissertations at Aarhus University and continued teaching on the visiting student programme. He was First Marker for Sanskrit Prelims and the MSt/MPhil Theology (dissertation and essay).

Dr. Lucian Wong taught two undergraduate students from the Faculty of Theology & Religion for the paper 'Religion and Religions', and two students for the Faculty of Philosophy in the newly established paper 'Indian Philosophy'.

Research

This year saw big developments in the OCHS's research activities. A new Research Programme—the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme—was launched, as were two new Research Projects: 'Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India' and 'Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies'. The other Research Projects and Programme also continued to develop in significant ways.

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme

Project Leaders: Dr. Māns Broo, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, and Dr. Lucian Wong

Vaiṣṇava traditions—traditions who teach devotion (*bhakti*) to Viṣṇu, Rāma, or Kṛṣṇa—have been perhaps the most consistent form of Hindu devotion across the Indian subcontinent, which has found expression in myriad regional traditions, centred on local places of pilgrimage or inspired by influential religious teachers. Several Vaiṣṇava traditions have become trans-regional, however, and left a lasting mark on the religious landscape of South Asia. Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism—named after Gauḍa, the ancient name of its Bengali homeland—is one such tradition. Inspired by the teachings and person of Śrī Kṛṣṇa Caitanya (1486-1533), the tradition emerged in sixteenth century Bengal and was profoundly shaped by Vaiṣṇava forms of devotion propagated in the eastern parts of the subcontinent in the preceding centuries, but quickly spread and established itself, within a generation, further south to Orissa and west to the region of Braj, and in subsequent centuries even further west to Rajasthan, north to Manipur, and in the twentieth century transformed into a global movement.

Through their voluminous writings in Sanskrit and a variety of vernaculars (esp. Bengali, Brajabhuli, and Brajabhāṣā) Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas developed a distinct devotion to Kṛṣṇa and Caitanya. Their innovations in the realms of ritual and practice, theology, literature and literary criticism, music, temple architecture, and art had a wide-ranging impact and helped shape the contemporary culture of Kṛṣṇa-*bhakti* across the northern region.

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Outline of the Programme

Since the emergence of modern scholarship on South Asian religion, the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition has garnered a fair amount of scholarly interest for more than a century, both in South Asia (esp. in Bengal) and in beyond. As Stuart Elkman noted in 1986, 'it may safely be said that no other Vaiṣṇava movement can claim such an abundance of secondary literature'. The OCHS has contributed greatly to this growing field of scholarship, since its inception, by the work of individual scholars as well as through two successful research projects, "The Gosvāmī Era: The Founding of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism in Early Modern South Asia" and "Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period", which have resulted in conferences, symposia, a variety of publications (monographs, edited volumes, journal issues, articles, etc.).

The Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Research Programme is a natural development of these two Research Projects and will serve as a programmatic umbrella under which a variety of future research projects will fall. The aim of the Programme is to facilitate more systematic and coordinated research, by bringing scholars from around the globe together, and encourage interdisciplinary, collaborative research as well as more focussed exchange of ideas.

The Programme aims to look at the development of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism—defined broadly as those traditions that emerge by the inspiration of Caitanya—from its inception to the modern period, in such diverse fields as theology, philology, literature and literary criticism, ritual studies, architecture and art, musicology, and anthropology. The open structure of the research programme will allow for a variety of collaborative research projects to emerge and also encourage research that looks at those developments in the *longue durée* by examining not just the articulation of new ideas or practices but also their legacy as well as their antecedents, across both time and place.

Aims of the Research Programme

The Research Programme will especially aim to accomplish the following:

- Establish an international research network
- Establish new collaborative research projects
- Digitize manuscripts and early-print collections
- Organize international conferences, panels, as well as group-readings of primary texts
- Produce critical editions, translations, and studies of key primary texts
- Publish monographs, edited volumes, conference proceedings, and articles
- Develop an academic adult learning programme

Ongoing Research

The research work conducted the 'Gosvāmī Era' and the 'Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in the Modern Period' Research Projects have been ongoing.

The Gosvāmī Era

Dr. Måns Broo (Åbo Akademi, Finland) is currently finalising the first volume of his critical edition of the *Hari-bhakti-vilāsa*, the earliest and most influential ritual text of the Gauḍīya tradition. The volume will contain the critical edition of the text, an annotated translation, and detailed introduction.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita (Sophia University, Japan) nearly finalised the digitisation of hundreds of Vaiṣṇava manuscripts from across the Indian subcontinent, which were microfilmed in the 1980s by the Matsya Project, led by Prof. Charles S.J. White. With the permission from the institutions that hold the physical copies of these manuscripts, these digital files will be made available online. The final, administrative, work in this has been hampered by the ongoing pandemic, but will resume once travel to the institutions in India is again possible. He also continues to work with S. Bhuvaneshvari on the editing and translating of Vopadeva's *Harillā* and Hemādri's commentary, the *Harillāvivēka*, two little-studied texts by authors that significantly influenced the Gosvāmīs of Vṛndāvana, and is still working on his own monograph on the ethics of Gauḍīya aesthetics.

The edited volume that resulted from the 'The Building of Vṛndāvana' conference is now finally ready for publication. The editorial work on this, shared between Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms and Prof. Kiyokazu Okita, has been severely delayed due to ill health.

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms continued to co-ordinate the Gauḍīya Studies Programme, which provides tutorial-based academic adult education in Gauḍīya Studies, with a particular focus on the earlier period of the Gosvāmī era and which was launched in Trinity Term of last year. The programme has been a great success, for both students and tutors. This year 18 students were taught by the following tutors: Dr. Måns Broo, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Shaunaka Rishi Das, Prof. Ravi Gupta, Dr. Kenneth Valpey, and Dr. Lucian Wong.

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Publications of the principal researchers of the project are listed below, with the publications of other OCHS fellows.

Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period

The Vaiṣṇava Periodicals of Colonial Bengal Project, launched last year, continued to develop this year, and a new initiative to publish editions of influential but long out-of-print Bengali publications, the *Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇava Classics Series* has been launched this year.

The Vaiṣṇava Periodicals of Colonial Bengal Project

One of the most vibrant forms through which the project of Bengali Vaishnava retrieval was carried out in the colonial period was periodical literature. Vaishnavas in colonial Bengal collectively produced an extensive body of periodical literature. This voluminous corpus nevertheless remains largely untapped both in scholarship on Bengali Vaishnavism and modern Hindu intellectual history more broadly. The periodical corpus itself is scattered across various public libraries and archives, not just within Bengal but also beyond, in Brindaban and in certain international institutions, such as the British Library. Some Vaishnava denominations such as the Baranagar Pathbari and the Gaudiya Math at Baghbazar hold some of the richest standalone Vaishnava periodical collections, but the custodians of these archives make access to them exceedingly difficult. Seven Research Fellows from Indian (Sen and Dey) and European institutions (Broo, Lutjeharms, Sardella, and Wong) are working together to produce a volume of English translations of a representative sample of material from the corpus, accompanied by critical introductions and annotations, that makes this material available to the broader domain of Hindu Studies for the first time.

In conjunction with the translation work undertaken by the team, members of the project have begun working with the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), which as part of its archive, contains an extensive collection of Bengali Vaishnava periodicals. The project is collaborating with the BRC to digitally prepare and make this collection available online through the OCHS's state-of-the-art open-access online database, currently in the final stages of construction.

Modern Bengali Vaiṣṇava Classics Series

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a massive proliferation of Vaishnava literature in Bengal. At this time educated Bengalis had begun to flock in droves to take up the study, practice, and promulgation of passionate Krishna bhakti associated with Caitanya and the Vaishnava tradition that he inspired. With Bengal as the seat of the earliest indigenous printing and publishing industry in the subcontinent, it was only natural that much of this Bengali Vaishnava efflorescence played out in the arena of print. Scholars of religion have only recently begun to appreciate just how significant this remarkable phenomenon is, not only for developing a more complete understanding of Gaudiya Vaishnavism's history, but also, more broadly, for understanding the texture and dynamics of religion in modern India.

The Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC), based in South Kolkata, houses one of the richest collections of colonial-era Vaishnava printed literature in the world, including, most notably, approximately 3500 rare Bengali language Gaudiya Vaishnavism-related books acquired from the descendants of renowned mid twentieth century Vaishnava scholar Sundarananda Vidyavinod. Much of this literature has been out of print for over a century.

The OCHS's Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period Project has entered into a collaborative publishing project with the BRC Kolkata, in an effort to make key texts from among the Sundarananda Vidyavinod Collection available in print, both to the burgeoning realm of Modern Bengali Vaishnava critical scholarship and the wider Bengali Vaishnava reading public. More specifically, the project proposes to produce new editions of these texts, in the original language, re-typeset and edited, with critical introductions. The project is currently in discussions with Mandala Publishing, who have expressed a serious interest in taking on the proposed series.

The editorial board for the series is led by Dr. Lucian Wong, who acts as General Editor, and includes the following scholars: Dr. Ferdinando Sardella, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, Prof. Amiya Sen, Dr. Santanu Dey, and Dr. Abhishek Bose.

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Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies

Project Leaders: Dr. Bjarne-Wernicke Olesen; Consultant & Data Science Lead: Dr. Ulrik Lyngs

This project explores the potential for using computational methods in combination with traditional scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. Compared to traditional workflows in which scholars manually collate, compare and critically edit manuscripts into edited volumes, new computing tools hold substantial promise. For example, many time-consuming tasks may now be automated, and new understandings and insights based on the analysis of large amounts of data can be obtained that would previously have been impossible.

With new coding tools such as R or Python it is now possible to read entire corpora of texts into a computer and readily obtain answers to questions such as: How does the frequency of specific words differ between texts? Which words commonly co-occur together? Which texts are unusual or interesting on some criteria, such as occurrence of specific words, phrases, length of verses, and so on? Answering these sort of questions based on the analysis of large corpora of texts spanning a longue durée opens up entirely new possibilities and fields of investigation (e.g. in relation to discourse analysis, conceptual history and statistics). In this way, automated methods can give scholars new ways to efficiently understand and interact with large bodies of texts, which may then be combined with more traditional, in-depth manual analysis and interpretation.

New digital tools also allow scholars to easily share data and analyses in test scripts and open-access databases, or to build online visualisation tools that allow others to interact with digitised content in new ways.

Project outputs

- Online lecture series and seminars on basic workflows for textual analysis in data science, including methods for text mining and visualisation of large corpora.
- Establishing a state-of-the art OCHS open-access database, providing a new user interface for browsing and interacting with primary research materials
 - The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies. It makes unknown material widely available and searchable for the first time.
 - The database aims to include tens of thousands of manuscripts drawn from the OCHS Kathmandu digitisation project, the National Archives of Nepal, the ASA archives, the Kaiser Library and metadata from the NGMCP as well as a large number of Bengali texts and the Gelblum Collection.
 - Compared to existing major manuscript databases such as the Cambridge Digital Library and the NGMCP, the OCHS database offers a more advanced interface allowing users to see transliterated and translated texts side-by-side with images of the original manuscripts, and download specific views of text data in structured form (e.g. CSV); overlay text on top of the manuscript image to compare (e.g. transliteration or translation with the original Sanskrit text); and add comments or suggest corrections for text or image material
- The OCHS database offers new workflows for use of computational tools in Hindu Studies, including 1) the possibility to automatically generate formatted HTMLs, PDF, or Word files with customised content of specific manuscripts (e.g. choosing to include the original Sanskrit, transliteration and translation in language of choice); 2) easily perform textual analysis and concordance (e.g., count and compare the frequency of specific words or phrases across manuscripts, including identifying parallel passages); and 3) automated transliteration of hand-written manuscripts.

Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project

Project Leaders: Dr. Lucian Wong, Dr. Avni Chag, and Dr. Arun Brahmabhatt

Background

No history of Hinduism can be written without reference to the plethora of initiatory religious communities (*sampradāya*, *panth*) that have long comprised a fundamental component of the Hindu religious landscape. For centuries, these organisational formations have profoundly shaped collective and individual Hindu life. They have played a central role in the transmission of religious teachings, rituals, and codes of behavior, and aligned themselves, to varying degrees, with local regimes of power. Yet, while there is no dearth of scholarship on such formations in classical, medieval, and early modern India, they have, by comparison, featured surprisingly little in the study of colonial period developments within Hinduism.

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The basic reasons for this neglect are not hard to discern. Scholarship on Hinduism in the colonial context has been dominated by the discourse surrounding 'Modern Hinduism'. This value-laden category has privileged the role of a narrowly circumscribed list of figures and institutions that are perceived to betray the workings of a westernised rationality and its reformative impulses. Indeed, the field of colonial Hindu studies has commonly been equated with the study of these emergent, reform-oriented currents. As a result, sampradāyic formations in this context, when not wholly neglected by scholars, are often presumed to have been rendered increasingly irrelevant by modernising forces.

These prevailing assumptions, however, are not borne out by the historical evidence. Recent years have witnessed growing interest in colonial-era activity within the vast array of regional *sampradāyas* and *panths* that fall beyond the discursive confines of the established 'Modern Hinduism' paradigm. This burgeoning body of scholarship has begun to reveal just how central a role such religious currents continued to play in innumerable Hindu lives of all varieties amidst the unprecedented social and epistemic changes effected by colonialism. Many of these currents had marked effects upon social and cultural spheres beyond their immediate communal parameters. And while some participated avidly in colonially driven modernising processes, others remained less directly implicated in the colonial sphere. Nevertheless, what is becoming ever clearer is that any serious attempt to understand Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture cannot fail to attend to the spectrum of sampradāyic dynamics within this context.

Objectives

The Rethinking Hinduism in Colonial India Research Project, which was launched at the beginning of 2021, aims serve as a dedicated platform for the consolidation and coordination of research that critically investigates intellectual, ritual, social, and other kinds of development within sampradāyic Hindu formations across colonial India. The project aims to generate a critical mass of scholarship that deploys these oft-neglected communities as a vital entry point onto the colonial Hindu landscape. In doing so, it aims to establish a model for studying Hinduism in colonial India that neither conflates this potentially rich subject area with an attenuated notion of 'Modern Hinduism', nor is predetermined from the outset to reproduce variations on a well-worn 'tradition-modernity' motif.

Output objectives

- A series of (online) themed panel discussions
- An (online) conference
- An edited volume
- An international research network

The project directors are currently making preparations for the project's first conference, which is due to be held online 5-6 February, 2022, which will provide a forum for the focused exploration of colonial sampradāyic dynamics beyond regional boundaries and a vital opportunity for critically rethinking the texture of Hinduism at this pivotal historical juncture. The conference will showcase work addressing themes including, but not limited to

- Commentarial and scholastic practices
- Legal and institutional frameworks
- Theological and philosophical innovations
- Manuscript and print cultures
- Vernacular literary networks
- Ritual and ascetic lifeworlds
- Personal and public identity formations
- Gender roles and dynamics
- Materiality and visual culture

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The Śākta Traditions Research Programme

Project Leaders: Professor Gavin Flood FBA and Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

The Śākta Traditions research project, which was officially launched in 2011 with a two-day international conference in Oxford and subsequent publication with Routledge, has developed into a research programme encompassing a number of interdisciplinary projects, publications, and a growing international research network. The research programme aims to carve out space for Śāktism as a major Hindu tradition within the South Asian religious context by defining its theology, textual lineages, historical evolution, and its relationship to parallel traditions such as Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism. It has produced several international symposia, workshops and seminars in Oxford as well as numerous volumes and articles.

To the projects have been added a new high profile research project on *Digital Humanities and Hindu Studies* led by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Dr Ulrik Lyngs. Dr Ulrik Lyngs (Department for Computer Science, Oxford University) has been a Visiting Online Fellow at the OCHS for Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary Term 2021 working on the Śākta dimension of this project. The project aims at establishing a state-of-the art open-access database, providing a new and original user interface for browsing and interacting with manuscript materials. The database establishes the primary research material for Śākta traditions in South Asia as an emerging field of studies and makes large amounts of unknown research material widely available and searchable for the first time. Agreements concerning online publishing of manuscripts have been made with the National Archives of Kathmandu and other institutions. The database has been expanded with a Bengal Text dimension and the Geldblum Collection. Dr Ulrik Lyngs continues as our Data Scientist lead and Digital Humanities Consultant for the research programme. Ms Tanja Louise Jakobsen continues to develop our important Śākta Traditions website for the research programme.

This academic year also saw the launch of a highly successful Śākta Traditions Online Lectures series convened by Tanja Louise Jakobsen and Lena Molin and supervised by Dr Wernicke-Olesen. The list of speakers in MT20, HT21 and TT21 included many of the biggest names in the field of Śākta Studies and several groundbreaking lectures, e.g. a three-hour long lecture in three parts by Alexis Sanderson. Due to its success, it has been decided to continue the Śākta online lecture series in MT21. The lectures form an online archive and have attracted many thousand views.

The visiting student programme continued in Michaelmas Term 2020 and Hilary Term 2021 with an MA student from Southern University of Denmark working on tantric and ascetic traditions at the OCHS under the supervision of Dr Wernicke-Olesen.

During the year Dr Wernicke-Olesen has given a number of Śākta-related online papers and taught a number of seminars such as the Graduate Research Seminar on "Blood Sacrifice in Tantric Hinduism" at the Theology and Religion Faculty in MT20 and two major online lectures in the Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series in MT20 and TT21.

In 2018, Dr Wernicke-Olesen established a study and research centre for the Śākta programme in Kathmandu with a focus on manuscript digitalisation and fieldwork. While the work in Nepal came to a halt in the spring 2020 due to the pandemic, the facilities have now been secured until 2022 and it is our hope that work in Nepal will resume in MT21. Gitte Poulsen continues as our Kathmandu Office Manager and Dr Rajan Khatiwoda as the office leader.

Gavin Flood, Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and Rajan Khatiwoda continue their work on an annotated edition and full translation of the Netratana, now in three volumes, to be published in the Routledge Tantric Studies series. The translation group has had weekly reading sessions with Alexis Sanderson and Harunaga Isaacson since July 2020. The readings continue.

The Bhāgavata Purāṇa Research Project

Project leaders: Dr. Ravi Gupta and Dr. Kenneth R. Valpey

We are pleased to announce the release of a documentary film, titled "India's Book of Wisdom: The *Bhagavata Purana*," intended for use in university classrooms and beyond. The film, with subtitles in English, Spanish, and Russian (Mandarin in process), is freely available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331al7pWsJ8>

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We continue work on two edited volumes:

- Dr. Shakuntala Gawde at the University of Mumbai is putting together an edited volume on the Bhagavata Traditions of Maharashtra. She has commitments from an excellent group of scholars, but submissions are delayed due to pandemic-related shutdowns in India.
- Dr. Neeraja Poddar is producing an edited volume on Bhagavata Art History and Visual Culture. Many seasoned as well as emerging scholars in this fledgling field of study have agreed to contribute articles and have sent in their abstracts.

You can also see our various initiatives as well as our network of scholars at the project's website: www.bhagavatapurana.org.

Comparative Philosophy Project

Project leader: Dr Jessica Frazier

This project achieved one of its main aims this year, making an impact on academic history by becoming Oxford's first ever, and one of the UK's only, Indian Philosophy courses to run in a Philosophy Faculty. Undergraduates spent two terms attending lectures co-taught by Jessica Frazier and Jan Westerhoff, and engaged in detailed tutorial discussions tutored by Lucian Wong, Justin Holder and Jessica Frazier. They explored Vedāntic arguments for the unity of all existence in *Brahman*, explored Sāṃkhya ideas of identity, Kaśmīrī Śaiva accounts of consciousness and arguments for Idealism, and compared Hindu approaches to ethics with contemporary theories. Each producing two essays of meticulous philosophical analysis that allowed them to develop their own new insights, many students reported that it was their favourite course of the year, and have recommended next year's classes to future philosophy students.

The impact of this has rippled outward as Indian perspectives on philosophy become embraced by more and more scholars. Jessica Frazier gave two interviews for the popular *Panpsychic Philosophy Podcast* which has hosted major international names such as Daniel Dennett and Galen Strawson, and did a separate panel episode for the US philosophy and religion themed television channel *Closer to Truth* in association with the University of Birmingham's *Global Philosophy of Religion project*, as well as a Columbia University *Comparative Philosophy* seminar session on Bhagavad Gītā 2.47, and also becoming a Board member of the Logic and Religion Association.

Publications for the project continue with chapters on 'The World Soul in India' for the Oxford Philosophical Concepts series, on *Samvāda* or Indian philosophical debate for the Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism, and on rational debate in the Caraka Saṃhitā for a forthcoming volume on Pluralism in India. The two volumes *Sacred Continuum: Being and Divinity in Hindu Philosophy* for the 'Cambridge Studies in Religion, Society and Philosophy' series, and *Being and Substance in Indian Philosophy* for the Routledge 'Dialogues in Indian Traditions' series are nearing submission.

Meanwhile students are joining in discussion on this topic. The series of four seminars on *Arguments in Indian Philosophy* brought together students across faculties, and one has just completed his Master's thesis on Indian Phenomenology, while the first undergraduate dissertation on Indian Philosophy, exploring arguments for Vedāntic monism, is underway.

The Beginnings of the Hindu Temple: Material Foundations of Indian Culture in Early Historic Deccan

Project Leader: Prof Himanshu Prabha Ray

The Research Project has continued to develop in the following ways:

- Signed contract to co-edit *Routledge Handbook of the Hindu Temple: Materiality, Social History and Practice* along with Salila Kulshrestha and Uthara Suvrathan. The Handbook will include twenty papers by leading scholars on various aspects of the Hindu temple divided into six sub-themes. The manuscript is due for submission later in 2021 and the papers received to date are being edited.
- Tabulation of data on temples was continued based on inscriptions from the region of coastal Tamilnadu dating from the 7th to 13th century CE.
- Fieldwork to the archaeological sites could not be undertaken due to lack of financial support for the project. Besides India has been under lockdown most of 2020 and again from April 2021.

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The Comparative Study of Religion

Project Leaders: Prof Gavin Flood FBA and Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

This year, Prof. Gavin Flood held a seminar on Comparative Religion in the Hilary Term 2021 as a prelude to a series of seminars next year. He has also been planning a three-day international conference, *Phenomenology of Religion as Philosophical Anthropology*, which will be held online in October 2021.

Publication

Journal of Hindu Studies

In the academic year 2020-21 there were three issues of the *Journal of Hindu Studies* including a themed issue on Vernacular Hinduisms, one on burial monuments (*samādhis*), and one open issue.

In the past year, the editorial team was also enlarged with the addition of two new editors: Dr. Avni Chag (British Museum), and Dr. Lucian Wong (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies) have joined the three long-standing editors of the *Journal*—Dr. Jessica Frazier, Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, and Dr. James Madaio.

Routledge OCHS Hindu Studies Book Series

This series intends primarily the publication of constructive Hindu theological, philosophical and ethical projects aimed at bringing Hindu traditions into dialogue with contemporary trends in scholarship and contemporary society. The series invites original, high quality, research level work on religion, culture and society of Hindus living in India and abroad.

The following new volume appeared in the last year:

- Marco Ferrante, *Indian Perspectives on Consciousness, Language and Self: The School of Recognition on Linguistics and Philosophy of Mind*

Archaeology and Religion in South Asia Book Series

This Series reflects on the complex relationship between religion and society through new perspectives and advances in archaeology. It looks at this critical interface to provide alternative understandings of communities, beliefs, cultural systems, sacred sites, ritual practices, food habits, dietary modifications, power, and agents of political legitimisation. The books in the Series underline the importance of archaeological evidence in the production of knowledge of the past. They also emphasise that a systematic study of religion requires engagement with a diverse range of sources such as inscriptions, iconography, numismatics and architectural remains.

In the past academic year, the following new book was published in the series:

- Henry Albery, Jens-Uwe Hartmann and Himanshu Prabha Ray (eds.), *Power, Presence and Space: South Asian Rituals in Archaeological Context*.

Fellows' Publications

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar

- 'Buddhism and Hindu Society: some observations from medieval Marathi literature', in *Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*, edited by Pradeep P. Gokhale. London: Routledge, 2021, pp. 151-160.
- 'Casting away the caste: A Buddhist standpoint in the *Vimalaprabhā* commentary on the *Kālacakra Tantra*', in *Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*, edited by Pradeep P. Gokhale. London: Routledge, 2021, pp. 77-84.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria

- (edited) with Rita D. Sherma, *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship*. Routledge India, 2021.
- (edited) with Ricardo P. Silvestre, Jean-Vyes Beziau, B.P. Göcke. *Beyond Faith and Rationality Essays on Logic, Religion and Philosophy*. Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions. Springer, 2021.
- 'Hinduism', in 'Interviews on Eastern Religions on Death and the Afterlife', *Tikkun*, edited by George Yancy, June 2021. <https://www.tikkun.org/eastern-religions-on-death-and-the-afterlife>
- 'Bimal K. Matilal's Philosophy: Language Realism, Dharma, And Ineffability', *RUDN Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 25 No. 2 (June 2021), pp. 250-259.
- 'A Critique of Economic Reason: Between Tradition and Modernity' in *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses; Intersection of Sustainable Studies, and Philosophy, Religion, Theology*, edited by R. Sherma and P. Bilimoria. Springer, 2021.
- 'After Comparative Philosophy: Discussion of "Wilhelm Halbfass and the Purposes of Cross-Cultural Dialogue," by Dimitry Shevchenko', *Philosophy East & West*. Vol. 7, no. 3 (2021).
- 'Diversity and Philosophy: Vignettes on Comparative Philosophy' in *Key Concepts in World Philosophies*, edited by Chiara Rabbiano and Sarah Flavel, UK: Bloomsbury Press (in press)
- 'Thinking Negation in Early Hinduism and Classical Indian Philosophy', in *Beyond Faith and Rationality Essays on Logic, Religion and Philosophy*, edited by Ricardo P. Silvestre, et al. Springer, 2021.
- "Māntric Effect, Effervescent Devatā-s, Noetic Supplications, and Apūrva in the Mīmāṃsā" in *Contemplative Studies and Hinduism Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship*, edited by Rita Sherma and Purushottama Bilimoria. Routledge India, 2021.
- 'Hindu Response to Dying and Death in the Time of COVID-19', *Frontiers in Psychology*, Vol. 12, February 2021.
- 'Gandhi's Swadeshi & A Dream of Self-Sufficiency', *India Currents* (Los Angeles) 7 January 2021.

Prof. Mandakranta Bose

- *Women in Hinduism*, OCHS CED publication (forthcoming).
- 'Dance in the Sanskrit Tradition: Building Bridges Between Text and Performance.' Article for a commemorative volume for the late Kapila Vatsyayan, to be published by IGNCA and D.K. Printworld, Delhi (forthcoming).
- 'Ahalyā, the Human Face of Sacred Infidelity.' In *Hinduism and Tribal Religions: Encyclopaedia of Indian Religions*, edited by Long, J., Sherma, R., Jain, P., Khanna, M. Dordrecht: Springer (forthcoming).
- 'Women and Ethics in Hindu Thought and Practice.' In *Gender, Ecology & Justice in Indian Ethics*, edited by Purushottam Bilimoria. Sophia Studies Series. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer (forthcoming).

Prof. John Brockington

- Forthcoming. 'Paṇḍit Seu to Mānaku: a pictorial Rāmāyaṇa with Sanskrit text', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

Prof. Francis X. Clooney

- 'Hindu-Jesuit Encounters,' In *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. Routledge, 2021, pp. 79-89.
- 'The Handbook in Light of the Past and Future of Hindu-Christian Relations,' In *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. Routledge, 2021, pp. 476-484.
- 'Teaching the Bhagavad Gītā in the Springtime of Pandemic,' *Tarka* vol. 0 (2021), pp. 156-161.
- 'Rāmānuja's *Nityagrantham* (Manual of Daily Worship): A Translation,' *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 24.1 (2021), pp. 345-380.
- 'On the Style of Vedānta: Reading Bhāratīrtha's Vaiyāsikanyāyamāla in Light of Mādhava's Jaiminīyanyāyamāla,' In *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Vedānta*. Edited by Ayon Maharaj, Bloomsbury, 2020, pp. 341-366.
- 'Rāmānuja's 11th Century Hindu Theology of Religious Experience: An Informative, Performative, Transformative Discourse,' In *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Experience*. Edited by Chad Meister and Paul Moser. Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 208-236.
- 'Comparative Theology in Asia,' *International Journal of Asian Christianity* 3 (2020): seven essays on comparative theology in Asia. I am the editor and author of the introduction, 'Introduction to Comparative Theology in Australia and Asia,' pp. 129-138.
- 'Jesus and the Mysticism of God in the World,' *Prabuddha Bharata* 125.12 (2020), pp. 798-801.

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Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Dr. Santanu Dey

- 'Locating Viṣṇupriyā in the Tradition: Women, Devotion and Bengali Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Times', *Religions*, Vol 11 (issue 11), 555, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11110555>
- 'The Quest for Identity: Institutionalizing Processes among Gaudiya Vaishnavas of colonial Bengal' in *Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Society*, edited by Ruby Sain. New Delhi: Mittal Publications, 2021, pp.93-110.
- 'Pilgrimage and Religious tourism: Reasserting the relevance and possibilities of Shaktipitha-related travel circuits in South Asia' in *Tourist Resources of India in Contemporary Perspective*, edited by Gautam Mukhopadhyay. Belur Math: Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, 2021, pp.55-81.

Prof. Gavin Flood

- *Hindu Monotheism*. Element Series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Edited book, *Oxford History of Hinduism: Hindu Practice*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. Author of 'Introduction' (pp. 1-34) and 'Practice in the Tantric Religion of Śiva' (pp. 243-271).
- 'Hinduism and Meditation: Tantra' in: *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, edited by Miguel Farias, David Brazier, and Mansur Lalljee. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021, chapter 4.
- 'The Concept of Mind in Hindu Tantrism', *Journal of Hindu Studies*, 2021: 1-32. doi:10.1093/jhs/hiaa020.
- 'Implicit Anthropologies in Pre-Philosophical Śaivism', *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, vol. 48 (4), 2020, pp. 675-701. doi: 10.1007/s10781-020-09435-0.
- 'Politics, Experience, and the Languages of Holiness', *Numen*, vol. 67 (2020), pp. 138-164.
- 'Becoming Invisible and the Formal Indication of the Religious Life,' in: *In-visibility: Reflections upon Visibility and Transcendence in Theology, Philosophy and the Arts*, edited by Anna Vind, Iben Damgaard, Kirsten Busch Nielsen, and Sven Rune Havsteen. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2020, pp. 49-61.
- 'Bharṭṛhari' in *Wiley-Blackwell The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, 2020.

Dr. Jessica Frazier

- Forthcoming. 'Foundations of Indian Philosophy' In: *Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, 2nd Edition, Gavin Flood ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
- "Samvada" in: *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, Jacobsen ed. 2021
- "The Self in Meditation: The Art of the Self" In: *Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, Miguel Farias ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- "The World-Soul in India: Complex Causality and Artful Emergence in Śakti Vedānta" in *The World Soul* (Oxford Philosophical Concepts), James Wilberding ed. Oxford: Oxford university Press, 2021.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- 'Battling Serpents, Marrying Trees: Towards an Ecotheology of the Bhagavata Purana', *Journal of Dharma Studies*, April 2021.
- 'Why Sridhara Svami? The Makings of a Successful Sanskrit Commentary' *Religions*, 11.9, article 436, 2020.
- Accomplishing the Impossible: Jiva Gosvami and the Concept of Acintya in Caitanya Vaisnava Vedānta' in *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Vedānta*, London: Bloomsbury, 2020, pp. 131-156.

Prof. Dermot Killingley

- 'The Hindu Evolutionary Heritage and Hindu Criticism of Darwinism.' In *Asian Religious Responses to Darwinism: Evolutionary Theories in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and East Asian Cultural Contexts*, edited by C. Mackenzie Brown (Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures, Volume 33). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2020, pp. 137-165.
- 'Rammohun Roy.' In *Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Christian Relations*, edited by Chad M. Bauman and Michelle Voss Roberts. London and New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 297-306.

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**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms

- 'Vaiṣṇava Practice', in *Hindu Practice*, edited by Gavin Flood. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 272-310.
- 'A Temple of Stone and a Temple of Love: Govindadeva in the Religious Imagination of Early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavas', in *The Building of Vṛndāvana*, edited by Kiyokazu Okita and Rembert Lutjeharms, Brill, forthcoming.
- 'The Perfection of All Beauty and Joy: A Gauḍīya Vedāntic theology of devotional love', in *The Worldwide Krishna Movement: Half a Century of Growth, Impact, and Challenge*, edited by Graham Schweig, forthcoming.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- 'Śleṣa Readings on Bhāgavatapurāṇa 1.1.1: Śrīnātha Cakravartī's *Caitanyamatamañjuṣā* Commentary', *The Journal of Indian and Buddhist Studies*, 69:3 (2021), pp. 979-985.
- Review of *The Emergence of Modern Hinduism: Religion on the Margins of Colonialism*, by Richard S. Weiss (Oakland: University of California Press, 2019), *International Journal of Asian Studies*, 18.1 (2021), pp. 147-149.
- Review of *A Vaiṣṇava Poet in Early Modern Bengal: Kavikarṇapūra's Splendour of Speech*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 24 (2020), pp. 423-425.

Prof. Patrick Olivelle

- *Yājñavalkya Dharmaśāstra: The Textual History of a Hindu Legal Code*. (Critical Edition with critical apparatus) Delhi: Primus Books, 2020.
- 'Dharmaśāstra: Materiality in and of Hindu Code.' In *A Companion to Religion and Materiality*, edited by Vasudha Narayanan. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2020, pp. 530-544.
- 'The Early History of Renunciation.' In *Hindu Practice*, edited by Gavin Flood. (The Oxford History of Hinduism.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 101-121.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- Himanshu Prabha Ray, *Coastal Shrines and Transnational Maritime Networks across India and Southeast Asia*, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- Himanshu Prabha Ray edited, *Archaeology of Knowledge Traditions of the Indian Ocean World*, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.
- Guest Editor, *India Quarterly*, Special Issue on Mausam Initiative, volume 76, number 2, September 2020.

Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

- with Knut A. Jacobsen (eds.): *Handbook of Hinduism in Europe*, Handbook of oriental studies, Section two, South Asia, Vol. 31/1 and 2. Leiden: Brill, 2020.
- with Clemens Cavallin, Ake Sander, and Sudha Sitharaman (eds.): *The Future of Religious Studies in India*. London; New York: Routledge, 2021.
- 'Walther Eidlitz's Embrace of Chaitanya Vaishnavism.' *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Volume 29, no. 1, Fall 2020, pp. 105-116.
- 'ISKCON and the Gaudiya Maths: Conflicts, Schisms, Growth, and Aspiration.' *ISKCON Communications Journal*. Vol. 12, 2021. pp. 133-145.

Dr. Silvia Schwartz Linder

- *Goddess Traditions in India: Theological Poems and Philosophical Tales in the Tripurārahasya*, Routledge Hindu Studies Series, forthcoming.
- 'Maṇidvīpa' and 'Bālā', in *Tāntrikābhidhānaśāstra IV / Dictionnaire des termes techniques de la littérature hindoue tantrique / A Dictionary of Technical Terms from Hindu Tantric Literature / Wörterbuch zur Terminologie hinduistischer Tantra*, edited by D. Goodall, M. Rastelli, Verlag der Österreichischer Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien, forthcoming.

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**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Prof. Amiya P. Sen

- *Vidyasagar. Reflections on Notable Life*. Delhi: Orient Black Swan. 2021
- Guest Editor, Special Issue on Hinduism: 'Hinduism: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Developments' *Religions* Vol.12, 85, 2021.
- 'Japan in India's Xenology. Negotiating Modernity, Culture and Cosmopolitanism in Colonial Bengal' in *Culture as Power. Buddhist Heritage and Indo Japanese Dialogue*, edited by Madhu Bhalla. London: Routledge, 2021.
- 'Sister Nivedita', *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, Oxford University Press.

Dr. Kenneth R. Valpey

- *Advancing Across the Great River: Reflections on Yoga Philosophy and Cross-Cultural Comparisons*. Kunming (China): Yunnan University Press, 2021. (Dual language publication – Mandarin and English).
- 'Keeping Cows in the Center: Cow Care in ISKCON'. *ISKCON Communications Journal* Vol. 12, 2021, pp. 57-74.

Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- with Gavin Flood & Rajan Khatiwoda, *Tantra in Medieval India and Nepal: An annotated edition and translation of the Tantra of the Eye, the Netra Tantra*, Vol. 1, Oxford: Routledge (forthcoming 2021/22).
- with Ulrik Lyngs & Rajan Khatiwoda: *OCHS Manuscript Database: Śākta* (<https://ochs-database-demo.netlify.app/sakta/>)

Dr. Lucian Wong

- Edited, with Ferdinando Sardella, *The Legacy of Vaishnavism in Colonial Bengal*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.
- with Ferdinando Sardella, "Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal: Hinduism Beyond the Renaissance." In *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong. Abingdon: Routledge, 2019, pp. 1–14.
- "Colonial Morals, Vaiṣṇava Quarrels: Tracing the Sources of Nineteenth-Century Anti-Sahajiyā Polemics." In *The Legacy of Vaiṣṇavism in Colonial Bengal*, edited by Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong. Abingdon: Routledge, 2019, pp. 233–55.
- Guest Editor, *Journal of Hindu Studies* 13.1. Special issue on 'Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism and Modernity'.
- Review of *Unforgetting Chaitanya: Vaishnavism and Cultures of Devotion in Colonial Bengal* by Varuni Bhatia, *Journal of Hindu Studies* 13.3 (2020), pp. 370–74.

Conference papers and lectures by Fellows

Prof. Shrikant Bahulkar

- 'River as a Cow and Cow as a River.' Durga Bhagawat Endowment Lecture, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 1 December 2020.
- 'From Atharvaveda to Āyurveda.' Invited Talk in the National Seminar *Ātharvaṇī – 2021: A Sneak Peek into the Roots of Indian Medicine and Philosophy*. Organized by Ahalia Ayurveda Medical College Hospital, Pallakkad (Kerala). 17 – 21 April 2021.

Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria

- 'Yogic-Perception (yogaja-pratyakṣa) in Nyāya and Jainism'. World Logic Day Symposium Logic and Religion, 15 January 2021.
- 'Using the Routledge History of Indian Philosophy to teach Indian Philosophical Classics with an Analytic-Comparative Focus', APA Teaching Hub, How to Teach an Asian Philosophical Classic *Sponsored by the APA Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophy*, 8 January 2021.
- Global Critical Philosophy of Religion and Multi-Entry Volume Project. Workshop, 12-13 January 2021.
- APA Central Division, Society for Philosophy of Emotions, Comments for Michael Cholbi's Book Symposium: A Philosophy of Grief. February 2021.
- (with Anand Vaidya) 'Cognition, Causation, Consciousness in Jainism', Second International Conference on Jainism and Science, Jain Studies Foundation, Florida International University, March 2021.
- 'Diversity in Philosophy Journals: Overcoming Insularity, Breaking Down Walls', East-West Philosophers' Conference, East-west Center, Honolulu. May 2021.

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Prof. Mandakranta Bose

- 'Divinity and Femininity—Śakti in the World.' Zoom seminar within OCHS's Śakta Project, May 2021.
- 'My World in 1946—Memories of India's Partition.' Zoom lecture to a Delhi University graduate seminar, April 2021.
- Response on zoom to a paper presented on *kutiyaṭṭam* by Adheesh Sathaye and Elena Mucciarelli at the STIMW symposium, 27 May 2021.

Prof. John Brockington

- "The *Mṛcchakaṭikā* of Śūdraka", Sukānta Mahāvīdyālaya, Dhūpgurī, W Bengal, 4 May 2021.
- "Some illustrated *Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa* manuscripts", *Transdisciplinary Approaches to the Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata* (International Online Seminar Series organised by the Centre for Asian Studies, Cardiff University), 3 June 2021.

Mary Brockington

- 'The development of the *Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa* post Vālmīki: the Rāma narrative in the epics.' Graduate Studies Seminar, University of Oxford, 1 December 2020.

Prof. Madhav Deshpande

- Interview by Minakshi Joshi for the Jahnvi Sanskrit e-journal, 15 September 2020: <https://youtu.be/SFZPwh85FGg>
- 'Signs of Rationality in the Ancient Indian Tradition,' online lecture for the International Seminar organized by the Sambodh Foundation, Bangalore, 29 November 2020.
- 'The Scope of Sanskrit in Ancient India.' Svasthya Rasa Bodhini Lecture Online, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 4 December 2020: <https://youtu.be/shpSEuv7mdg>
- 'Pāṇini, the Father of Modern Linguistics,' online lecture for Atharva Forum, India, 26 December 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5BcwDcb6Rs>
- 'Saṃskṛta-Vyākaraṇaśāstre Vicāra-Svāntantryam,' online lecture for Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Chief Guest at the Two-Day International Seminar on Sanskrit Grammar, 11 January 2021.
- Five initial lectures for the series 'Sanskrit Language and Its Traditions: A Journey through its History and Contemporaneity, An International Online Lecture Series,' organized by the School of Humanities, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 20 January-17 February 2021: Lecture 1: 'Indian Traditions on the Vedas and Sanskrit': <https://youtu.be/quAZBPV4B4Q>; Lecture 2: 'Sanskrit: A Historical Linguistics Approach': https://youtu.be/o4mUrD_7Jxo; Lecture 3: 'Sociolinguistics of Sanskrit': <https://youtu.be/Zcp7qGQNFj0>; Lecture 4: 'Sanskrit Grammarians: From Pāṇini to Patañjali': <https://youtu.be/W47Ag9yp26c>; Lecture 5: 'Forms of Vernacular Sanskrit': <https://youtu.be/fnT6ZzIBP6k>
- 'Grammar before Pāṇini,' Deccan College Bicentennial Course, Online Lecture, 5 February 2021.
- 'History and Prehistory of Sanskrit Language,' for Shri Yoga, Washington, D.C., Online Lecture, 21 March 2021.
- 'पाणिनीयव्याकरणे विचारस्वातन्त्र्यम्', Sanskrit Talk-for-Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 6 April 2021.
- Read "Śārādīya-Vāk-Kusumophārah" in Viśvastarīyā-Kāvyaśaṅgoṣṭhī, arranged to celebrate the birthday of Shri Vats Deshraj Sharma, Mandī, organized by "Brahmavidyollāsīnī, Odisha, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh, 22 May 2021.

Dr. Santanu Dey

- 'Engaging with Digital Humanities' at an International Faculty Development Programme on 'Research Methods in Social Sciences' organized by Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, (Kolkata); St. Xavier's College, Kolkata; and Stockholm University, Sweden on 26th November 2020.

Dr. Daniel Ehnbohm

- "The Pre-History of Illustrating the *Bhagavata Purana* and Its Continuation in Later Times", *Society for Asian Art*, San Francisco, 22 September 2020.

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**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
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Dr. Jessica Frazier

- 'Women in Theology' Talk at Oxford Faculty of Theology and Religion, May 2021.
- 'Arguments in Indian Philosophy Seminars: Monism, Identity, Idealism, Ethics,' Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, April – June 2021.
- 'The Good Conversationalist: Pluralism in the Caraka Saṃhitā', Pluralism Project, April 2021.
- 'Perspectives on Bhagavad Gītā 2.47,' Invited Speaker, Columbia University Seminar on Comparative Religion, April 2021.
- 'Heidegger and India talk.' SOAS Dead Philosophers Society, March 2021.
- 'Defining Atheism in India: When is a Theory of Everything a Theory of the Divine (or not)?' Atheism and Unbelief in Global Philosophy and Religion, Bath Spa Colloquium for Global Philosophy and Religion, Sept 2020.

Prof. Ravi M. Gupta

- 'Toward a Vaishnava Interfaith Theology.' Maxwell Institute Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, November 2020.
- 'Varieties of Scholar-Practitioners.' Maxwell Institute Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, October 2020.
- 'Engaged Vaishnavism: Possibilities and Challenges.' *Gauḍīya Studies Programme*, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, December 2020, March 2020, and June 2021.

Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms

- 'The Embodiment of all *Rasa*: Experience and religious pluralism in early Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava theology', *Pluralism and Plurality in Classical and Contemporary India*, The Czech Academy of Sciences, 18-19 September 2020.

Prof. Kiyokazu Okita

- 'A Brief History of Devotional Aesthetic Sentiment (*Bhakti-rasa*)', Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, 15 February 2021.
- 'Śleṣa Readings on *Bhāgavatapurāṇa* 1.1.1: Śrīnātha Cakravartī's *Caitanyamatamañjuṣā* Commentary' The 71st Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies, 5 July 2020.

Prof. Patrick Olivelle

- Talks on Indian Law at 'Sanskrit Language and Its Traditions', Online International Lecture Series, 3 March 2021; and at Department of Ancient Indian History, University of Calcutta, 12 March 2021.

Dr. Neeraja Poddar

- 'Mapping a South Asian Sacred Journey: The Gosainkund Pilgrimage Painting at Philadelphia Museum of Art', Lecture, The Archaeological Institute of America Toronto Society.
- 'Text and Image in South Asian Painting', Taught seminar series, Jnanapravaha Mumbai.
- 'The Philadelphia Museum of Art's Gosainkund Painting: Visualizing the Routes and Sites of Pilgrimage in Nepal', Lecture, University of Pennsylvania's Workshop in the History of Material Texts, Philadelphia.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray

- 'Spread of Buddhism in India: how stupas were discovered', Jaipur Literature Festival 2021, 20 February 2021.
- 'Metals across the Seas: Ceremonials and Display,' *China and the Maritime Silk Road: shipwrecks, ports and products* webinar, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, 21–23 August 2020.

Prof. Ferdinando Sardella

- Keynote address in 'Spiritual Well-being and Stress Management: Religio-Psychological Perspectives.' Three days international webinar conference organized by Bhaktivedanta Research Center, Kolkata, in collaboration with Kolkata Society for Asian Studies. 21 September 2020.
- 'Introduction of the Theme' and 'The Sociology of Religion and Cultural Studies' in *Research Methods in Social Sciences with Focus on Cultural Studies*. A five-day online international conference organised by St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata in collaboration with Bhaktivedanta Research Centre Kolkata, Sri Jagannath Research Centre of St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College Kolkata, Kolkata Society of Asian Studies and the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Genders Studies, Stockholm University. 23-26 November 2020.

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Dr. Silvia Schwartz Linder

- 'Tantric Elements Embedded in a Purāṇic Context: the Example of the *Māhātmyakhaṇḍa* of the *Tripurārahasya*', Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Hilary Term 2021.

Prof. Amiya P. Sen

- 'Hindutva before Hindutva. Some Reflections on the Complex Genealogy of Hindu Nationalism': Webinar, South Asia Institute, Lecture Series on Politics and Governance, Heidelberg, 14 June 2021.
- 'A Storm of Reform. Rammohun, Vidysagar and Emerging Debates in 19th Century Bengal', Webinar, Womens' History Conclave, 20 June 2021.

Dr. Kenneth Valpey

- 'Between William Blake and the Bhagavad-gita: Rebooting the Imagination for Troubled Times'. Presentation in the online conference *Spiritual Well-being and Stress Management: Religio-Psychological Perspectives*. Bhaktivedanta Research Centre & Kolkata Society for Asian Studies, 22 September 2020.
- 'Reinscribing Vraja: A Krishna-centered pilgrimage replication in southwest Hungary' *Sacred Journeys Online Global Conference* (part 1), Indiana University & Purdue University, Indianapolis, 29 June to 3 July 2020.
- 'Comparison as a Way of Knowing in the Study of Religion', *Research Methods in Social Sciences with Focus on Cultural Studies*, Department of History, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata Faculty Development Program, 24 November 2020.
- 'Temples and Deities: Vaishnava Ritual in a Changing World', *Gauḍīya Studies Programme*, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, March 2020 and June 2021.
- 'Earnestness in Hearing and Reading the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*'. *American Academy of Religion annual meeting*. Panel: 'The Implications of Being Earnest: Sincerity in South Asian Contexts'. 2 December 2020.

Dr. Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen

- 'Bali or "Blood Sacrifice" and its Prominent Position and Textual Justification in Tantric Hinduism', *Interdisciplinary Research Seminar in the Study of Religions, 'Violence and its Justification in Religion'*, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, 4 December 2020.
- 'Hinduism and the Goddess - Śāktism and Śākta traditions (part 1 & 2)', *Śākta Traditions Online Lecture Series*, Michaelmas Term 2020, OCHS. Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfCZOUXt2q4>, Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmB3QxB_-po
- 'Traditional tantra, yoga og Kathmandualens mysterier', Danish-Nepalese Society Online Lecture, 2 February 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSPWSn26PGo&t=5032s>

Visiting Fellows Reports

Ulrik Lyngs (Michaelmas 2020 and Hilary 2021)

The 2020 academic year continued to be marked by the covid pandemic. However, it was also an opportunity for the OCHS to continue exploring how digital tools can provide new ways to interact with and understand traditional materials.

Hence, it was a pleasure for me to continue as a Digital Visiting Fellow at the OCHS in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Our focus in these terms was to explore how the growing corpus of digitised manuscripts collected by the Śākta research programme in Nepal can be made openly available in a way that allows researchers to (a) interact with our digitised manuscript photos and their corresponding transcriptions, translations, and critical notes, as well as (b) access the materials in an open format that permits easy re-use in large-scale analyses leveraging a data science toolkit.

Through the terms, we iterated on designs for a website that will function as a publicly accessible interface for browsing, downloading, and analyse manuscripts from OCHS projects. We built a live prototype that demonstrated an interface where researchers can view manuscript photos and their corresponding text content side-by-side, overlay text on top of the manuscript images for easy comparison between e.g. transliteration and the original script, and comment or suggest corrections on text or image materials.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

We also added a section for the Bengali project, which over time may make tens of thousands of Bengali journals available to the public, in addition to the Śākta manuscripts. With guidance from Dr Rajan Khatiwoda we also explored how the OCHS' manuscript collection may integrate meta data from other existing database projects, including the NGMCP.

This work paved the ground for a new research project which was approved at the latest APC meeting, namely the *Digital Humanities & Hindu Studies* project, which will continuously explore the potential for using computational methods in combination with traditional scholarly analysis in Hindu Studies. This new project is lead by Dr Bjarne Wernicke-Olesen and me, with Dr Lucian Wong as the new leader of the Bengali text project. I will continue as the Digital Humanities Consultant & Data Science Lead of the project. The project is forming a research network with Dr Rajan Khatiwoda (Heidelberg) and Dr Silje Lyngar Einarsen (Oslo) and includes three digital curators: Michael Elison (Śākta), Siddharth Chhabra (Bengali) and Prema Goet (Śākta and Geldblum Collection). The open-access database we have prototyped will be a key output of this research project, in combination with online lecture series and seminars on basic data science workflows for textual analysis, as well as wider exploration of new workflows for applying computational tools in Hindu Studies.

Conferences

The 37th Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World Symposium (28 May 2021)

The Sanskrit Traditions in the Modern World Symposium celebrated its 37th event on 28th May 2021, bringing together a global community of scholars working on Sanskrit sources of all kinds, in a shared conversation hosted by the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. The Symposium enjoys a unique structure of having pre-circulated papers introduced by a scholar who then turns over to a response from the author, and opens the floor to general discussion from the audience. This year, as ever, this allowed for vigorous and collegial engagement on a range of topics. Approximately fifty participants from as far afield as Canada, Australia, India and across Europe joined in.

This year the Symposium's papers were on Kuṇḍalinī in the early Haṭha corpus (Ruth Westoby, SOAS), *Dharmaśāstra* in the 2019 Ayodhya Verdict (C. T. Fleming), the Intertextuality of the *Dharma-maṅgala* (Rebecca Manning), and Sanskrit Humour in Kutiyattam Performance (Elena Mucciarelli & Adheesh Sathaye). The respondents were Jason Birch, Mandakranta Bose, Ishan Chakrabarti, and Jacqueline Hirst.

Awards for Students

Abhishek Bursary	Sharvi Maheswari
Amit Mishra Bursary	Valters Negribs
Dr Sivaswami & Renuka Nagraj	Yizhou Liu
Gupta Dan	Hershini Soneji, Meera Trivedi
Hansraj and Kanchanben Popat Bursary	Yizhou Liu
Hanuman Bursary	Barbara Sojkova
Jesper Moeslund	Gopal and Elizabeth Krishna
Jiva Gosvami Scholarship	Sybille Koch
Nainika's Bursary for Kashmir Shaivism & Kashmiri Hindu	Prema Goet
Okita Bursary	Barbara Sojkova
Parvathi Foundation	Ranjamrittika Bhowmik
Prof. Makhan Lal Roy Chowdhury Book prize	Brett Parris
Ramalah Alagappan Bursary	Jacob Fisher
Ram Lal B. Patel Bursary	Yizhou Liu
Sri Gnani Ananda Giri Peetam Society	Simon Haas, Mohini Gupta, Priyesh Patel, Alan Herbert, Julia Dalalba, Lena Molin
Tristan Elby Bursary	Imran Visram, Ranjamrittika Bhowmik, Valters Negribs, Yizhou Liu

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Trustees' report on the accounts (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Library

The OCHS—and its Library—have been closed for most of the past academic year, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Library nevertheless made books available to the few students who were in Oxford throughout the year, through a pick-up lending system.

Behind the scenes, however, much has been happening. Mrs. Elizabeth Krishna, a librarian of the former Indian Institute Library, Oxford, has again offered much of her time this year to help with the cataloguing, and together with Dr. Rembert Lutjeharms, has made significant progress on cataloguing some of the large collections that the OCHS Library acquired in the recent past. The closure of the Library also facilitated a reorganisation of the Library, which was much needed due to those large acquisitions and which will be ongoing during the long vacation, so that the Library will be ready to reopen in Michaelmas Term.

Investment Strategy

These funds are managed on behalf of the OCHS by Sanderson Financial Limited. They are invested in a mix of equity, fixed income, and property funds. The investment adviser is mandated to recommend investments which conform to ethical investment principles as much as is possible and or available within specific asset classes and apply a cautious risk strategy to the overall portfolio, which over the long term provide steady positive income and capital growth.

The investment advisers approach to ethical investment principles is to try, as much as possible, within each asset class to recommend funds to the portfolio which undertake "negative screening" of their investments, thereby minimising the potential of the portfolio being invested in so called "sin stocks" such as companies which profit from the sale of tobacco, gambling and weapons.

Investment Performance and Target Returns

The Committee are happy to report that since the first investment made in October 2016 the Investment Portfolio has seen a net capital growth of 25.29% which implies an annual net rate of return of 4.22%.

This capital growth has allowed the committee to distribute £39,800 of funds since 2019 to the OCHS to support its scholarship and research activities

The committee aims to return 3.5% of the total Investment Portfolio on an annual basis to the OCHS to fund scholarships and research activities. This requires it to target annual net capital growth of 5%.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties and have carried out an annual review of their activities in this regard.

Financial Review

A statement of financial activities ('SOFA') for the year has been produced on page 25 showing movements on unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. The OCHS received donations of £295,908 (2020: £199,843) during the year. Fee income of £306,659 (2020: £206,416) was received and the charity had costs of £589,557 (2020: £541,934). The net surplus for the year was £190,581 (2020: deficit £141,096).

Funds and reserves policy

Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2021 are showing a surplus of £114,255 (2020: £1,491) with designated reserves showing a surplus of £212,836 (2020: £175,794). After adjusting for fixed assets free reserves are £67,284 (2020: £15,469). The OCHS has plans to increase this surplus with the acquisition of new premises, which will reduce costs and ensure the charity's long term sustainability.

Future Plans

The OCHS continues to expand and the charity continues to campaign for funds to enable the purchase of new premises in Oxford. This will ensure the OCHS can continue to develop its facilities and increase its student numbers.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Trustees' report on the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

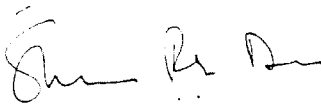
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Wenn Townsend were re-appointed auditors to the OCHS at the Trustees' meeting.

This report was approved by Trustees on 10/10/ 2021.



Shaunaka Rishi Das

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Trustees of The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 20, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Wenn Townsend Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor
30 St Giles
Oxford

10 October 2021

Wenn Townsend is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming from:											
Donations											
- Other donations	2	218,637	49,548	27,723	-	295,908	121,964	38,911	38,968	-	199,843
- Government grants	2	107,758	-	-	-	107,758	4,918	-	-	-	4,918
Charitable activities	3	306,659	-	-	-	306,659	164,251	42,165	-	-	206,416
Investments	4	695	24	72	506	1,297	1,342	52	403	487	2,284
Total income		633,749	49,572	27,795	506	711,622	292,475	81,128	39,371	487	413,461
Expenditure on:											
Charitable activities	5	533,110	23,697	18,556	14,194	589,557	475,231	44,188	21,063	1,452	541,934
Total expenditure		533,110	23,697	18,556	14,194	589,577	475,231	44,188	21,063	1,452	541,934
Net gains/(loss) on investments	10	12,625	10,667	6,228	38,996	68,516	(246)	(681)	(5,296)	(6,400)	(12,623)
Net income/expenditure		113,264	36,542	15,467	25,308	190,581	(183,002)	36,259	13,012	(7,365)	(141,096)
Transfer between funds		(500)	500	-	-	-	94,670	(76,670)	(10,000)	(8,000)	-
Net movement in funds for the year		112,764	37,042	15,467	25,308	190,581	(88,332)	(40,411)	3,012	(15,365)	(141,096)
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2020		1,491	175,794	379,175	190,651	747,111	89,823	216,205	376,163	206,016	888,207
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2021		114,255	212,836	394,642	215,959	937,692	1,491	175,794	379,175	190,651	747,111

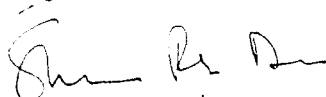
The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Balance sheet
At 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	468,365	381,840
Tangible assets	11	7,401	8,169
		<u>475,766</u>	<u>390,009</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	69,004	42,602
Cash at bank and in hand		452,147	357,744
		<u>521,151</u>	<u>400,346</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(59,225)	(43,244)
Net current assets		<u>461,926</u>	<u>357,102</u>
Net assets		<u>937,692</u>	<u>747,111</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		114,255	1,491
Designated	14	212,836	175,794
Restricted funds	15	394,642	379,175
Endowment funds	15	215,959	190,651
Total funds		<u>937,692</u>	<u>747,111</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 10/10/ 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shaunaka Rishi Das
Director

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 31st March 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by operating activities (analysed below)	97,426	(141,024)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(3,023)	(7,598)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(3,023)</u>	<u>(7,598)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	94,403	(148,622)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	357,744	506,366
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u><u>452,147</u></u>	<u><u>357,744</u></u>

Note:

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	190,581	(141,096)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,791	3,328
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
Increase in investment value	(86,525)	(9,974)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(26,402)	1,657
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15,981	5,061
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>97,426</u></u>	<u><u>(141,024)</u></u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

a) General information and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, including a revision of expectations for the potential impact of COVID-19 on the charity. They have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves held for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash is received or paid. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Fund accounting

The Charity's total funds consist of:

- I. Unrestricted funds are general funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
- II. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The trustees may move funds between unrestricted and designated funds.
- III. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.
- IV. Endowment funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally the Giri Scholarship. This fund will be used to grant scholarships that the Centre deems appropriate, with the request that the Centre considers projects aimed at Bhakti traditions. Income arising on the endowment is to be used to fund the scholarships and is included in restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the investments form part of the fund. Investment manager's advice and legal advice relating to the fund are charged to the fund.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Income from charitable activities is CED online course fees.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

The charity receives government grants in respect of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. These grants are recognised using the accrual model and as such are recorded in the SOFA in the period in which the charity is entitled to such grants as a result of having furloughed staff members.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Resources expended comprise the following:

- I. The costs of generating voluntary income relates to costs incurred to promote fundraising.
- II. The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Charity's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' report.
- III. Governance costs reflect the costs incurred which are directly attributable to the management of the Charity's assets, organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

e) Tangible assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% straight line basis
Motor vehicles	-	25% reducing balance basis

f) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) on investments in the SOFA if the shares are publicly traded or their value can otherwise be measured reliably.

g) Pension costs

The charity makes contributions to a defined contribution scheme for certain employees. The pension cost charged to the income and expenditure account represents contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

h) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

i) Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees can only consider with reasonable certainty a budgetary period of 12 months from the year end due to the difficulty in securing voluntary income for unrestricted funds.

2 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Deed of covenants	23,402	-	-	-	23,402	23,199
Individual donations	195,235	49,548	27,723	-	272,506	176,644
Government grants receivable	107,758	-	-	-	107,758	4,918
	<u>326,395</u>	<u>49,548</u>	<u>27,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>403,666</u>	<u>204,761</u>

Included within Government grants receivable for the charity is £107,758 (2020: £4,918) of Government grants relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Weekend Schools	44,783	-	-	44,783	22,557
BAP's lunches	600	-	-	600	-
Online course	259,174	-	-	259,174	130,618
Book Publishing	2,102	-	-	2,102	6,276
Events and exceptional income	-	-	-	-	46,965
	<u>306,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306,659</u>	<u>206,416</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Interest receivable	342	-	-	-	342	1,391
Dividends receivable	353	24	72	506	955	893
	<u>695</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>506</u>	<u>1,297</u>	<u>2,284</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Staff costs	225,258	-	-	-	225,258	213,978
Lectures, scholarships and grants	150,432	17,200	13,765	12,700	194,097	166,103
Consultancy fees	-	-	4,567	-	4,567	20,460
Rent, rates and service charges	58,688	2,763	-	-	61,451	54,283
Insurance – professional indemnity	427	-	-	-	427	401
Insurance – general	1,309	-	-	-	1,309	1,241
Repairs and maintenance	532	-	-	-	532	2,270
Printing, postage and stationery	556	-	-	-	556	2,391
Telephone	3,035	-	-	-	3,035	2,969
Travelling and motor expenses	2,537	-	-	-	2,537	11,251
General expenses	10,745	1,762	-	-	12,507	11,586
Event costs	-	-	-	-	-	(35)
Interest and bank charges	7,677	-	-	-	7,677	4,211
Advertising and marketing	13,469	-	-	-	13,469	9,976
Investment management charges	1,193	73	224	1,494	2,984	2,863
Governance costs (note 6)	57,252	1,899	-	-	59,151	37,986
	<u>533,110</u>	<u>23,697</u>	<u>18,556</u>	<u>14,194</u>	<u>589,557</u>	<u>541,934</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Professional fees	52,300	-	-	52,300	31,380
Audit fees	3,060	-	-	3,060	3,276
Depreciation	1,892	1,899	-	3,791	3,330
	<u>57,252</u>	<u>1,899</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,151</u>	<u>37,986</u>

7 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No Trustee received or waived any remuneration during the year (2020: £Nil).

The Trustees/director received reimbursement of expenses totalling £1,736 (2020: £6,606).

The Charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Director, Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das.

Mr Shaunaka Rishi Das did not receive any remuneration during the year (2020: £Nil).

8 Taxation

The OCHS is a registered Charity and is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

9 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2021	2020
Administration, Continuing Education and Academic Staff	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	204,970	197,000
National insurance contributions	16,787	13,485
Pension contributions	3,501	3,493
	<u>225,258</u>	<u>213,978</u>

No members of staff received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2020: nil).

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

10 Investments

Investment portfolio	Cash Reserves £	Quoted Investments £	Total £
<u>Market value</u>			
As at 1 April 2020	6,346	375,494	381,840
Cash transferred in	12,500	-	12,500
Cash withdrawn	(25,800)	-	(25,800)
Net disposals	13,644	(13,644)	-
Gifts transferred in	-	33,338	33,338
Increase/(decrease) in market value	-	68,516	68,516
Interest Received	2	-	2
Dividends Received	953	-	953
Management Charges	(2,984)	-	(2,984)
As at 31 March 2021	<u>4,661</u>	<u>463,704</u>	<u>468,365</u>
Market value of UK quoted investments			182,566
Overseas quoted investments			281,138
			<u>463,704</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2020	41,520	41,520
Additions	3,023	3,023
Cost at 31 March 2021	<u>44,543</u>	<u>44,543</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	33,351	33,351
Charge for the year	3,791	3,791
At 31 March 2021	<u>37,142</u>	<u>37,142</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2021	<u>7,401</u>	<u>7,401</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>8,169</u>	<u>8,169</u>

The library collection has been gifted to the Charity and has no cost or value in the financial statements. The Trustees deem the value of the library to total £200,000 but no formal valuation has been obtained as the Trustees feel that the cost of such a valuation would outweigh any benefit.

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

12 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	69,004	42,602
	<u>69,004</u>	<u>42,602</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxes and social security costs	5,413	4,886
Accruals and deferred income	53,812	38,358
	<u>59,225</u>	<u>43,244</u>

Included within accruals and deferred income is £18,814 (2020: £11,691) relating to income received in advance for courses/events held in the year ended 31st March 2022.

14 Designated funds

2021	1 April 2020 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2021 £
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	132,705	-	-	-	132,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	9,217	2,050	(973)	-	10,294
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	16,917	4,050	(18,725)	2,400	4,642
Library Equipment	99	-	-	-	99
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	15,856	-	-	-	15,856
Gosvami Project	-	8,661	-	-	8,661
Research Funds Academics	-	10,400	-	(2,400)	8,000
CED Development Fund	-	7,500	-	-	7,500
Academic Research Endowment Fund	-	24,079	-	-	24,079
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	3,500	(4,000)	500	-
	<u>175,794</u>	<u>60,240</u>	<u>(23,698)</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>212,836</u>
2020	1 April 2019 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Shivdasani Fellowship	-	15,755	(9,991)	(5,764)	-
J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fund	-	7,000	(8,094)	1,094	-
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund	215,205	-	(500)	(82,000)	132,705
Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Endowment	-	-	(783)	10,000	9,217
Gosvami India Trip Fund	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sakta Research Programme	-	42,165	(25,248)	-	16,917
Library Equipment	-	300	(201)	-	99
Janaui Judith Claudine Held Fund	-	15,856	-	-	15,856
	<u>216,205</u>	<u>81,076</u>	<u>(44,817)</u>	<u>(76,670)</u>	<u>175,794</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

14 Designated funds (continued)

Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Azad Shivdasani, businessman and philanthropist.

The Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship was offered to support study in any area of the arts, humanities, or the social sciences relevant to the study of Hinduism.

This Fellowship was awarded to a scholar of Indian nationality and a holder of an academic position in an institute of higher education, in India or elsewhere; and the applicant needs to be working in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship

The J.P. and Beena Khaitan Fellowship was provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Ajay and Mrs Mandira Khaitan in memory of Mr Khaitan's late parents.

This Fellowship was given to scholars who furthered the research, publishing and teaching provided by the Centre and worked in an area relevant to the concerns and remit of the OCHS.

Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund

The Gopal & Elizabeth Krishna Fund is provided to the OCHS by a generous benefaction from Mr Gopal and Mrs Elizabeth Krishna, who are long term supporters of the centre.

It is their desire that these funds are utilised by the centre in carrying out its academic, research and continuing education activities over the next several years.

15a Restricted funds

2021	1 April 2020	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2021
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	7,651	9,616	(11,965)	-	5,302
Bhumi project	463	4,107	(4,567)	-	3
New home for OCHS	329,337	1,500	-	-	330,837
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	8,926	2,008	(571)	-	10,363
Opportunity Scholarship	13,500	-	-	-	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	11,521	15,062	(1,091)	-	25,492
Tristan Elby	7,777	1,730	(362)	-	9,145
	<u>379,175</u>	<u>34,023</u>	<u>(18,556)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,642</u>
2020	1 April 2019	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer	31 March 2020
	£	£	£		£
Scholarship	6,382	9,010	(11,241)	3,500	7,651
Bhumi project	526	8,458	(8,521)	-	463
New home for OCHS	332,916	-	(3,579)	-	329,337
Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary	9,339	-	(413)	-	8,926
Opportunity Scholarship	27,000	-	-	(13,500)	13,500
Parvathi Foundation	-	12,500	(979)	-	11,521
Tristan Elby	-	9,000	(1,223)	-	7,777
	<u>376,163</u>	<u>38,968</u>	<u>(25,956)</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>379,175</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

15a Restricted funds (continued)

The Scholarship fund and Ramaiah Alagappan Bursary represents monies collected to fund student bursaries and scholarships.

The Bhumi project fund represents monies collected to fund our Bhumi project.

The New home for OCHS fund represents monies donated to the Charity to contribute to the planned purchase of new premises.

The Opportunity Scholarship was established to support a doctoral or post doctoral student.

15b Endowment funds

2021	1 April 2020 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2021 £
Giri Scholarship	190,651	39,502	(14,194)	-	215,959
	<u>190,651</u>	<u>39,502</u>	<u>(14,194)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,959</u>
2020	1 April 2019 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Giri Scholarship	206,016	-	(7,365)	(8,000)	190,651
	<u>206,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,365)</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>	<u>190,651</u>

The Giri Scholarship is an endowment fund established with an initial donation of £200,000. Donations into the fund constitute a permanent and everlasting gift to the Centre towards establishing an endowed scholarship. It is intended that by 2041 the total donations to the Giri Scholarship fund will be £890,000.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2021 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	5,502	198,910	55,395	215,959	475,766
Current assets	167,978	13,926	339,247	-	521,151
Liabilities	(59,225)	-	-	-	(59,225)
Total net (liabilities)/assets	<u>114,255</u>	<u>212,836</u>	<u>394,642</u>	<u>215,959</u>	<u>937,692</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

16 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

2020	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Fund £	2020 Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2020 were represented by:					
Fixed assets	2,470	159,346	37,542	190,651	390,009
Current assets	42,265	16,448	341,633	-	400,346
Liabilities	(43,244)	-	-	-	(43,244)
Total net (liabilities)/assets	<u>1,491</u>	<u>175,794</u>	<u>379,175</u>	<u>190,651</u>	<u>747,111</u>

17 Related party transactions

At 31 March 2021 a balance of £nil (2020: £391) included in creditors was owed by the charity to the director, S Rishi Das.

18 Going concern

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is reliant on the continued support of its benefactors. The charity's property fundraising campaign is continuing. The acquisition of new premises will reduce costs and help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity.

19 Operating leases

A lease on the charity's charitable premises at 13/15 Magdalen Street Oxford was signed on 8th April 2016, covering a period of 5 years from 24th June 2013, at an annual rate of £45,000. The charity's total future minimum lease payments are as follows:-

A lease renewal was signed during the 19/20 financial year at an annual rate of £55,035 with a 3 year break clause.

	2021 £	2020 £
Land & Buildings		
<1 year	55,035	55,035
Between 2 and 5 years	13,759	68,794
	<u>68,794</u>	<u>123,829</u>
	2021 £	2020 £
Photocopier		
<1 year	288	432
Between 2 and 5 years	-	288
	<u>288</u>	<u>720</u>

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

20 Post Balance Sheet Events

Since the year end, COVID-19 has had impacts on many aspects of business and personal life and, along with many other charities, our activities have also been affected. It is difficult at this stage to determine the exact impact on the charity's operations and reserves. The Trustees are actively monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action to ensure the continued operations of the charity.