



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS

**Aleksandra Restifo,
Balliol College, University of Oxford**

“Savoring Pleasure: Aesthetics and Devotion in Jain Worship”

This presentation will trace the significance of pleasure for Jain devotional and ritual culture from the early centuries of the common era through medieval times. It will also show the ways in which earlier art forms and their appreciation continued to be central to premodern and modern Jain ritual and devotion, albeit not uncontested. In the eleventh-thirteenth centuries, certain Jain mendicants criticized pleasurable temple rites in order to establish and promote a new monastic reform movement. This criticism was countered by the Jain monk and court poet Rāmacandra (1093-1174) through an elaborate and sophisticated defense of pleasure in temple worship, theater, and life. The presentation will move from the Jain canonical texts to medieval novels to didactic songs and philosophical works in order to both highlight the particulars of historical debates around pleasure and to give a more general picture of Jain engagement with artistic expression and aesthetics.

Date: February 1, 2019

Time: 3-5pm

Event Location: HIB 55

