

SCHOOL OF SANSKRIT, PHILOSOPHY AND INDIC STUDIES • GOA UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATING UNIVERSAL WISDOM WITH INDIVIDUAL CONTEXTS PHILOSOPHICAL COUNSELLING IN PRACTICE

An online presentation by

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30 NOVEMBER 2024, SATURDAY

4:00–6:00 PM

[MEET.GOOGLE.COM/QUP-WFTD-DYG](https://meet.google.com/QUP-WFTD-DYG)

ABSTRACT

Everyday human life is an attempt to harmonise the universal wisdom to the specific contexts of existence to make sense of, what we call, 'Living.' Philosophical counselling, one of the recently emerged fields of philosophical practices, helps the counsees to discover, identify and regulate the universal wisdom of the individual and community in addressing everyday 'living' concerns through dialogue. In this particular sense, philosophical counselling is therapeutic in nature. This presentation addresses the following concerns, which are crucial to 'harmonising universal wisdom to individual contexts.' What role does the philosophical counsellor play in helping the counselee resolve the concern? What qualifications and expertise does the counsellor require to lead the counselee to a successful resolution? What role does the context play in binding/liberating the counselee to/from the concern? Can universal wisdom resolve context-specific concerns? How to address the concerns which are culturally rooted? Can a philosophical counsellor use his traditional philosophical expertise (say, Indian philosophy) in the counselling process? If so, what are the limitations? How to address 'insider' and 'outsider' problems in counselling? This presentation, while addressing the above concerns, will talk about some instances from some previous counselling sessions.

BIO

Prof. Balaganapathi Devarakonda is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Delhi, Delhi. He was with the University of West Indies, Jamaica, as ICCR Chair for Indology and Gandhian Studies during 2022–2024. His research interests are in the Historiography of Indian Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Social & Political Philosophy and Philosophical Practice. In addition to teaching and research, Prof. Bala is a Certified Philosophical Counselor by the American Philosophy Practitioners Association (APPA) New York. He serves APPA as a board member of the International Faculty. He is one of the founding Directors of the Philosophical Practitioners Association of India (PPAI), a non-profit organization established to promote philosophical practice in India. Prof. Bala is an elected member of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP) steering committee (2024). He is a Project Fellow of "Great Transition in India: A Korean Perspective on Indian Studies" by the Institute of Indian Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea (2021–2024). A project themed Systemic Approach and Analysis to Neuro-Philosophical Wellness Solution is coinvestigated by him in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, Ramjas College, New Delhi & SAANS Foundation, New Delhi, funded by ICPR, New Delhi (2021–2024). He is working on a project titled "Yoga Consciousness in Mahabharata: The Ethical Value for societal/political Wellbeing" (SPARC, 2019–2023). Prof. Bala has widely published with highly reputed publishing houses and journals like Springer, SAGE, etc.

