

The University of Toronto Department for the Study of Religion presents

THE SHRI ROOP LAL JAIN LECTURE 2014-15

Co-sponsored by the Centre for South Asian Studies, Asian Institute and
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EVA DE CLERCQ (Ghent University)

LECTURE: Jain Engagements with the Rāmāyaṇa

THURSDAY, October 30, 2014, 2-4 pm, Munk School of Global Affairs, Room 108N

THE STORY OF RĀMA, first told in Vālmīki's Rāmāyaṇa, has made a considerable impact on the social, political, cultural and religious life in South Asia and beyond. Though the Sanskrit epic Rāmāyaṇa is the oldest surviving, and in many ways normative Rāma story, it is just one of a plethora of tellings, adaptations of the Rāma narrative by artists and composers from different social, geographical and ideological backgrounds who rework the story in accordance with their own particular agendas. Jain authors too engaged with this story. This lecture will look at the two different ways in which Jains confronted the Rāma story and its growing popularity: by openly rejecting it on the one hand, and by appropriating it on the other.



EVA DE CLERCQ received her PhD in Oriental languages and cultures from Ghent University (Belgium) in 2003 with a thesis "Critical study of Svayambhūdeva's Paūmacariu", a Jain adaptation of the Rāmāyaṇa in Apabhraṃśa. Since then, she has worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University, SOAS London and the University of Würzburg (Germany) with projects on the Jain adaptations of the Sanskrit epics and Apabhraṃśa literary culture. In 2010 she was appointed assistant professor at Ghent University, where she teaches Sanskrit, Prākṛit, Hindi (esp. Brajbhāṣā), Indian literature and Religious traditions of India.

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