

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
Presents talk on**

**Philosophy as a Way of Life in India: Rethinking the Concept of Philosophy Across
Cultures with Pierre Hadot (1922-2010)**



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DEPARTMENT LIBRARY**

Abstract: The ground-breaking scholarship of the French philologist and historian of philosophy Pierre Hadot (1922-2010) has been instrumental in recent years to rethinking the nature and function of philosophy. As is well known, Hadot showed that Greco-Roman philosophy was a way of life that aimed at the attainment of wisdom (sophia) through the practice of philosophical discourse and a set of "spiritual exercises." He stressed that the goal of classical Western philosophy was self-transformation and the attainment of peace of mind (ataraxia), inner freedom (autarkeia) and cosmic consciousness. In recent PWL scholarship, philosophy as a way of life (PWL) is emerging as both, a distinctive metaphilosophy and a specific historiography.

The aim of this talk is twofold. First, I will present an overview of the main claims made by Pierre Hadot concerning PWL and show how they challenge our current hegemonic assumptions about the nature and function of philosophy. Second, I will argue that in addition to being a metaphilosophy and a historiography, PWL is a fruitful framework for a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary engagement with Indian philosophy and South Asian religions.

About the Speaker: Prof Pawel Odyniec is Lecturer in Religious Studies, Karlstad University, Sweden. Pawel Odyniec is an Indologist with philological competence in two South Asian languages and three MA degrees in Philosophy, History of Religions, and Indian Philosophy and Religion. His research covers the areas of Indian philosophy and philosophical theology, South Asian religions (Hinduism and Buddhism), and intercultural Philosophy as a Way of Life.