



THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES





MESSAGE FROM

The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH
Chancellor of the University of Oxford



Oxford and India have a long and close relationship. It is hardly surprising that India, a country famed for its love of learning, would have such regard for Oxford. What may be surprising is that the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is the first Centre in the world to explore all Hindu traditions, and in so many disciplines.

From a highly successful conference on Archaeology, to comparative Theological seminars, from a Journal of Hindu Studies with Oxford University Press, to excellent web resources – the OCHS embodies the academic rigour and practical innovation we encourage at Oxford.

As a Recognised Independent Centre of the University, the OCHS adds great value to the wonderful collections of Indian art and artefacts in Oxford. Its library complements our Indian Institute Library – the largest collection of Sanskrit literature outside of India.

The OCHS is one in a growing list of positive initiatives in Oxford that are forging links with a new and dynamic India. The Centre will help this new India reflect on its heritage in contemporary terms, explore what India's unique gifts are for a global community, and build bridges of understanding between cultures and worldviews.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Patten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



INTRODUCTION TO OCHS

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (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 Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage and promoting a better understanding of it through a comprehensive programme of education, publishing, and research.

OCHS is a Recognised Independent Centre of Oxford University, maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, originality, and excellence.

OCHS Past

The OCHS was founded in 1997 as the world's first academy of its kind for the study of Hindu culture. Since its inception the Centre has attracted world-class scholars and students, launched pioneering educational projects, and opened up the field of Hindu Studies for an international audience.

OCHS Present

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is at the forefront of an international renaissance in Hindu Studies, continually expanding its ability to serve all communities and generations.

Today the OCHS provides comprehensive academic programmes including lectures, seminars, and conferences. The OCHS publishes the Journal of Hindu Studies with Oxford University Press and a Hindu Studies book series with Routledge. We develop and deliver executive training, certified extramural courses, online study, and web resources.

OCHS Future

In order to provide the best resources and facilities for gifted scholars OCHS is committed to developing lectureships and scholarships, preservation projects, innovative research, and significant relationships with leading public and private institutions.

“The OCHS is devoted to an increased understanding of Hindu traditions, from every perspective and for every audience.”

Lord Navnit Dholakia, OBE, DL,
Chairman of OCHS Board of
Governors



STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS



“No other institution in the world could facilitate the depth of study in my field of Science and Hinduism. I’m being encouraged to study avenues of knowledge rarely explored.”

Gopal Gupta,
OCHS D.Phil. Candidate

“Studying at OCHS generated an intensity that was challenging and rewarding. I felt that the whole education came together in a very unified way and in the fast-paced system at Oxford, I was greatly aided by support and direction from my tutors.”

Claire Robison, OCHS Alumnus

Students

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies attracts students from around the globe. They have consistently excelled in their studies and have earned the Centre a reputation for excellence in Oxford. Our students are being published and are winning prestigious academic posts. OCHS students are encouraged to add value to their academic careers and continue the OCHS ethos of public service through teaching, writing, and acting as consultants for public and private organisations.

Scholars

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies gathers internationally renowned scholars into a dynamic community. OCHS Fellowships provide the chance for scholars from around the world to spend time at Oxford, enjoying the University’s resources and its tradition of dedicated discussion and research. These positive exchanges are contributing to a new understanding of Hindu culture.

“As Academic Director of OCHS (2002-4), I saw firsthand the possibilities and importance of a solid and permanent base for Hindu Studies at Oxford. The OCHS already plays an important part in the life of the University, as the forum in which the great traditions of Hinduism, and their contemporary living forms, can be studied, taught, and discussed. There is great potential for the future as new resources expand still further the possibilities of OCHS.”

Francis X. Clooney, S.J., Parkman Professor of Divinity,
Harvard University

Think Hindu Culture, Think OCHS

The world's leading institution dedicated to education and publishing in the field of Hindu Studies.

We focus on exploring, explaining and promoting Hinduism, making it more accessible to a global audience.

As a "Recognized Independent Center of Excellence," we maintain the highest standards of academic excellence.

Our commitment to promoting a deeper understanding between the world and the wonderful heritage of Hinduism.



BEYOND OXFORD

The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies brings the voice of Indian culture to the market-place of ideas.

Faculty and students are encouraged to bring thoughtful responses to issues of contemporary concern; the academic ethos of Oxford is made accessible through our executive-training and extramural courses; introductory books are being produced for general audiences; resources are being made available globally via the internet; and the OCHS has become a trusted voice to public and private sector bodies including the BBC and the Dow Jones Dharma Index.



“It seems surprising that a subject like Hindu studies could make an impact in the world’s economic markets, but in helping to develop the Dow Jones Dharma Index, a model for ethical investment, the OCHS has done just that. Through this collaboration, promoting ethical investment and introducing concepts such as dharma, ahimsa, and karuna onto the global stage, the OCHS has made its subject relevant.”

Shailesh Govindia,
Investment Banker



“I attended the OCHS Hindu Studies Course in Harrow and found it so interesting that I applied for graduate studies at Oxford. It has given me a wonderful insight into my own heritage and I have since gone on to teach the course for the Centre.”

Bhavisha Tailor, M.St. Oxford



“The tutors are great, the discussions are fascinating, and at last I have had a chance to focus on the issues that really matter to me. I recommend the OCHS extramural courses to anyone who wants to discover Hindu culture.”

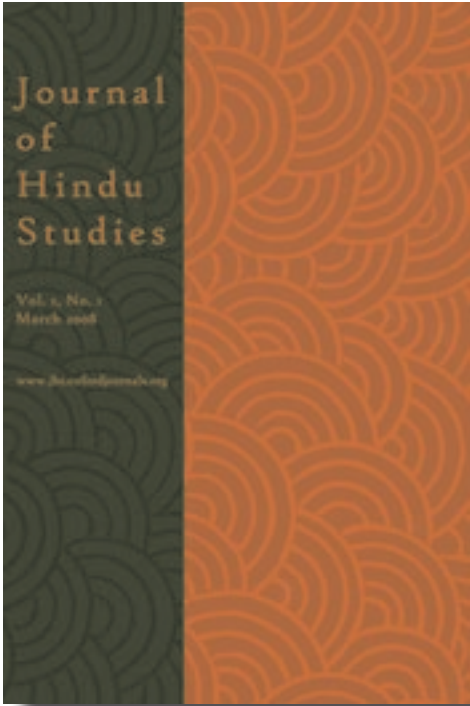
Vijay Thakrar, Chartered Accountant, Leicester

Gender and Narrative in the *Mahābhārata*



Edited by
Simon Brodbeck and Brian Black

OCHS PUBLICATIONS



The OCHS seeks partnerships with academic publishers with an aim to produce scholarly writing on Hinduism, particularly by OCHS students and faculty.

OCHS and Oxford University Press

In partnership with Oxford University Press we are publishing the Journal of Hindu Studies – a bi-annual academic journal taking a critical approach to Hindu Studies. The Journal creates a forum for constructive interdisciplinary discourse by linking scholars in an exploration of key questions and issues.

OCHS and Routledge

Since 2004 we have produced up to three volumes per year in the OCHS Routledge Hindu Studies Series. As series editor, OCHS Academic Director Prof. Gavin Flood, brings ancient Hindu traditions into dialogue with the latest trends in contemporary thought.

“The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is making a most valuable contribution to the study of Indian culture, especially its religious aspects, from its Sanskrit roots onwards. It is doing so not only in Britain but also now in India.”

Prof. J. L. Brockington,
Secretary General, International
Association of Sanskrit Studies



FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS



“The work being done at the OCHS is opening a door to knowledge and culture that until recently, was only slightly ajar. By facilitating young intellectuals we help to simultaneously preserve and develop understanding of Indic culture for modern times and between traditions.”

Alfred Ford, Philanthropist

Friends and Benefactors of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies comprise an informed community of people united by a concern for Indian culture and its study at the highest level.

They give of their time and money, they lend their reputation to the work of the Centre, and they give freely of their valuable expertise.

Our Friends and Benefactors ensure that the work of the Centre retains a global focus, serving the communities it engages with.

“There has perhaps never been more confusion about religion – much of it dangerous confusion. Yet with globalisation and the spread of multifaith societies there has never been a greater need for understanding of the different world traditions. The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is encouraging the spread of knowledge about a great culture which the West has found difficult to understand because of its unique diversity and philosophical breadth.”

Sir Mark Tully, writer and broadcaster

“The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is important because it isn’t pushing an agenda. It is looking at the broader questions of Hindu identity and culture today. This helps inform not only the Hindu community but also the various communities that make up our multicultural society.”

Ranjit Sondhi CBE



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