DR. SHAMI ULLA

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

UGC-NET JRF qualified philosopher and educator with a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Delhi (2025), specializing in Normative and Applied Ethics, Medical Ethics, and Indian Philosophy, Logic, Western Philosophy. Author of peer-reviewed journal articles, Book review and book chapters on the ethics of euthanasia, deductive models of ethical application, and reflective equilibrium, with an active record of eight national and international conference presentations, including at the Akhil Bhartiya Darshan Parishad and other national philosophy conferences. Experienced in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) pedagogy through academic counselling and assignment evaluation at IGNOU. Brings scholarly depth in Ethics, Meta-Ethics, and Indian Philosophy together with a commitment to rigorous, learner-centered instruction.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) • New Delhi *2025 – 2026*

Academic Counsellor & Evaluator – Philosophy

- Conducted academic counselling sessions for undergraduate and postgraduate distance-learning students, clarifying core concepts in Ethics, Indian Philosophy, and Critical Thinking within the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) framework.
- Evaluated Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs) and term-end responses, providing structured, constructive feedback to strengthen learners' analytical writing and argumentation skills.
- Guided distance learners many balancing work and study through self-instructional material, helping bridge the gap between independent study and conceptual clarity.
- Supported a learner-centered counselling approach suited to adult and non-traditional students, reinforcing accessibility and inclusivity in higher education.
- Guest Assistant professor of ethics, Centre of Human value and ethics, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University Dwarka India 1st August 2026 to December 2026

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Developing A Post Doc. Project
Title: Evidence Based Medicine and Applied Ethics: Towards A Critical Ethical Framework

Ph.D. – Philosophy *2025*
University of Delhi
Thesis: "A Critical Study of Problem-Solving Models in Applied Ethics"
Supervisor: Dr. Krishna Mani Pathak, Hindu College, University of Delhi

UGC-NET – JRF & Assistant Professor *2018*
University Grants Commission, India — subsequently elevated to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)

M.A. – Philosophy *2017*
University of Allahabad

B.A. – Philosophy *2015*
University of Allahabad

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Normative & Applied Ethics | Medical Ethics | Critical Thinking & Decision-Making | Philosophical Counseling | Indian Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

1. Theory-Laden Model of Ethical Applications and Ethics of Euthanasia. *History and Philosophy of Medicine,* 2022. ISSN 2624-4888.
2. Sushasan Hetu Prashasan ke Abhivrittayatmak Mulya. *Darshnik Traimasik* (Care-listed), 2021. ISSN 0974-8849.
3. Anubhavgat Niti Shastra ki Prakriti. *Darshnik Traimasik* (Care-listed), 2021. ISSN 09748849.
4. Bhashashastriya aur Sanvrittishastriya Naitik Prarup ka Aalochnatmak Adhyayan. *Sandarshan* (peer-reviewed), 2023 ISSN 0975-0835.

Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)

1. What Disconfirms a Deductive Model of Ethical Application? In *Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice,* 2021. ISBN 9789386402561.
2. Is Moral Theory Harmful in Moral Practice? In *Contemporary Issues in Applied Ethics* (forthcoming).
3. A Critical Study of the Idea of Reflective Equilibrium. *In Contemporary Issues in Practical Ethics* (forthcoming).

Book Review

1. Review of Arundhati Virmani, Jean Boutier & Manohar Kumar (eds.), Social Scientists in the Civic Space: Ethical Perspectives on Democratic Involvement (Taylor & Francis, 2024). Published on the Indian Philosophy Network Blog.
2. Review of Shyam Ranganathan, Moral Philosophy and De-Colonialism: The Irrationality of Oppression (Bloomsbury Academic, 2026). Upcoming in the Journal of *The Philosopher* 2026.

Book in Preparation

India and Western Models of Applied Ethics: Ethical Decision-Making (target completion 2027).

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

1. *Healing Harmony: The Utility of Therapeutic Dimensions of Zikr and Naam-Jap in Mental Health.* International Conference on Art and Literature in the Religious Texts of Islam and Hinduism, Maulana Azad College of Arts, Aurangabad (session hosted by the Culture House, Embassy of I.R. Iran, New Delhi) — December 2024.
2. *Is Moral Theory Harmful in Moral Practice?* Two-Day National Conference on Contemporary Issues in Applied Ethics, Department of Philosophy, Kurukshetra University — November 2022.
3. *Anuprayukta Neetishastra ka Swaroop: Ek Vishleshanatmak Adhyayan.* 66th National Convention, Akhil Bhartiya Darshan Parishad, Jamnagar, Gujarat — October 2022.
4. *Heidegger ke Vyavaharik Naitik Darshan ka Swaroop.* 37th Annual Convention, Purva-Uttar Bharat Darshan Parishad (sponsored by ICPR), Children's College and Schools, Azamgarh — July 2022.
5. 65th National Convention, Akhil Bhartiya Darshan Parishad, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha — August 2021.
6. *What Disconfirms a Deductive Model of Ethical Applications.* Interdisciplinary National Conference on Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi — January 2020.
7. *A Tool-Box of Moral Reasoning to Resolve Practical Problems.* 13th Annual Conference, Bhartiya Mahila Darshanik Parishad, University of Mumbai — January 2020.
8. *The Concept of Moral Flexibility.* 34th National Conference of Darshan Parishad (Uttar Bharat Darshan Parishad), University of Allahabad — May 2019.

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Pedagogical: Curriculum Planning | Student Mentoring | Academic Assessment | Open & Distance Learning | Instructional Design
- Academic & Research: Academic Writing | Research Methodology | Critical Analysis | Literature Review | Peer Review | APA, Chicago & MLA Referencing style
- Technical: Microsoft Word | Excel | PowerPoint | Google Workspace | Online Teaching Platforms | Academic Databases | Academic AI
- Languages: English (Professional Proficiency) | Hindi (Native/Professional) | Urdu

(Professional) | Persian (Working Knowledge)

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- UGC NET-JRF & Assistant Professor, 2018 — Junior Research Fellowship in Philosophy, University Grants Commission (subsequently elevated to Senior Research Fellowship, SRF 2023).
- Life Member, Darshan Parishad Philosophy Association, Department of Philosophy, University of Allahabad — publisher of the peer-reviewed journal Sandarshan (ISSN 09750835).
- Life Member, Akhil Bhartiya Darshan Parishad, New Delhi India — publisher of the peer-reviewed Darshnik Traimasik (ISSN 09748849).
- Life Member, Mahila Darshan Parishad, India— publisher of the peer-reviewed journal Jijivisha.

3 REFERENCES

Dr. K. M. Pathak (Supervisor of PhD)
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Prof. Debashis Guha (Prof. in Master)
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Dr. Bheem Kumar (Prof. in Master)
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Dr. Anjali Sharma
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Letter of Interest: Dr. Shami Ulla

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3 November 2026

Dr. James A. Hynds
Director, Ethics Center and Director, Clinical Ethics Fellowship Program
UCLA Health Ethics Center, Los Angeles, California

Re: Post-Doctoral Clinical Ethics Fellowship (Ref. 33295)

Dear Dr. Hynds and Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply for the two-year Post-Doctoral Clinical Ethics Fellowship)2027–2029(at the UCLA Health Ethics Center. I hold a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Delhi (2025), with a dissertation on methods of moral reasoning in applied ethics, with medical ethics as a central field of application: *A Critical Study of Problem-Solving Models in Applied Ethics*. I am seeking this fellowship because I want my philosophical training to become a clinical skill: helping patients, families and care teams reason well together when the right course of action is genuinely contested.

Methods of ethical reasoning at the bedside. My doctoral research asks a question that sits at the heart of ethics consultation: how should general moral principles be brought to bear on particular, messy cases? I examined top-down (deductive) application, case-based reasoning, reflective equilibrium and empirical ethics, and argued that context-sensitive models are better suited to practice than the mechanical application of theory. This work appears in "What Disconfirms a Deductive Model of Ethical Application?")2021(and in forthcoming chapters on whether moral theory can be harmful in moral practice and on reflective equilibrium. I see the ASBH Core Competencies for Health Care Ethics Consultation as the practical expression of these ideas, and I am eager to be formally trained and assessed against them.

End-of-life care, evidence and patient values. My article "Theory-Laden Model of Ethical Applications and Ethics of Euthanasia" (*History and Philosophy of Medicine*, 2022) engages the end-of-life questions that run through goals-of-care, surrogate decision-making and advance care planning consultations. My current developing postdoctoral project, "Evidence-Based Medicine and Applied Ethics: Towards a Critical Ethical Framework", examines how hierarchies of evidence can quietly carry value judgments and sideline patient narratives, and it proposes practical tools such as clearer informed-consent templates and clinical-justification rubrics. That combination of conceptual analysis and policy design is what I hope to bring to the Center's policy-development work and its three ethics committees.

Cross-cultural and spiritual care. I work in English and Hindi My recent conference paper on the therapeutic dimensions of *Zikr* and *Naam-Jap* in mental health reflects a sustained interest in how Islamic and Hindu spiritual practices shape patients' experience of illness. In a city as diverse as Los Angeles, I believe this cultural and religious literacy can help me listen carefully to families whose moral and spiritual frameworks may differ from those of their care team.

Teaching and communication. As an Academic Counsellor and Evaluator in Philosophy at IGNOU, India's national open university, I have taught ethics to adult learners, many balancing work and study, which taught me to explain difficult ideas plainly and to give constructive feedback. I would bring this to the Center's education across UCLA Health. I also hold the UGC-NET Junior and Senior Research Fellowships and have presented at eight national and international conferences.

My training so far has been philosophical rather than clinical, and that is precisely why the intensive, mentored structure of UCLA's program, its high-volume caseload and its record of graduates leading clinical ethics services, appeals to me. Over the longer term I hope to help build professional clinical ethics consultation in India, where it is still developing. I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss my application, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shami Ulla