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Prof. Sangeetha Menon is a philosopher with a doctorate awarded for the thesis entitled "the concept of consciousness in the Bhagavad Gita" a major text of Indian philosophy. Her educational background is in biology, philosophy and psychology. A gold-medalist and first-rank holder for postgraduate studies, she received national University Grants Commission fellowship for her doctoral studies for five years. She is a Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, in the campus of Indian Institute of Science and joined NIAS in 1996, with particular interest in consciousness studies in the larger context of science-spirituality-art interface issues.

Dr Menon has been working in the area of consciousness studies for over eighteen years. She has given numerous [lectures](#) and presentations in her country and also in United States and Europe on wide-ranging issues relating to consciousness, mind, and science-spirituality interface issues. Her [publications](#) cover areas that concern consciousness studies, brain sciences, altruism, aesthetics, Indian psychology and science-spirituality-art dialogues. The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology published an article on her research work and unique contributions (2002) to bring consciousness studies into the Indian psychological context addressing scientific and spiritual questions. "The Beyond Experience: Consciousness in Bhagavad Gita" is Menon's latest book (2007, Blue Jay Books, New Delhi). Her book "Dialogues: Philosopher meets the Seer" (2003, Srishti Publishers) is a set of nine dialogues with her spiritual teacher HH Swami Bodhananda on socio-cultural issues of contemporary importance and the common concerns of science and spiritual quest.

Her core [research](#) interests are Indian ways of thinking in classical philosophical schools, Indian psychology and Indian dramaturgy and current discussions on 'consciousness'. With her colleagues she has been responsible for organising many interdisciplinary meetings on consciousness, and to bring leading members from the scientific community and spiritual/philosophical world for constructive dialogues. She has co-organised landmark national and international conferences in India such as "Scientific and Philosophical Studies in Consciousness" (1998, NIAS) which was the first conference in India on this subject bringing together scientists, philosophers et.al to seek answers for fundamental questions on consciousness and human identity. The other major conferences she has co-organised are "Science and Metaphysics: Consciousness and Genetics" (2002, NIAS); "Science and Beyond" (2003, NIAS); "Consciousness, Experience and Ways of Knowing" (2006, NIAS). Major scientific and philosophical institutions in India, United States and Europe supported these conferences. She is an Advisor for the Dharma Association for North America a leading association for Indian diaspora in North America. She has been recently invited to be an Advisor for "Vedanta Today", and the programme on Art/Science/Spirituality Reconnections being jointly organised by Al Andalus Foundation and Leonardo/OLATS. She is also involved with non-profit educational and charity foundations in India. In August 2007 she was invited to be a distinguished member of the *International Society for Science and Religion* whose 100 plus invited members, in science, philosophy and other disciplines, include Nobel laureates.

Dr. Menon has co-edited four books: "Consciousness, Experience and Ways of Knowing: Perspectives from Science, Philosophy and the Arts" (2006, NIAS), "Science and Beyond: Cosmology, consciousness and technology in Indic traditions" (2004, NIAS), "Consciousness and Genetics" (2002, NIAS) and "Scientific and Philosophical Studies on Consciousness" (1999, NIAS). She has several publications in peer-reviewed journals, and contributed chapters on a variety of issues relating to science & religion, self, mind and consciousness. Her chapter on "Hinduism and Science" that appeared in the recently published Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science (2006, OUP) gives a fresh outlook on this issue. She has also authored few monographs on consciousness in the context of Indian thought. Presently she is engaged in writing a book on 'Consciousness and Agency' as part of an international award entitled 'Global Perspectives on Science and Spirituality' she received from Universite Interdisciplinaire de Paris, and Elon University supported by Templeton Foundation.

She has been awarded two prestigious national awards for her achievements in the field of consciousness and Indian contributions. A few years back she was awarded the national award of "Young Philosopher Award" (2003) from Indian Council of Philosophical Research, for her research work. Dr Menon has visited and spoken at many Universities in her country and United States, Germany, Paris, Italy, Spain, England, Melbourne and Japan. She was a Visiting Professor at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS), Oxford University (Trinity Term, 2007), and at the Nanzan Institute of Religion and Culture, Nanzan University, Japan (Fall, 2007). Recently she was invited to be a panelist at the World Parliament of

Religions, Melbourne 2009, on three sessions that were sponsored by ISSR on Science, Spirituality and Environment. Along with her, the seven panelists included Dr Peter Doherty the Nobel prize winner for Medicine in 1996.

Apart from her academic interests she writes poetry, fiction and is an avid photographer, artist and web-designer. For further details see www.samvada.com