

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS™

Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture By

*Dr. A. Whitney Sanford*

## Invited to the Dance

*Hindu Narratives of Agriculture and Tropes of  
Environmental Discourse*



Hindu narratives of agriculture invite us to reconsider our framework for intervention upon the earth as it relates to agricultural practice. Agriculture clearly is a process of intervention, and environmental discourse has failed to include agriculture in its discussions.

Hindu narratives of agricultural deities Balarama and Prthu and their relationship to the earth suggest models of relationship in which the earth is a partner and an active moral agent.



These stories exist in a larger context of social and familial obligations in which the social and agricultural health of the community are linked; Balarama and Prthu are agricultural and protective deities, and their responsibilities include insuring the earth's fecundity

These Hindu narratives along with extant models of partnership and relationship offer guidelines for developing criteria to evaluate the quality of human-nature interventions.

*A. Whitney Sanford is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Iowa State University.*

**Thursday, September 15, 7:30 pm in EESAT 178**

This lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or  
[philosophy@unt.edu](mailto:philosophy@unt.edu)

