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THE MATTOO CENTER FOR INDIA STUDIES

presents

God in the Vedanta Tradition

Professor Edwin Bryant

Rutgers University



Monotheism is usually characterized as a development exclusive to the Abrahamic traditions. This talk will problematize this stereotype, by considering the ways in which the various Vedanta traditions have construed the notion of a supreme Creator God. The Vedanta traditions all accept the notion of Isvara, a personal creator God, and correlate this Being with Brahman, the highest Truth expressed in the ancient Upanishads, the oldest mystico-philosophical texts in ancient India. They differ as to whether this personal Being is the primary ultimate expression of Brahman, or a secondary Truth derived from a still higher impersonal Being. This talk will examine these understandings of Isvara, and explore how the differences are rooted in the Upanishads themselves.

Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 6 P.M.

Humanities Building, Lecture Hall 1006

Edwin Bryant is Professor of Hinduism at Rutgers University. He has published books on Vedic history (*In Quest of the Origins of Vedic Culture; Indo-Aryan Controversy*), Yoga (*The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*, translation and interpretation), Indian philosophy (*Free Will, Agency and Selfhood in Indian Philosophy*), and the Krishna tradition (*Krishna: A Source Book; Krishna: The Beautiful Legend of God* (translation of *Srimad Bhagavata Purana* Book X)). He has just completed a new book, *Bhakti Yoga in the Krishna tradition* (forthcoming).

This lecture is free and open to the public. All are cordially invited.

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