

**A workshop cum round table on
Engagement with Indian Philosophical Traditions
By Health, Ethics, and Law Institute of Training, Research and Advocacy of
Forum for Medical Ethics Society
Day, Date and Time : Friday, June 7, 2019, 11:00 am to 6:30 pm
Venue: Seminar Hall, Western Regional Instrumentation Centre,
University of Bombay, Kalina, Santa Cruz, Mumbai**

This one-day engagement with Indian philosophical traditions of thinking will introduce the participants to the idea of rationality and thinking in Indian thought. The sessions will consist of two parts, a basic introduction to Indian philosophical thought through the exploration of some concepts and also the application of these to contemporary issues in philosophy. The second half will explore a few of the ethical paradigms of Indian philosophy as an introduction to alternate ethics. The tone of the workshop will be discursive and critical, and also sensitive to cultural ethos of India.

Time	Topic	Faculty
Session 1: Indian Philosophy: Overview and Scope		
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Welcome, Registration and Round of Introduction	Sunita Sheel
11:15 am – 12:30 pm	Rationality in Indian thought: logic and <i>pramāna</i> theory Introduction to Indian logic and the conceptual understanding of the idea of knowledge and truth in Indian Philosophical traditions.	Meera Baidur
12:30 pm – 12:45 pm	Tea break	
Session 2: Philosophy and Health Traditions of health in India : An introduction to textual resources		
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm	This session will explore ideas of body, embodiment, and health from the perspective of certain resources from texts in Ayurveda/ Buddhism. The session will focus on rational arguments and possible ethical paradigms within these systems of caring for body and mind of living beings.	C D Sebastian
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	LUNCH break	
Session 3: The Cultural Experience of an Ethical life: Discourse of Karma and Dharma		
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	The two major concepts of Indian ways of looking at the world are Karma and Dharma. Both are deep concepts with a heavy symbolic load and cultural understanding. This session will introduce participants to the philosophical background of these concepts. An interactive session, this session	Meera Baidur

	will distinguish socio-cultural thinking and realities from philosophical thinking which tend to be intertwined in many discourses around religion and social realities such as gender and caste. Participants can share insights from their experience in the field or during their work.	
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Tea break	
Session 4: Ethical Paradigms		
4:45 pm – 6:15 pm	Ethical paradigms: a) narrative ethics: choice and model behavior through examples b) moral conflict vs dilemma c) shelter and holistic ethics (ecological ethics) Besides the notion of Dharma that dominates work in Indian ethics, there are other forms of ethical engagement that would be relevant to explore and understand. A sample of three such concepts will be discussed.	Meera Baindur

Bi-sketches of the faculty:

Prof Meera Baindur: Dr. Meera Baindur is a Researcher and philosophy pedagogue based in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Currently, she is guest faculty and coordinator of the Philosophy Department at Bengaluru Central University. She has a doctoral degree from philosophy National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore in Environmental Humanities. Earlier, she stayed with village communities in the Himalayas for a few years, (1991-1997) working directly on environment and sustainability issues. Her research interests include environmental philosophy and environmental humanities: conceptualization of nature in Indian thought, ecological sustainability, cultural geography and environmental ethics. Her recent publications include papers related to the idea of place and cultural geography. Her publications include many contributions on environmental humanities and place and she also has authored a book titled “*Nature in Indian Philosophy and Cultural traditions*” published by Springer International. She has taught and lectured on traditional Indian philosophy, Philosophy of religion, Hinduism, mythology, and narratives. Her recent work focuses on body and gender issues in Indian philosophy related to health and gender.

Prof C D Sebastian: C. D. Sebastian has been holding a permanent faculty position since 2004 (and now he is Professor of Indian Philosophy) in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, India. He holds his M.A. in Indian Philosophy (First Rank with Distinction and two Gold Medals from Banaras Hindu University) and Ph. D. in Indian Philosophy with specialism in Buddhism (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi). He did his Postdoctoral Research at the University of Bristol, UK. He was also DAAD Fellow at the University of Erfurt, Germany. He is editor *Journal of Sacred Scriptures*. He has published more than 110 papers on many aspects of Indian philosophy, and Buddhism in particular, and his books include *Metaphysics and Mysticism in Mahayana Buddhism (Bibliotheca Indo-Buddhica Series No. 238, 2005)* and *Recent Researches in Buddhist Studies*

(*Bibliotheca Indo-Buddhica Series* No. 248, 2008), *The Cloud of Nothings: The Negative Way in Nagarjuna and John of the Cross* (Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures, Vol 19 – London, New York and New Delhi: Springer, 2016), and *Buddhism: Essays on Ethics and Religion* (Delhi: Buddhist World Press, *forthcoming*). For more details see his URL: <http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/en/faculty-profile/prof-c-d-sebastian-1>