



## 2025 Annual Meeting Program

### **Boston, Massachusetts, November 22–23**

Saturday, Nov. 22

7:30 –8:30 a.m.

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

Session ID: P22-100

#### **Society for Hindu-Christian Studies Board Meeting**

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington, Presiding

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Saturday, November 22

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

Session ID: P22-112

#### **Roundtable on *God at Play: Līlā in Hindu and Christian Traditions*, edited by Daniel Soars (Fordham, 2025)**

The first comparative treatment of the topic of *līlā* in Hindu and Christian traditions, *God at Play* explores what it means to consider divine and human action under the categories of play, wit, drama, grace, and compassion. The volume presents a theological exploration of the multifaceted motif of *līlā* across diverse Hindu and Christian landscapes and its wide-ranging connections to divine and human creativity. Given its ubiquity in Hindu theologies and life-forms, *līlā* offers a rich comparative framework for exploring certain ways of understanding divine and human action as expressed in Hindu and Christian sacred texts, philosophical theology, and ritual practices. The roundtable will last one hour and will be followed by a half-hour business meeting of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies.

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University, Presiding

Panelists:

Rachel Fell McDermott, Barnard College

Sahaj Patel, Vanderbilt University

Sucharita Adluri, Cleveland State University

Chad Bauman, Butler University

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

### **General Business Meeting**

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington, Presiding

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Sunday, November 23

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

Session ID: P23-103

### **Theme: Moral Worlds and Sacred Duties: Ethics in Hindu and Christian Thought and Practice**

This panel undertakes a comparative study of ethics, morality, and power in Hindu and Christian traditions. It examines the ways ethics in these traditions have been understood and practiced in both historical and contemporary contexts. By centering Hindu-Christian perspectives on morality, this panel aims to illustrate the ways that such an analysis enhances the study of ethics in religion and philosophy more broadly.

Bhakti Mamtara, University of Arizona, Presiding

#### **Papers:**

Arun W. Jones, Emory University

*Expanding Ideas of Rajadharma and Christendom in Colonial North India*

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington

*Seeing the Divine in All: Hindu-Christian Ethics of Equality in a Divided World*

Elsa Marty, Institute for Vaishnava Studies

*Caste and Tribe: Rethinking the Margins in Hindu-Christian Studies*

Andrew J. Nicholson, Stony Brook University

*Yogic Ethics for the Worldly King: Self-mastery and the Science of Statecraft (niti-sastra)*

Iva Patel, Augsburg University

*Social Commitments and Bodily Actions as Bhakti-Sadhana in Contemporary Hindu Didactics*