

# **Spiritual Realities and the Ends of Humanity: Engaging Indian Philosophy with Contemporary Philosophy of Religion**

A GLOBAL PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION CONFERENCE

**11-13 January 2027, Mumbai**

## **Call for Papers:**

The Global Philosophy of Religion Project 2, University of Birmingham (with funding from the John Templeton Foundation – Grant Number 62817), in collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay, is pleased to announce a call for papers for a conference with the theme: *Spiritual Realities and the Ends of Humanity: Engaging Indian Philosophy with Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*. The conference will be held at IIT in Mumbai, India, on January 11-13, 2027.

We are now accepting submissions for papers to be presented at the conference, alongside a funding competition for travel bursaries with an earlier deadline, as detailed below.

## **Conference Theme**

The Global Philosophy of Religion Project 2 is dedicated to transforming the philosophy of religion into a truly global and diverse field of inquiry. We aim to expand the field beyond its usual boundaries by including traditions that are frequently overlooked in contemporary philosophy debates in Anglophone academia, and by addressing contemporary challenges that explore profound questions about the ends of humanity, the shape of a purposeful and meaningful life, what it is to live well, and the role (if any) fundamental spiritual realities like God play in answering such questions.

Our final conference will take place in Mumbai. We believe that India is a critical place for global philosophy of religion and the philosophy of meaning in life. With a longstanding history of multifaith practices, where the co-existence of perspectives includes that of tradition and modernity, India has a unique approach to engaging religious principles, metaphysics, epistemology, transformative technologies of the self, ethics and social values in light of addressing the question of meaning in life.

We welcome papers that address questions concerning the nature and role of spiritual reality, the meaning and purpose in/of human life, and issues of how to live **from all traditions**. We are especially open – but not only! – to papers focusing on philosophico-religious traditions that are particularly relevant to the region, that is, traditional South Asian religions such as Hinduism – including but not restricted to Sāṅkhya, Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika, Vedānta, Mīmāṃsā, Shaivism and Vaishnavism –, Buddhism, Jainism, Cārvāka, as well as Islam and Christianity in India and Sikhism, and which bring them in dialogue with global traditions.

## **Application process**

To apply to present at the conference, please submit **both** an abstract up to 1,000 words and a briefer abstract up to 150 words by September 15<sup>th</sup> through the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftoYZRd1FLYJ2zDSIhqJIXWeD9d1EjHDQGm0AD7m7EeDqtjQ/viewform>

We are running a funding competition for travel bursaries for selected speakers to present at the conference. If you wish to be considered for one of these bursaries, please submit by the earlier deadline of August 12<sup>th</sup> > **extended to August 26<sup>th</sup>** and select the relevant option on the form.

### Important Dates

Submission deadline for travel bursary competition: August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 > **extended to August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Submission deadline for all abstracts: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Notification of travel bursaries: August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 > **extended to early September**

Notification of other acceptances: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Conference date: January 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2027

More information on our website: <https://globalphilosophyofreligion.com/>

If you have any questions, please contact the Global Philosophy of Religion team at [gpr@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:gpr@contacts.bham.ac.uk), or the local organisers at [ranjan.panda@iitb.ac.in](mailto:ranjan.panda@iitb.ac.in).

Conference organisers: Dr Marie-Hélène Gorisse, Prof Ranjan Kumar Panda, Dr Jinesh Sheth, Dr Martin Pickup



GLOBAL  
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION  
PROJECT 2  
BIRMINGHAM CENTRE FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION



JOHN  
TEMPLETON  
FOUNDATION  
*Inspiring Awe & Wonder*



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



Indian Institute of Technology  
Bombay  
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान  
मुंबई