



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS

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“Early Jain-Buddhist Interaction: The Questions of Contact, Identity, and Boundary Negotiations”

Throughout its long and rich history, Jainism has been contributing dynamically to South Asia’s religious traditions, literature, and art. With regard to Indian Buddhism, Jains were an important ‘proximate other’ in the development of its monastic community. A term coined by the late historian of religion Jonathan Z. Smith, the concept of proximate other sees the other as being problematically ‘near’ or as being ‘too-much-like-us’. Unlike the remote other, the proximate other demands and effects a process of othering. Departing from this notion of Jains as proximate others, I will offer an examination of the nature and frequency of the early Jain-Buddhist interaction. Asking questions that have not been asked before, I will shed new light on the pertinent issues of contact, identity, and boundary negotiations among the early Jain and Buddhist communities.

Date: Friday, March 1st, 2019

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Event Location: HIB 55

