

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**INDIA INITIATIVES GROUP: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



**Dr. Raj Banerjee**  
Executive Committee Co-Chair  
Area Leader: STEM Research Engagement



**Dr. Pankaj Jain**  
Executive Committee Co-Chair  
Area Leader: Social Sciences & Humanities  
Research Engagement  
Area Leader: Marketing



**Dr. Ila Manuj**  
Executive Committee Member  
Area Leader: Student Engagement



**Dr. Niranjan Tripathy**  
Executive Committee Member  
Area Leader: Local Community Engagement



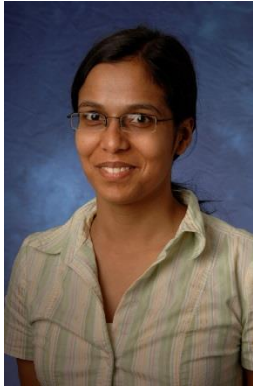
**Dr. Narendra Dahotre**  
Executive Committee Member



**Dr. Pudur Jagadeeswaran**  
Executive Committee Member

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**



**Name:** Ila Manuj

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Marketing and Logistics

**College:** College of Business

**Email:** [Ila.Manuj@unt.edu](mailto:Ila.Manuj@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/im0051#profile-main>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Manuj is an Associate Professor of Logistics who received her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. She holds a Masters of International Business from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and a Bachelor's of Science from Lucknow University, Lucknow India. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Manuj worked for CARE in the areas of supply chain auditing, food regulation, and supply chain mapping. She has published in Journal of Business Logistics, Transportation Journal, International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management, and International Journal of Logistics Management. She coached the winning (UNT) team for the 2009 Pittsburg Challenge National Logistics Competition.



**Name:** Divesh Ojha

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Marketing and Logistics

**College:** College of Business

**Email:** [divesh.ojha@unt.edu](mailto:divesh.ojha@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/do0045>

**Areas of Expertise:**

PhD, Clemson University, 2008

Major: Operations and Supply Chain Management

Dissertation Title: Impact of Strategic Agility on competitive capabilities and financial performance

Committee: Dr. Lawrence LaForge and Dr. 'Sri' V. Sridharan (co-chairs), Dr. Larry Fredendall, Dr. Duane Moore

MS, Louisiana State University, 2004. Major: Industrial Engineering

Dissertation Title: Optimal Batch Sizing with Quality Assurance and Rework

BS, National Institute of Technology, 1996. Major: Mechanical Engineering

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Audhesh Paswan

**Title:** Professor/ Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**Department:** Department of Marketing & Logistics/ Dean's Office

**College:** College of Business

**Email:** [Audhesh.Paswan@unt.edu](mailto:Audhesh.Paswan@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/akp0004>

### Areas of Expertise:

Professor (Marketing), received his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi, USA, an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and a B.Tech. (Aeronautics) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Before coming into academia, he worked in the advertising and consumer product industry as the Account Manager and Planner, and Brand Manager. His research interests include franchising, channels, strategy, NPD, macromarketing, service marketing, cross-cultural and global marketing.



**Name:** Manjula Salimath

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Management

**College:** College of Business

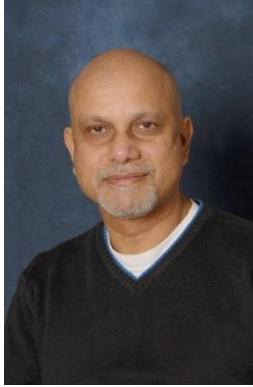
**Email:** [manjula.salimath@unt.edu](mailto:manjula.salimath@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/mss0151#profile-main>

### Areas of Expertise:

Dr. Salimath holds dual doctoral degrees in Organizational Psychology (Bangalore University, India) and Business (Washington State University, USA) and has extensive international teaching experience. Her research interests include cross national and institutional predictors of entrepreneurship, start-up dynamics, strategy, technology, ethics, governance, sustainability and innovation. She has published in premier research journals such as *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Business Research* and *Journal of Business Ethics*, besides numerous books, handbooks and encyclopedias. Dr. Salimath is a member of the editorial boards and received several recognitions for her teaching, research and service. She has served as the Track Chair in conferences such as the *Decision Sciences Institute*, *Western Academy of Management*, *Southwest Academy of Management* and *International Council for Small Business*. Dr. Salimath is the founding co-program chair for the 2018 *International Conference on Entrepreneurship & Small Business*, which was a collaboration between UNT's College of Business and Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay School of Management (<https://cob.unt.edu/icefb/>). She is a former president of the *Southwest Academy of Management*.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Niranjan Tripathy

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law

**College:** College of Business

**Email:** [Niranjan.Tripathy@unt.edu](mailto:Niranjan.Tripathy@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/nt0013#profile-main>

### Areas of Expertise:

PhD, Texas Tech University, 1987.

Major: Finance

Degree Specialization: Economics

Dissertation Title: An Empirical Study of the Effects of Systematic Risk on the Security Dealer's Bid-Ask Spreads in the OTC Market

MBA, University of New Orleans, 1982. Major: Finance

MA, Ravenshaw College, 1978. Major: English



**Name:** Ted Farris

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Department of Marketing & Logistics

**College:** College of Business

**Email:** [TheodoreTed.Farris@unt.edu](mailto:TheodoreTed.Farris@unt.edu)

**Faculty Webpage:** <https://cob.unt.edu/users/mtf0006#profile-main>

### Areas of Expertise:

Professor (Logistics), received his Ph.D. concentrating in Business Logistics and Management Information Systems from The Ohio State University. Approximately one out of every 4,000 persons holding a doctorate have been Fulbright Scholars. Dr. Ted Farris was named an Austrian-American Fulbright Scholar in 2008, the 2nd ever in the field of logistics. He is a Charn Uswachoke International Development Fund Scholar. He has over 120 publications and economic reports domestically and internationally in journals. Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., Dr. Farris was employed by the IBM Corporation, and INTEL Corporation. His industry experience includes Purchasing, Traffic, New Logistics Development, Materials Systems, and Inventory Planning and Control.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**



**Name:** Prathiba Natesan

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Educational Psychology

**College:** College of Education

**Email:** [Prathiba.Natesan@unt.edu](mailto:Prathiba.Natesan@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://www.coe.unt.edu/facultystaff-department/prathiba-natesan>

**Areas of Expertise:**

PhD, Texas A&M University, 2007.

Major: Statistics and Measurement/Urban Education/Estimation of Two-Parameter Multilevel Item Response Theory Models with Predictor Variables: Simulation and Substantiation for an Urban School District

MS, Texas A&M University, 2003. Major: Construction Management

BArch, University of Madras, India, 2001. Major: Architecture



**Name:** Karthigeyan Subramaniam

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Teacher Education and Administration

**College:** College of Education

**Email:** [Karthigeyan.Subramaniam@unt.edu](mailto:Karthigeyan.Subramaniam@unt.edu)

**Faculty Webpage:** <https://www.coe.unt.edu/facultystaff-department/karthigeyan-subramaniam>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Karthigeyan Subramaniam teaches graduate and undergraduate courses focused on science teacher education. His scholarship focuses on preparation of elementary and secondary science teachers as well as on educational technology and qualitative research methodology. Before coming to UNT in 2009, he was on the faculty of Penn State University-Harrisburg, where his position was in Elementary Teacher Education and Teaching and in the Curriculum Master's Graduate Program. He has also been on the faculty of Adelphi University. His bachelor's degree is from the National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore, his master's degree is from University of Florida, at Gainesville, and his doctoral degree is from the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**



**Name:** Raj Banerjee

**Title:** Professor- University Distinguished Research Professor

**Department:** Materials Science and Engineering

**College:** College of Engineering

**Email:** [Rajarshi.Banerjee@unt.edu](mailto:Rajarshi.Banerjee@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://materials.engineering.unt.edu/people/raj-banerjee>

**Areas of Expertise:**

PhD, The Ohio State University - Columbus, OH, 1997.

Major: Materials Science and Engineering; Thesis Topic: Structural and Phase Transformations in Sputter Deposited Titanium-Aluminum Multilayers and Alloy Thin Films

MS, The Ohio State University - Columbus, OH, 1996. Major: Materials Science and Engineering

BTech, Indian Institute of Technology, 1993. Major: Metallurgical Engineering



**Name:** Narendra Dahotre

**Title:** Professor-University Distinguished Research Professor

**Department:** Materials Science and Engineering

**College:** College of Engineering

**Email:** [Narendra.Dahotre@unt.edu](mailto:Narendra.Dahotre@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://materials.engineering.unt.edu/people/narendra-dahotre>

**Areas of Expertise:**

PhD, Michigan State University, 1987.

Major: Materials Science and Engineering

MS, Michigan State University, 1983. Major: Metallurgical Engineering

BS, University of Poona, India, 1980. Major: Metallurgical Engineering

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Kuruville John

**Title:** Professor and Chairman

**Department:** Mechanical and Energy Engineering

**College:** College of Engineering

**Email:** [Kuruville.John@unt.edu](mailto:Kuruville.John@unt.edu)

**Faculty Web:** <https://mechanicalandenergy.engineering.unt.edu/faculty>

### Areas of Expertise:

Energy and Environmental Sustainability; Air Quality Modeling and Monitoring  
PhD, University of Iowa, 1996.

Major: Chemical Engineering

MS, University of Iowa, 1989. Major: Chemical Engineering

BTech, Anna University, 1986. Major: Chemical Engineering



**Name:** Saraju Mohanty

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Computer Science and Engineering

**College:** College of Engineering

**Email:** [Saraju.Mohanty@unt.edu](mailto:Saraju.Mohanty@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://computerscience.engineering.unt.edu/content/faculty>

### Areas of Expertise:

Prof. Mohanty's research is in "Smart Electronic Systems". Prof. Mohanty's research has been funded by many agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), and the US Air Force. Dr. Mohanty is an inventor of 4 US patents. Prof. Mohanty is an author of 250 peer-reviewed articles and 3 books. His Google Scholar h-index is 29 and i10-index is 84. The key aspects of the smart electronics are Energy-Smart, Security-Smart, and Response-Smart. Energy-Smart ensures that energy consumption of consumer electronics is minimal for longer battery life. Security-Smart deals with the security/protection of electronics systems as well as that of the information/media that these systems capture, process, or store. Response-Smart refers to accurate sensing, intelligent processing, and fast actuation/response. The research can be classified into the following inter-related categories: (1) Consumer Electronics for Smart Cities; (2) Application-Specific Things for Efficient Edge Computing; (3) Methodologies for Digital and Mixed-Signal Hardware. Prof. Mohanty was conferred the Glorious India Award in 2017 for his exemplary contributions to the discipline. He received Society for Technical Communication (STC) 2017 Award of Merit for his outstanding contributions to IEEE Consumer Electronics Magazine. He was the recipient of 2016 PROSE Award for best Textbook in Physical Sciences & Mathematics from the Association of American Publishers (AAP) for his book titled "Nanoelectronic Mixed-Signal System Design" published by McGraw-Hill in 2015. He was conferred 2016-17 UNT Toulouse Scholars Award for sustained excellent scholarship and teaching achievements. He has been recognized as a IEEE Distinguished Lecturer by the Consumer Electronics Society (CESoc) in 2017.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Rajiv Mishra

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Materials Science and Engineering

**College:** College of Engineering

**Email:** Rajiv.Mishra@unt.edu

**Faculty Page:** <http://materials.engineering.unt.edu/people/rajiv-mishra>

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Ph.D., Metallurgy (1988), University of Sheffield, UK, with Brunton Medal.

“The Influence of Microstructure on the Diffusional Creep of Alloys”

Faculty Advisors: Professor G. W. Greenwood and Professor H. Jones

M.Tech., Metallurgical Eng. (1985), Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.

“Superplasticity in Al-Zn eutectoid and Pb-Sn eutectic alloys”

Faculty Advisor: Professor G. S. Murty

Bachelor of Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering (1982)

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India.



**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE**



**Name:** Dhru Mukherjee

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Social Work

**College:** College of Health and Public Service

**Email:** [dhru.m@unt.edu](mailto:dhru.m@unt.edu); [Dhrubodhi.Mukherjee@unt.edu](mailto:Dhrubodhi.Mukherjee@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://sowk.hps.unt.edu/content/dhrubodhi-mukherjee-phd-lcsw>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Dhru Mukherjee's primary interest is the effect of psychological trauma across life-span, military social work, social media and social work, clinical workforce development, forced displacement and migration and suicidal ideation. Dr. Mukherjee is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and he has been a recipient of two federally funded HRSA and SAMHSA grant on psychological trauma and suicide totaling \$4 million. He currently holds visiting position at the Center for Rural Health and Social Development (CRHSD) at Southern Illinois University. He is engaged with international social work practices and comparative policy analysis between India and the USA. He teaches clinical social work practice and social welfare policy to graduate and undergraduate students. He has published in national and international journals.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Rachita Sharma

**Title:** Lecturer and Clinical Director

**Department:** Rehabilitation and Health Services

**College:** College of Health and Public Service

**Email:** [Rachita.Sharma@unt.edu](mailto:Rachita.Sharma@unt.edu)

**Faculty Profile:** <http://rhs.hps.unt.edu/faculty-and-staff>

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Rachita Sharma is currently Lecturer and Clinical Director in the department of Rehabilitation and Health Services at the University of North Texas where she supervises the clinical training of graduate and undergraduate students. She earned her Doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling Psychology from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and her Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Psychology from University of Texas at Dallas. As a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor in the state of Texas and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Rachita has experience working in the field of mental health and disability adjustment.

Rachita has engaged in research assessing the willingness of military veterans towards engagement in complementary and alternative medicine and assessing the role of resilience and social support on the academic success of students with disabilities enrolled in postsecondary education settings. She has also engaged in several studies assessing the role of culture on substance use patterns. Currently, she is involved in a longitudinal study focused on identifying "Behavioral Artistry" traits among professionals who work with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Rachita is especially interested in the impact of cultural diversity on the rehabilitation process of individuals with mental health disabilities and addictions. She has conducted research to assess mental health among military personnel in India and on assessing the mental health and help-seeking barriers among the Indian population in the DFW metroplex.

Rachita's previous work experiences have involved working at the inpatient psychiatric unit of Children's Medical Center in Dallas, the Assessment Clinic of Parkland Hospital in Dallas, the Traumatic Brain Injury clinic of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington DC, the Counseling and Psychological Services Center and Veterans Center of the University of Texas-Pan American, and the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Rachita is an active member of several organizations at National, State, and Local levels, also serving as a Board member for 3 such organizations.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Manish Vaidya

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Behavior Analysis

**College:** College of Health and Public Service

**Email:** [manish.vaidya@unt.edu](mailto:manish.vaidya@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://behv.hps.unt.edu/content/faculty-staff>

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Manish Vaidya earned his bachelor and master's degrees at the University of North Texas and his Ph.D. at the University of Florida. Following a brief postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Kansas, he returned to the University of North Texas where he is now an associate professor in the Department of Behavior Analysis. Manish has been interested in issues related to stimulus control since nearly the beginning of his graduate training. His current research interests involve attending, short-term remembering and the development and maintenance of equivalence relations in pigeons and people.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF INFORMATION**



**Name:** Shobhana Chelliah

**Title:** Associate Dean

**Department:** Linguistics

**College:** College of Information

**Email:** [Shobhana.Chelliah@unt.edu](mailto:Shobhana.Chelliah@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://linguistics.unt.edu/shobhana-chelliah>

**Areas of Expertise:**

As a documentary linguist, her days are agreeably filled with collecting, archiving, and analyzing language data in interaction with native speakers of Tibeto-Burman languages of northeast India. Along with her students, she is currently contributing to efforts to standardize the writing system for the Lamkang community (Manipur State, India). They are also working on creating a lexical database and grammatical sketch to contribute to revitalization efforts. From 2012-2015, she served as the Program Director for the Documenting Endangered Languages program at the National Science Foundation and she continues to review for the foundation. Her publications include *The Grammar of Meithei* (Mouton 1997) and the *Handbook of Descriptive Linguistic Fieldwork* (co-authored with Willem de Reuse, Springer 2010). Along with John Peterson, she is the series editor for Brill's *Studies in South and Southwest Asian Languages*. She is an Associate Editor of the journal *Himalayan Linguistics* and on the Editorial Board of the journal *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*.



**Name:** Sadaf Munshi

**Title:** Chair/Associate Professor

**Department:** Linguistics

**College:** College of Information

**Email:** [sadaf.munshi@unt.edu](mailto:sadaf.munshi@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://linguistics.unt.edu/sadaf-munshi>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Sadaf Munshi received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. She works in the areas of historical and comparative linguistics, language contact, language documentation, and grammatical analysis and theory. Among the courses that she teaches are Historical Linguistics, Phonology, Field Methods, World Englishes, History of English Language, Language Contact, and Gypsy Language and Culture. Her research focuses on Indo-Aryan languages (e.g. Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, and Romani or "Gypsy" language) and Burushaski.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**



**Name:** Jamie Johnson

**Title:** Lecturer

**Department:** Anthropology

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [Jamie.Johnson@unt.edu](mailto:Jamie.Johnson@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://anthropology.unt.edu/dr-jamie-k-johnson>

**Areas of Expertise:**

My theoretical approaches and teaching interests include space and place, architecture and urban planning, D/development, organizational culture, material culture, gender and tourism. I combine anthropological investigation and pedagogy by designing projects for clients which also serve to train our students in applied research, and I approach both research and teaching with ethnographic flexibility to best understand the intimate spaces of daily life and the institutions and infrastructures that bind them together. My doctoral research investigated the contestation of cultural heritage surrounding architectural conservation and new commercial construction in the rugged Himalayan tourist destination of Leh, Ladakh - India.



**Name:** Andrew Nelson

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** Anthropology

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [andrew.nelson@unt.edu](mailto:andrew.nelson@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://anthropology.unt.edu/dr-andrew-nelson>

**Areas of Expertise:**

My anthropological interests are guided by an urge to draw connections between the experiences of everyday life and political-economic structures. In my research, I have identified such connections through a range of spatial processes, such as the urbanization of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, the migration and labor practices of South Asians in the Americas, and the home-buying practices of Nepali-Bhutanese refugees in Ft. Worth, Texas.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Madhuparna Mitra

**Title:** Lecturer

**Department:** English

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [madhuparnamitra@unt.edu](mailto:madhuparnamitra@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://english.unt.edu/people/madhuparna-mitra-phd>

### Areas of Expertise:

Madhuparna Mitra teaches a range of courses: Writing, British Literature I, Shakespeare, Renaissance Literature and Postcolonial Literature. Her work on South Asian writers has appeared in Ariel, South Asian Review and Explicator.

PhD, Washington University, St. Louis, 1995.

Major: English and American Literature (with specialization in sixteenth and seventeenth century British literature)

MA, Washington University, St. Louis, 1995.

Major: English and American Literature (with specialization in sixteenth and seventeenth century British literature)

MA, University of Delhi, India, 1986.

Major: English Literature



**Name:** Waquar Ahmed

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** Geography and the Environment

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [waquar.ahmed@unt.edu](mailto:waquar.ahmed@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://geography.unt.edu/faculty/waquar-ahmed>

### Areas of Expertise:

Dr. Ahmed is a human geographer focusing on the socio-economic impacts/manifestations of capitalism. His current research focuses on global governance institutions, corporate power, foreign direct investments, exploitation of nature in general and conventional energy resources in particular, energy infrastructure, and state-society relations. He also examines the genealogy of global and national economic change, and social and environmental movements in opposition to such change.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Kate Imy

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** History

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [Kate.Imy@unt.edu](mailto:Kate.Imy@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://history.unt.edu/people/kate-imy;>  
[http://history.unt.edu/sites/history.unt.edu/files/history/Kate%20Imy\\_1.pdf](http://history.unt.edu/sites/history.unt.edu/files/history/Kate%20Imy_1.pdf)

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Kate Imy earned her PhD in European and Global and Comparative History from Rutgers University. She is a two-time recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship for Hindi and Urdu. She spent a year as a Fulbright-Nehru Fellow in India and a year as a Junior Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research (London). Her research examines religion, masculinity, and anti-colonial activism in the twentieth century British Indian Army. Her work has been published in *Gender & History* (Wiley), the *Journal of British Studies* (Cambridge) and *Twentieth Century British History* (Oxford). Her article entitled "Queering the Martial Races: Masculinity, Sex, and Circumcision in the Twentieth Century British Indian Army" received recognition at the 2017 American Historical Association when it won the Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize (Coordinating Council for Women Historians). She received recognition as a "10 Under 10" honoree from MSU Denver which recognizes the top 10 alumni from the past 10 years. She is revising her manuscript on the twentieth century British Indian Army.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Pankaj Jain

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Philosophy and Religion

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [pankaj.jain@unt.edu](mailto:pankaj.jain@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://philosophy.unt.edu/people/faculty/pankaj-jain>

### Areas of Expertise:

His research has been supported by a Fulbright Fellowship, Charn Uswachoke International Development Fund, and Wenner-Gren Grant. His teaching interests include Religion and Ecology, Asian Diaspora, and Sustainability of Religious Communities in Americas. Interested in connecting ancient practices with contemporary issues, he is exploring the connections between religious traditions and sustainability in the USA and in India. He has helped two temples in the Dallas area to get grants from their energy company to help them make more sustainable and energy efficient. Dr. Pankaj Jain recently published *Science and Socio-Religious Revolution in India: Moving the Mountains* (January 2017), and is also the author of *Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities: Sustenance and Sustainability* (May 2011), which won the 2012 DANAM Book Award and the 2011 Uberoi Book Award, and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy & Religion.



**Name:** George James

**Title:** Professor and Bhagwan Adinath Professor of Jain Studies

**Department:** Philosophy & Religion

**College:** College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

**Email:** [george.james@unt.edu](mailto:george.james@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <http://jainstudies.unt.edu/george-james>

### Areas of Expertise:

George Alfred James, Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas, received his PhD in History and Philosophy of Religion from Columbia University in 1983. He is author of *Interpreting Religion* (1995), and *Ecology is Permanent Economy: the Activism and Environmental Philosophy of Sunderlal Bahuguna* (2013). He is also edited the volume *Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India* (1999). Over the past 25 years he has traveled extensively in India researching Indian environmental movements. His writings are published in such journals as *International Philosophical Quarterly*, *Worldviews*, and *Zygon*. He has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, and the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*.

Dr. James was named the first Bhagwan Adinath Professor of Jain Studies at the University of North Texas. The university's Department of Philosophy and Religion also occasionally offers a course on Jainism, which was created after Indian American Pankaj Jain was hired as an assistant professor.



## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Ateka Contractor

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** Psychology

**College:** College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Email:** [ateka.contractor@unt.edu](mailto:ateka.contractor@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://psychology.unt.edu/content/ateka-contractor>

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Research Interests: The S.T.R.E.S.S (Study of TRaumatic Experiences, Signs, and Symptoms) lab spearheaded by Dr. Ateka Contractor attempts to address three major research questions: (1) heterogeneity in traumatic experiences and corresponding PTSD symptomatology; (2) mechanisms of PTSD's comorbidity with depression, impulse-based risky behaviors; and (3) the role of cultural and personality influences in PTSD's symptomatology.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, & MANAGEMENT**



**Name:** Bharath Josiam

**Title:** Professor

**Department:** Hospitality and Tourism Management

**College:** College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism

**Email:** [josiamb@unt.edu](mailto:josiamb@unt.edu)

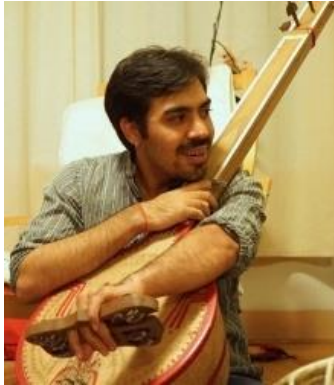
**Faculty Page:** <https://htm.unt.edu/people/bharath-josiam-phd>

**Areas of Expertise:**

He has been a faculty member at leading Hospitality Management programs in the USA for over 25 years. A US citizen, Bharath is originally a native of India. He received his 3-year Diploma in Hotel/Restaurant Management from the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering & Nutrition, New Delhi, India and his Bachelors Degree in Commerce from Delhi University, India. He has worked in hospitality operations in India for seven years in both Food & Beverage and Lodging Management. His career there included assignments in mid-scale properties, super-luxury properties and special events management. His primary research interests are in consumer behavior of tourists and youth tourism. Bharath obtained his Master of Science Degree in Hotel, Restaurant & Travel Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA and his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Business and Marketing Education from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF MUSIC**



**Name:** Vivek Virani

**Title:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** Music History, Theory and Ethnomusicology

**College:** College of Music

**Email:** Vivek.Virani@unt.edu

**Faculty Page:** <https://music.unt.edu/faculty-and-staff/vivek-virani>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Vivek Virani's research explores connections between music and spirituality in diverse religious and cultural traditions, with a particular focus on religious music's role in the constructions of community, nation, and self. His recent dissertation explores how songs of South Asian devotional poet-saints are used to negotiate issues of culture, religion, and society at the regional and national levels. He is currently drafting a book based on this work while pursuing further projects related to bhakti, Sufi, nirgun, and other forms of mystical poetry performance in South Asia. Vivek is also engaged in a theoretical project developing new analytical paradigms for North Indian tabla solo composition and improvisation. The Society for Asian Music recognized Vivek with the Martin D. Hatch prize for the best student paper related to Asian Music presented at the 2015 meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology. Vivek is also a versatile performer. He regularly performs interfaith bhajan, kirtan, qawwali and other spiritual songs in a mix of traditional and contemporary styles.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**



**Name:** Pudur Jagadeeswaran

**Title:** Professor, Division of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Director

**Department:** Biological Sciences

**College:** College of Science

**Email:** [jag@unt.edu](mailto:jag@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://biology.unt.edu/people/pudur-jagadeeswaran>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Pudur Jagadeeswaran teaches classes in the following subjects: Medical Genetics and Genetic Counseling and Nature News and Views. His research interests include the genetics of blood disease, thrombosis and thrombopoiesis. His degrees include Doctor of Philosophy Biochemistry Indian Institute of Science and Master of Science Biochemistry University of Madras, both from India.



**Name:** Bibhudutta Rout

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Physics

**College:** College of Science

**Email:** [bibhu@unt.edu](mailto:bibhu@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://physics.unt.edu/people/bibhudutta-rout-phd>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Dr. Rout is actively pursuing research in several experimental areas involving condensed matter physics, materials science, nano-science and technology. His current research interests include materials analysis and modification using high energy focused ion beams; Growth and analysis of micro-nanostructures using UHV techniques involving MBE, E-beam, Ion beam.

## University of North Texas India Initiatives Group



**Name:** Jyoti Shah

**Title:** Professor- University Distinguished Research Professor

**Department:** Biological Sciences

**College:** College of Science

**Email:** [Jyoti.shah@unt.edu](mailto:Jyoti.shah@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://biology.unt.edu/people/jyoti-shah>; <https://bdi.unt.edu/content/jyoti-shah>

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Shah was recruited in 2007 to the University of North Texas, where he rose to the rank of Professor and was subsequently honored with the title of University Distinguished Research Professor. Over the past 20 years, Shah has developed an internationally acclaimed program in the area of plant defense signaling and the role of lipids in stress response. His lab pioneered work on developing tools to develop a model system for studying plant defense against aphids. In addition, his group discovered a novel signaling role for the diterpenoid dehydroabietinal in plant defense and the transition to reproductive development. Shah has applied these discoveries to develop strategies for enhancing resistance in wheat to the Fusarium head blight disease. Shah has contributed to more than 100 publications that have over 9500 citations. Shah's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Agriculture and the US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative.

**University of North Texas  
India Initiatives Group**

**COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN**



**Name:** Lisa Owen

**Title:** Associate Professor

**Department:** Art Education and Art History

**College:** College of Visual Arts and Design

**Email:** [Lisa.Owen@unt.edu](mailto:Lisa.Owen@unt.edu)

**Faculty Page:** <https://art.unt.edu/people/lisa-n-owen>

**Areas of Expertise:**

Lisa N. Owen received her Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently an Associate Professor at UNT. While her teaching embraces all aspects of South Asian art, Dr. Owen's research focuses on ancient and medieval rock-cut monuments in India. She is particularly interested in the ways that sacred space is articulated in this medium and how carved imagery and space shape devotional practices. Her interests also include the production of imagery in ancient India, patterns of patronage, and constructions of identity. Dr. Owen's fieldwork in India has been supported by an American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Fellowship, a Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholar Award, and a Howard Foundation Fellowship. She has presented her work at numerous venues, including the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, the India International Centre, Oxford University, the University of London, Yale University, and the University of Toronto.