

Gayatri Mendanha

Assistant Professor

Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune, India

Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

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EDUCATION:

- **UGC NET in Philosophy** - June, 2012
- **M.A. in Philosophy** - Indira Gandhi National Open University - February, 2013
- **M.A. in English** - Fergusson College, Pune - April, 2010
- **B.A. in Philosophy** - Pontifical Athenaeum, Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology – March, 2012
- **B.A. in English** - St Mira's College for Girls, Pune – March, 2008

Certificate Courses:

- **NEP 2020 Orientation and Sensitization Programme** - UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, (2024)
- **Nalanda Certificate Course in Buddhist Philosophy** - Tibet House, 2023
- **Ethics and Aesthetics: Debates in Indian art, literature, enactment and philosophy (Winter School)** - Manipal Centre for European Studies and Department of Philosophy - 2022
- **Buddhist Studies Summer Program** - Rangjung Yeshe Institute Foundation, Nepal (2021)
- **Virtual International Collaborations** - Academic Training - Universidad Veracruzana, (2020)
- **Masters Diploma in Higher Education Andragogy** – Symbiosis International University – October, 2016
- **Post Graduate Certificate Course in Applied Buddhist Psychology and Ethics** - Savitribai Phule Pune University (2013)
- **Certified Yogasiromani** –Yogadham, Jnana Deepa School of Yoga (2011)
- **Certificate in Yoga** – Kaivalyadhama and Savitribai Phule Pune University (2009)
- **Women and Development** - Savitribai Phule Pune University (2008)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune - Assistant Professor, Philosophy and Literature (July, 2014 – Present)
 - Member Secretary, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) National Education Policy 2020 Task Force for the parameter on the 'Promotion of Indian Knowledge Systems, Languages, Culture and Values' (2021)

- Member, Board of Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, SIU (May 2020 – May 2022)
 - Chairperson, Board of Studies Sub-committee for Philosophy, SIU (2018 - Present)
 - Member, Board of Studies Sub-committee for English, SIU (2018 - Present)
 - Head, Community Outreach Cell, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA) (2014 – Present)
 - NAAC, Criteria V Head, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA) (2014 – 2023)
 - Co-instructor for the design and development of the MOOC on *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*
- FLAME University, Pune - (July 2013 – May 2014)
 - Magnus Education Centre, Pune (September 2012 – April 2013)

PUBLICATIONS:

- **Mendanha, G.**, ‘Buddhist and Rational Insights: Ethical Reflections for a Polarised world.’ In Pandikattu, K. (Ed), *Applied Ethics and Rationality. Studies in Applied Philosophy, Epistemology and Rational Ethics*, vol 74. Springer (2025)
- **Mendanha, G.**, ‘Agentless Agency: Buddhist Perspectives on Ethical World Engagement.’ In Pandikattu, K. (Ed), *Ethical Leadership and Sustainable Practices*, XLRI-Xavier School of Management and Christian World Imprints (2025)
- Deshpande, S.S. and Sen, S. and **Mendanha, G.** et. al, ‘Curriculum and Community with Research, Action and Service (CCBALwRAS), a Pedagogical Shift for Social Change’ *Higher Education for the Future* (2023)
- **Mendanha, G.**, ‘Rending the Veil: Representations of Emptiness’, *Philosophical Traditions of the World* (2023)
- Banerjee, S., **Mendanha, G.**, and Dutta, A. ‘A Pilgrimage to Poetry: Reading Jejuri as a Case of Inter-systemic Literary Reception’, *The World of the Orient* (2023)
- Deshpande, S.S. and Sen, S. and **Mendanha, G.** et. al, ‘Curriculum and Community – the 2cs for Community-Based Academic Learning with Research, Action and Service (Cbalwras): A Case Study from India’ *OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development* (2020)
- Banerjee S., **Mendanha G.**, Dutta A., ‘Satire and Blake: Image, Symbol and Anti-Text’, In Pandikattu, K. (Ed), *Fully Human and Fully Alive, Essays on Being Human Today* (2020)
- **Mendanha G.**, Dutta A., 'Alternative Interpretations of the *Ramayana*', In Arackal, Francis (Ed.), *Indian Hermeneutics of Suspicion* (2018)
- Dutta A., **Mendanha G.**, 'The New Pope: Analysing the Shift in the Indian Media's Coverage of the Papacy', In Pandikattu, K. (Ed), *Pope Francis: His Impact on and Relevance for the Church & Society* (2018)
- **Mendanha G.**, ‘Hannah Arendt: The Political Function of Thinking’, In Pereira, Dolreich (Ed), *Becoming a Nation: Processes and Prospects* (2017)

- **Mendanha G.**, ‘An Indian Worldview: Secularism in Plurality’, *Jnanadeepa Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1-2 (2016)
- **Mendanha G.**, ‘In Search of Woman: Re-making Ourselves’, In Irudayadason, Nishant (Ed), *Philosophizing the Body* (2017)
- **Mendanha G.**, ‘The Individual and the Collective’, In Pardeshi, R. G., Sreedharan, C., *Kaleidoscope* (2014)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS:

“Emptying the Self: A Dialogue between Keatsian Aesthetics and Buddhist Thought” at the International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy and Praxis: Dialogue and Coexistence in a Diverse and Precarious World organized by Prof. Geeta Ramana’s Memorial Research Scholars’ Forum in association with Pontifical Athenaeum Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune, (June 2025) (co-presented)

“Agentless Agency: Ethical World Engagement” at the National Conference on Agency and Value at Prof. Geeta Ramana’s Memorial Research Scholars’ Forum organised in association with Forum for Philosophy & IOE & HSS Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai (June, 2024)

“Reimagining Masculinity through the Poetry of Janabai and Muktabai” for the track on Masculinity through an Intersectional Lens at the International Gender Conference (March, 2022) (co-presented)

“Rending the Veil” at the Global Conference on Changing the World: Community, Science and Engagement with Big History organised by the International Big History Association in collaboration with Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune, India. (August, 2021)

“Curriculum and Community – the 2Cs for Community Based Academic Learning with Research, Action and Service (CBALwRAS): a case study from India” at the International Conference on Sustainable Development, (ICSD) organized by Ontario International Development Agency (OIDA). Harvard Medical School (December, 2019) (co-presented)

“Sita: The Spiritual Center of the *Ramayana*” at The Study of all Existence: SSLA Conference on Interdisciplinarity and Big History (March, 2018) (co-presented)

“Alternative Interpretations of the Ramayana” at the Association of Christian Philosophers of India (ACPI) 42nd Annual national Research Seminar on Indian Hermeneutics of Suspicion. St. Albert's College, Guwahati (October 2017) (co-presented)

“An Analysis of Student-Centered Assessment in Literature Teaching” at the 3rd International Conference on Cases and Pedagogical Innovations held at FLAME University (June, 2017)

“Hannah Arendt: The Political Function of Thinking” at the Association of Christian Philosophers of India (ACPI) 41th Annual national Research Seminar on Becoming a Nation: Processes and Prospects. St. Albert's College, Ranchi (October 2016)

“In Search of Woman: Re-making Ourselves” at the Association of Christian Philosophers of India (ACPI) 40th Annual national Research Seminar on Philosophizing the Body: Challenges and Opportunities. Eluru, Andra Pradesh (October 2015)

“An Indian Worldview: Secularism in Plurality” at the ICPR Sponsored Three-Day Seminar on Democratic ‘We’: A Philosophical Search for Human Development and Pluralistic Nationhood organized by the Faculty of Philosophy. Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune (July 2015)

Poster presentation on “The 2Cs for Community Based Academic Learning: an integrated approach” at the 15th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2019 on ‘Higher Education - the Catalyst to a Creative Economy’ (November 2019) – Second Runner Up (co-presented)

Co-Convener of International Conference

International Conference on ‘Buddhist Philosophy and Praxis: Dialogue and Coexistence in a Diverse and Precarious World’ organised by Prof. Geeta Ramana Memorial Research Scholar’s Forum, University of Mumbai in collaboration with Pontifical Athenaeum Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune (20-21 June, 2025)

Projects during the last 5 years:

- Co-PI on an ongoing Minor Research Project on *Traditions of Devotion: Narratives and Lived Experiences* with Dr. Suchetana Banerjee and Ms. Ananya Dutta. Budgeted amount: 1,40,000/-

Invited Speaker:

Invited Speaker: Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities (Prakarsh-QMB Session-7) (February 2025)

Invited Speaker: Annual Memorial Lecture in honour of Prof Richard De Smet and Prof Jean de Marneffe for the faculty and students of the Philosophy Faculty of the Pontifical Athenaeum Jnana Deepa (January 2025)

Invited Speaker: Workshop on ‘Gender Equity and Inclusion: Transformative Pathways in Higher Education’, organized by Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP) at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar (November 2019)