



A H I M S A C E N T E R
NONVIOLENCE IN THOUGHT AND ACTION

Hamilton and Denise Brewart International Conference on Nonviolence
**Rediscovering Gandhian Wisdom:
Building a Peaceful Future**
California State Polytechnic University,
Pomona, CA 91768

October 17–19 (Friday-Sunday), 2008
www.csupomona.edu/ahimsacenter

Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona invites you to a major international conference, "Rediscovering Gandhian Wisdom: Building a Peaceful Future," to be held on our campus (in Los Angeles area).

The timing of the conference commemorates two important centennials associated with Gandhi's life and work. In 1907 he launched the revolutionary satyagraha campaign in South Africa, and in 1909 he wrote the seminal *Hind Swaraj*, in which he articulated his vision of a civilization grounded in nonviolence and truth as core values.

The conference will be a forum to explore the enduring significance of Gandhi's thought and methods. At the intellectual level, we will examine the implications of Gandhi's ideas and his satyagraha-based strategies in domains such as education and learning, business and



economics, ethics, leadership, ecology, law and justice, politics and political action, conflict resolution and peace-building, poverty and development, religion and spirituality. At the practical level we will examine how Gandhian wisdom can guide us in our quest for more effective ways of addressing the social, political, economic, educational and environmental challenges of our times. We will also see how Gandhian wisdom can help us better cope with the personal, interpersonal and spiritual predicaments in our lives.

The lessons derived at the conference will be vital for fostering a culture of nonviolence and promoting social and political change through nonviolence.

The conference will also provide a major impetus for education about nonviolence in schools and colleges.

Highlights

Speaker-roster of distinguished scholars and practitioners • Panel on Gandhian wisdom and K-12 education • Workshop on Nonviolence • Concert of devotional songs (*bhajans*) from Gandhi's prayer gatherings • Book Exhibition.

Who Should Participate

The conference will be invaluable for educators and students; professionals in business, law, healthcare and the non-profit or NGO sector—especially those engaged in conflict resolution and peace-building, community development, environmental action and social entrepreneurship; policy-makers; and for all who care about building a peaceful and harmonious future.

Speakers

Rajni Bakshi has spent the last 25 years in the fertile ground between journalism and activism – chronicling struggles for more humane and ecologically sound ways of life. She is a trustee of Child Rights and You (CRY) and Citizens for Peace in Mumbai. Her books include *The Dispute over Swami Vivekananda's Legacy* (1993); *Bapu Kuti: Journeys in Rediscovery of Gandhi* (1998); and *An Economics for Well-Being* (2007).

Amit Basole holds a Ph. D. in Neuroscience from Duke University (Durham, NC) and is currently researching Political Economy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His interests include Eurocentrism, Knowledge Politics, Philosophy of Science, Gandhian Economics, and Critiques of Industrial Modernity. His writings are available at <http://people.umass.edu/abasole/>

Akeel Bilgrami is the Johnsonian Chair of Philosophy at Columbia University, a founding member of Columbia's Committee on Global Thought, and the Director of Heyman Center for the Humanities. His books include: *Belief and Meaning* (1992), *Self-Knowledge and Resentment* (2006) and *Politics and the Moral Psychology of Identity* (2009). He has held visiting positions at Oxford, Yale, Australian National University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. In 2009 he will be a fellow in the 'Scholars and Writers' program at the New Public Library, where he will write a book on Gandhi's thought.

Charles R. DiSalvo is the Woodrow A. Potesta Professor of Law at the West Virginia University College of Law, where he teaches litigation-related courses as well as a seminar on Civil Disobedience and the Law. He has published widely on topics relating to nonviolence and the law. He is currently completing a biography, *Mohandas K. Gandhi, Attorney at Law: From Courthouse to Jailhouse*. He has been recognized for his teaching excellence by the Roscoe Pound Foundation, by the West Virginia University Foundation and by his students, who have named him Professor of the Year on five occasions.

Rajmohan Gandhi is the author of a major new biography of his grandfather, the Mahatma. He is currently a Visiting Professor in the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Faculty Director of Global Crossroads, a learning and living community at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His books include *Mohandas: a True Story of a Man, his People and an Empire* (2007) and *Ghaffar Khan: Nonviolent Badshah of the Pakhtuns* (2004). He was awarded the International Humanitarian Award (Human Rights) from the City of Champaign in 1994, an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Calgary and an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Obirin University, Tokyo in 1997.

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Speakers (continued)

Vibha Gupta is Chairperson of Magan Sangrahalaya, the museum of Rural Industries founded by Mahatma Gandhi. She was involved in the founding of the Centre of Science for Villages, and has been working on developing appropriate technologies for rural populations, particularly women, in areas such as renewable energy, housing, and sanitation. She is recipient of numerous awards, and has to her credit five publications and ten documentary films.

Prasad Kaipa is the executive director of Center for Leadership Innovation and Change in the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and a CEO coach and advisor in the Silicon Valley. His focus is transformational learning, leadership and innovation, and he draws heavily from wisdom traditions as well as from scientific approaches. A physicist by training, Dr. Kaipa is the author of an e-book, *Discontinuous Learning: Igniting Genius Within by Aligning Self, Work, and Family*. This and many of his writings, blog, pyramids and tools are available on his website, www.kaipagroup.com.

Bernard LaFayette, Jr. is a Distinguished-Scholar-in-Residence and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island. In the 1960s he was a leader of the Nashville Movement, the Freedom Rides, and the Selma Movement. Martin Luther King, Jr. appointed him the National Program Administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and National Coordinator of the 1968 Poor Peoples' campaign. His publications include the *Curriculum and Training Manual for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Community Leadership Training Program*, *Pedagogy for Peace and Nonviolence*, and *The Leaders Manual: A Structured Guide and Introduction to Kingian Nonviolence* (with David Jehnsen).

Nipun Mehta is the founder of CharityFocus, a fully volunteer driven organization started in 1999 to inspire the young IT professionals to provide free web based solutions for nonprofit organizations worldwide. Having served thousands of nonprofits, without any overhead, CharityFocus has now become an incubator of "gift-economy" projects ranging from web services to a film production company to a print magazine to a restaurant. Mehta is also a member of the Tipping Point Network and serves on the advisory board of the Seva Foundation and the Dalai Lama Foundation.

Michael Nagler is Professor emeritus of Classics at UC Berkeley, where he founded the Peace and Conflict Studies Program. He is President of the board of METTA: Center for Nonviolence Education, and a co-founder of Educators For Nonviolence. His book *The Search for a Nonviolent Future* won the 2002 American Book Award. He received the 2007 Jannalal Bajaj International Award for promoting Gandhian Values Outside India.

James O'Toole is the Daniels Distinguished Professor of Business Ethics at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. His publications have been in the areas of leadership, philosophy, ethics, and corporate culture. Among his sixteen books, *Vanguard Management* was named "one of the best business and economics books of 1985" by the *Business Week*. His latest books include *Creating the Good Life: Applying Aristotle's Wisdom to Find Meaning and Happiness* (2005) and *The New American Workplace* (with Edward Lawler, 2006). In 2007 he was named one of the "100 most influential people in business ethics" by the editors of *Ethisphere*, and one of "the top 100 thought leaders on leadership" by *Leadership Excellence* magazine.

Anthony J. Parel is a political philosopher, is among the world's leading scholars on Gandhi. For nearly four decades he was professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary. His books include *Gandhi's Philosophy and the Quest for Harmony* (2006); *Gandhi, Freedom and Self-Rule*, ed. (2000); *Gandhi: Hind Swaraj and Other Writings*, ed. (1997); and *Comparative Political Philosophy*, edited with R. C. Keith (2nd ed, 2003).

Joseph Prabhu is professor of Philosophy and Religion at California State University, Los Angeles, and Martin Marty Fellow at the University of Chicago. He is the editor of *The Intercultural Challenge of Raimon Panikkar* (1996) and co-editor of *Indian Ethics: Classical Traditions and Contemporary Challenges* (2007). His two forthcoming books are: *Liberating Gandhi: Community, Empire and a Culture of Peace*, and *Hegel, India and the Dark Face of Modernity*. He is the President of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (2008-10), and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions. He is the Program Chair for the Parliament's 2009 meeting to be held in Melbourne, Australia.

Samdhong Rinpoche is the Prime Minister (*Kalon Tripa*) and the chairman of the Tibetan Cabinet-in-Exile. As a scholar, statesman, and a deeply spiritual monk, he believes in Mahatma Gandhi's *satyagraha* as a necessary means to obtain a resolution to the Tibet issue. Professor Rinpoche is a major contributor to the Constitution for a Future Tibet. He is member of several organizations including the Board of the Indian Council for Philosophical Research, the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, the Krishnamurti Foundation in India, the World Peace Council, Central Institute for Buddhist Studies, Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, University Grant Commission of India and the Association of Indian Universities.

Lloyd Rudolph is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Chicago, where he had also served as Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and of the College's and International Studies and South Asian Studies concentrations. He has co-authored with Susanne Hoerber Rudolph several books, including *The Modernity of Tradition: Political Development in India*; *Gandhi: The Traditional Roots of Charisma*; *In Pursuit of Lakshmi: the Political Economy of the Indian State*; and *Postmodern Gandhi and Other Essays: Gandhi in the World and at Home*. His most recent publications (with Susanne Rudolph) are the three volumes in the series *Explaining Indian Democracy: A Fifty-Year Perspective* (2008).

Susanne Rudolph is the William Benton Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of Political Science at the University of Chicago. She is the past president of the American Political Science Association and the Association of Asian Studies. She is co-author with Lloyd Rudolph of the several books including *The Modernity of Tradition: Political Development in India*; *Gandhi: The Traditional Roots of Charisma*; *In Pursuit of Lakshmi: the Political Economy of the Indian State*; and *Postmodern Gandhi and Other Essays: Gandhi in the World and at Home*. Her most recent publications (with Lloyd Rudolph) are the three volumes in the series *Explaining Indian Democracy: A Fifty-Year Perspective* (2008).

Anil Sadgopal was the Dean of the Faculty of Education (1998-2001) at Delhi University, where he served as Professor of Education from 1994 to 2005. He has been member of many education and curriculum related Commissions of Government of India and provincial governments. For nearly two decades he had organized and led a rural education and development program—*Kishore Bharati*—in Madhya Pradesh. In recognition of his contributions for the application of science and technology to rural areas he received the Jannalal Bajaj Award and Shantiniketan's Rathindra Puraskar.

Nirmal Sethia is Professor Management at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His research and publications have been in the areas of creativity, innovation and design. He is currently exploring the significance of Gandhian wisdom in the business context for corporate social responsibility, sustainability and initiatives directed at "the bottom of the pyramid" markets, and in the broader human context for reimagining "the good life."

Tara Sethia is Professor of History and the founder and Director of the Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Under the auspices of the Center, she has helped establish on campus the degree program for a Minor in Nonviolence Studies. She teaches "Nonviolence in the Modern World"—the core course for the Minor, directs summer institutes for K-12 educators on Nonviolence, and is faculty advisor to the newly founded Ahimsa Student Club. She has contributed articles on Gandhi and on Nonviolence for the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History* and is currently working on a book, *Gandhi: His World and Ours*.