

**4th Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Chair
in Sikh Studies Conference**



**“Living and Making *Sikhi* in the Diaspora:
The Millennial Generation Comes of Age”
May 8-10, 2015**

Conference Program

(All Panels will be in the Interdisciplinary Building Symposium Room, INTS 1113)

Friday, May 8th

8:30am Hotel Pickup (van leaves hotel)

8:45am Registration and Tea/Coffee

9:00am Welcome—Dr. Paul D’Anieri, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, UC Riverside, CA, USA

Introduction—Dr. Pashaura Singh, Professor & Dr. J.S. Saini Chair in Sikh & Punjabi Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

Opening Plenary—“Sikh Millennials in the Diaspora”—Dr. Verne A. Dusenbery, Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Global Studies Department, Hamline University, Saint Paul, MN, USA

9:45am Panel #1: Sikh Environmental Activism

Chair: Dr. Bruce La Brack, Professor Emeritus, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, USA

“Engaging the Environment: Some Social and Political Dimensions of Diaspora Sikhism”—Dr. Nicola Mooney, Associate Professor, Department of Social, Cultural and Media Studies & Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, University of the Fraser Valley, BC, Canada

“EcoSikh and the Transnational Reformation of Sikh Practice”—Dr. Susan Prill, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, USA

11:00am Break

11:20am Panel #2: Sikh Socio-Political Activism and the ‘Camping’ Movement

Chair: Dr. Mohinder Singh, Director, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi, India

“Social and Political Activism amongst British Sikhs: Responses to Issues of Equality and Human Rights—a New Way Forward?”—Dr. Opinderjit Kaur Takhar, Senior Lecturer, Department of Religion and Philosophy, University of Wolverhampton, UK

“A Generation of Change: The Case of the Sikh Activist Network in Ontario”—Zabeen Khamisa, Doctoral Student, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

“Being a ‘Samelan-nite’: Participation in Sikh youth groups and *Sikhi* camps In Malaysia and Singapore”—Dr. Arunajeet Kaur, Independent Consultant, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, Singapore

1:00pm Lunch

2:15pm Panel #3: Sikh Millennials at Work and Marriage in the United States

Chair: Dr. Michael Alexander, Associate Professor of Religious Studies,
UC Riverside, CA, USA

“Sikh American Millennials at Work: Institution Building, Activism, and a Renaissance of Cultural Expression”—Dr. Sangeeta K. Luthra,
Anthropology Department, Santa Clara University, CA, USA

“Millennial Sikhs in a Capitalist Economy”—Dr. Nirvikar Singh, Professor and
Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies, UC Santa Cruz,
CA, USA

“Sikh and other South Asian Second-generation Marriages in the US”—Dr. Karen
Leonard, Professor Emerita, UC Irvine, CA, USA

3:45pm Break

4:00pm Panel #4: Roundtable Panel on Sikh Activism

Chair: Dr. Charles M. Townsend, Religious Studies Department, UC Riverside,
CA, USA

Sapreet Kaur, Executive Director, The Sikh Coalition

Navdeep Singh, Policy Director, SALDEF (Sikh American Legal Defense and
Education Fund)

Ravneet Kaur, Director of Development, Jakara Movement

6:00pm Reception Dinner at UCR Pentland Hills ‘Bear Cave’

Special Remarks—Dr. Kim A. Wilcox, Chancellor, UC Riverside, CA, USA

Dr. Shaun Bowler, Interim Dean, College of Humanities Arts and Social
Sciences, UC Riverside, CA, USA

Keynote Speech—Dr. Gurmohan Singh Walia, Vice Chancellor, Sri Guru
Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sirhind, Punjab, India

Dr. Bruce La Brack and Dr. Karen Leonard will be honored for their contributions
to the study of Sikhs and Punjabis in North America



Young Sikh Americans at the head of a parade in Riverside.

Saturday, May 9th

8:30am Hotel Pickup (van leaves hotel)

8:45am Tea/Coffee in conference room

9:00am Panel #5: Sikh Millennials in the United Kingdom

Chair: Dr. Gurinder Singh Mann, Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair in Sikh Studies, UC Santa Barbara, CA, USA

“Educated Millennial Sikhs: Higher Education, Social Mobility and Identity Formation among British Sikh Youth”—Dr. Shinder S. Thandi, Coventry University, UK

“Peaceful Warriors—Awakening the *Nihang* Warrior Spirit in British Sikhs”—Satnam Singh, Copenhagen, Denmark

“Why should UK Sikh Gurdwaras form a Representative, Accountable and Constitutional National Body?”—Dr. Sujinder Singh Sangha (OBE, FRSA), Principal & CEO (retired) of Stockton Riverside College, UK

10:50am Break

11:10am Panel #6: Music and the Internet in the Transmission of Sikhism

Chair: Dr. Matthew King, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“Sikh Youth of North America and the *Bhangra* Circuit”—Ashveer Pal Singh, Doctoral Student, Stanford University, CA, USA

“The ‘*Kirtan* Generation’ in the Making of an ‘American Sikhism’”—Dr. Charles M. Townsend, Religious Studies Department, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“The Guru Online: The Role of the Internet and of the Digital Guru in the Religious Lives of Millennial Generation Sikhs”—Dr. Jasjit Singh, Research Fellow, University of Leeds, UK



Young Sikh Americans perform *kirtan* in a southern California gurdwara.

1:00pm Lunch

2:15pm Panel #7: Texts, Scriptures, Literature, and Millennial Sikhs

Chair: Dr. Amanda J. Lucia, Associate Professor of Religious Studies,
UC Riverside, CA

“Translating Sikh Scripture for the Millennial Generation”—Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Crawford Family Professor of Religion and Chair of Religious Studies Department, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, USA

“Teaching Identity Through a Textual Relationship: Modern *Janam-sakhi* Presentations and Millennial Audiences”—Dr. Toby Braden Johnson, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“Sikh ‘Second Generation’ Diaspora Autobiographies/Autobiographical Novels in European Languages”—Dr. Knut A. Jacobsen, Professor of History of Religions, University of Bergen, Norway

3:50pm Break

4:10pm Panel #8 Navigating Inter-Generational and Inter-Group Dynamics In Europe

Chair: Dr. Michael Hawley, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

“Sikh Youths in Italy: Some Reflections from a Case Study”—Dr. Barbara Bertolani, Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Economic Sociology at University of Molise, Italy

“Reforming *Sikhi* and Re-devising the Panth: The Influence of the Singh Sabha Movement on the Sikh ‘*Jathebandian*’ in the United Kingdom”—Dr. Kamalroop Singh, UK

Film Screening: “Italian Sikhs”—Dr. Barbara Bertolani will lead the discussion

6:30pm Dinner at Punjab Palace hosted by Dr. Harkeerat Singh Dhillon



Young Sikh Americans do *gatka* (Sikh martial art) in Riverside.

Sunday, May 10th

8:30am Hotel Pickup (van leaves hotel)

8:45am Tea/Coffee in conference room

9:00am Panel #9 Sikh Community Panel on Pioneer Sikhs

Chair: Dr. Karen Leonard, Professor Emerita, UC Irvine, CA, USA

“Sikh Pioneers: Struggle for Citizenship and Property Rights in America 1918-1946”—Dr. Gurmel Singh Sidhu, Professor of Biology, California State University, Fresno, CA, USA

“Reevaluating the Origin and Inspiration of Sikh Pioneers in Ghadar Movement 1907 to 1918”—Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation, Anaheim, CA, USA

“Role of Sikh Pioneers in Babbar Akali Movement 1922-1923 for India’s Freedom Struggle, and its Significance Today”—Dr. Baljeet Singh Sahi, Sikhs For Preservation of Sikhism and Sikh Heritage, CA, USA

“Ghadar Lehar and Lala Hardayal’s Life & Activities”—Jatinder Singh Hundal, Sacramento, CA, USA

10:45am Break

11:05am Film Screening and Discussion: “*Waking in Oak Creek*”—
Dr. Charles M. Townsend will lead the discussion

12:15 Closing Plenary

Chair: Dr. Muhamad Ali, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“Will the Millennial Generation Redefine *Sikhi*?: A New Way of Knowing and Being a Sikh in North America”—Dr. Pashaura Singh, Professor and Dr. J. S. Saini Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA

1:00pm Lunch



Conference Organizers



Dr. Pashaura Singh is Professor and Dr. J.S. Saini Chair in Sikh & Punjabi Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). This is the fourth conference on Sikhism and south Asian religions that he has organized under the auspices of the Dr. J.S. Saini Chair at UCR. Before coming to UCR (in 2005), he taught Sikh Studies, Punjabi language, and Religions of India for thirteen years at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His publications include *Life and Work of Guru Arjan* (OUP, 2006) which was on the “Best Sellers List” in India, *The Bhagats of the Guru Granth Sahib: Sikh Self-Definition and the Bhagat Bani* (OUP, 2003), *The Guru Granth Sahib: Canon, Meaning, and Authority* (OUP, 2000), and several edited and co-edited volumes, including the *Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies* (OUP, 2014).



Dr. Verne A. (Van) Dusenbery is Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Global Studies Department at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He has longstanding interests in the Sikh diaspora, having done work with Sikhs in North America, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Punjab. His books include a collection of essays, *Sikhs at Large: Religion, Culture, and Politics in Global Perspective* (OUP, 2008), plus three edited volumes: *The Sikh Diaspora: Migration and the Experience Beyond Punjab* (Chanakya, 1989), with N. Gerald Barrier; *A Punjabi Sikh Community in Australia: From Indian Sojourners to Australian Citizens* (WNC, 2001), with Rashmere Bhatti; and *Sikh Diaspora Philanthropy in Punjab: Global Giving for Local Good* (OUP, 2009), with Darshan S. Tatla.



Dr. Charles M. Townsend is a Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). He has conducted ethnographic research within Sikh communities (primarily in the U.S.) for almost a decade, focusing especially on the transnational mass movement to teach young Sikhs *Gurbani kirtan* (the Sikh sacred musical tradition). His published academic work has included editing a special issue of the journal *Sikh Formations* (10:3, Dec. 2014) on the subject of *Engaging Sikh Texts, Practices, and Performances*, and authoring article-length pieces including: “Performance’ and ‘Lived Religion’ Approaches as New Ways of ‘Re-Imagining’ Sikh Studies” (in Singh and Hawley, Brill, 2013), and “*Gurbani Kirtan* and the Performance of Sikh Identity in California” (in Pashaura Singh [ed.], OUP, 2011).

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Gurmohan Singh Walia is the Vice-Chancellor of Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, (Punjab, India). He previously served as Director of Education of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which runs 45 Colleges and 75 Schools in India. His major area of research is Indian writings in English. He is the author of *Existentialism in the Fiction of Anita Desai & Arun Joshi* (Unistar, 2006), the editor of a book titled *Corporate Governance in India—Emerging Paradigms* (Mata Gujri College, 2007), and he has published a number of research papers and articles in different journals and newspapers. He has also presided over and delivered keynote addresses in many national and international conferences and seminars in India and abroad.

Honorees



Dr. Bruce La Brack, Professor Emeritus, University of the Pacific, (CA, USA) is a cultural anthropologist who has conducted over forty years of research on the impact of the South Asian Diaspora outside Punjab, primarily in North America, also in East Africa, England, and India. He has held an American Institute of Indian Studies (New Delhi) Language Fellowship, and a Fulbright grant for study in India. Dr. La Brack has published extensively on overseas South Asians, particularly Sikhs/Punjabis in North America, and is the author of an ethnographic study, *The Sikhs of Northern California: 1904-1975*. His most recent article (2015) is “Punjabi’s in the United States” (in Rajan, Varghese, & Nanda, Cambridge, 2015



Dr. Karen Isaksen Leonard, Professor Emerita, UC Irvine (CA, USA) is an historian and anthropologist at the University of California, Irvine. With a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin (1969) on the history of India, she has published on the social history and anthropology of India and also on Punjabi Mexican Americans, South Asian Americans, and Muslim Americans. Her extensive published work on Punjabi Americans, and South Asian Americans more broadly, includes *Locating Home: India's Hyderabadis Abroad* (Stanford University Press (2007), *South Asian Americans* (Greenwood Press, 1997), and *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992).

UC Riverside Administrators



Dr. Kim A. Wilcox is UC Riverside's 9th Chancellor. Since his 2013 appointment, he has embarked on the expansion of UCR's faculty by 300 ladder-ranked positions; the development of new facilities for research, teaching, and public service; and a new emphasis on institutional globalization. Prior to coming to UCR, Dr. Wilcox served as the provost of Michigan State University from 2005-2013. Trained in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Dr. Wilcox formerly held faculty positions at the University of Missouri and University of Kansas.



Dr. Paul J. D'Anieri is Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at UC Riverside and serves as the chief academic and operating officer, providing academic leadership to the entire university, managing day-to-day operations of the campus, overseeing resource allocation, and serving as a member of the campus leadership team. A political scientist, his expertise is in Eastern European and post-Soviet affairs. His textbook, *International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs*, is in its third edition (Thomson Wadsworth).



Dr. Shaun Bowler is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Interim Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at UC Riverside. His research interests include comparative electoral systems and voting behavior. He is the co-author (with Todd Donovan) of *Demanding Choices: Opinion Voting and Direct Democracy* (University of Michigan Press, 1998) and has published articles in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, and *American Politics Quarterly*.

UC Riverside Sikh Chair Supporters

The **Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini** Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies is the result of generous contributions given by the Saini Foundation, the Sikh Foundation, and by a number of individuals and the University. The title of the Chair honors the memory of the late **Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini**, who was a cardiologist in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany is the founder and Chairman of the Sikh Foundation, a non-profit organization that conducts programs in publishing, academics, and the arts. As a scientist and inventor, Dr. Kapany is widely recognized as the "father of fiber-optics" and holds over 100 patents. Throughout his life and career, he has also been an entrepreneur, business executive, professor, philanthropist, art collector, and an artist himself.

Dr. Harkeerat Singh Dhillon, MD is an orthopedic and hand Surgeon at the Riverside Medical Clinic (Riverside, CA, USA). Since 2004, he has been a Trustee of the University of California Riverside Foundation and chaired the Campaign for Sikh Studies at UC Riverside. He is on the Board of Advisors at California Baptist University and is a Board Member of the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties. Dr. Dhillon is the Founder and President of the Riverside International Film Festival and the Producer of a feature film, *Beyond Honor* (2004). Additionally, he is the author of *Invisible Hands: A Book of Poetry* (2011), and *Misty Darkness: A Book of Poetry* (2015).



Speakers



Dr. Barbara Bertolani is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Molise, Italy where she teaches Sociology and Economic Sociology. Her research focuses on Sikhs and Punjabis in Italy, on transnational Sikh families, and on cultural and religious identity of second-generation Sikhs. Her recent publications include “Transnational Sikh marriages in Italy” (in Jacobsen & Myrvold, Bloomsbury, 2012); “The Sikhs in Italy: A Growing Heterogeneous and Plural Presence” (in Giordan & Swatos, Brill, 2013); and “Punjabis in Italy: The Role of Ethnic and Family Networks in Immigration and Social Integration” (in Rajan, Varghese & Nanda, Cambridge, 2015).



Jatinder Singh Hundal graduated from Oregon State in 1985. He is currently based in Sacramento and works as an Electronics Engineer with the State of California. His research interests in Sikh Studies include Sikh Numismatics and the history of the Sikh community’s struggle for survival. His articles on technical and community issues have appeared in international technical and academic publications. He has been an active participant in Sikh community events since 1984 and is involved with organizations dedicated to seeking justice.



Dr. Knut A. Jacobsen is Professor in the History of religions at the University of Bergen, Norway. His main fields of research are religions of South Asia and South Asian diasporas. He is the author or editor of around thirty books, including three edited volumes on Sikhs: *Sikhs in Europe: Migration, Identities and Representations* (with Kristina Myrvold, Ashgate, 2011); *Sikhs Across Borders: Transnational Practices among European Sikhs* (Bloomsbury, 2012), and *Young Sikhs in a Global World: Negotiating Traditions, Identities and Authorities* (Ashgate, 2015). He is Editor in Chief of Brill’s six-volume *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (2009–15), Brill’s *Encyclopedia of Hinduism Online*, and Editor (with G.S. Mann, K. Myrvold, & E. Nesbitt) of Brill’s forthcoming two-volume *Encyclopedia of Sikhism*.



Dr. Toby Braden Johnson recently completed his PhD in Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside (CA, USA) with a dissertation titled *Living and Learning with Guru Nanak: Participation and Pedagogy in the Janam-sakhi Narratives*. His research interests include the development and transmission of Sikh hagiographies and these texts’ influence on the Sikh community. His publications include “Pre-colonial Sikh Literature” (in Singh & Fenech, Oxford, 2014); “Pedagogy in the *Janam-sakhis*: ‘Teaching Texts’ Moving Past Old Categories” (in Singh & Hawley, Brill, 2013); and “Sikh Children’s Literature and Identity” (in Pashaura Singh, Oxford, 2011).



Dr. Arunajeet Kaur is an Independent Consultant working at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. Her research interests include Malaysian politics, migration, and minorities in Southeast Asia. Her publications include two co-edited volumes: *The Migration of Indian Human capital: The Ebb and Flow of Indian Professionals in Southeast Asia* (with Faizal bin Yahya, Routledge, 2010) and *Sikhs in Southeast Asia; Negotiating an Identity* (with A.B Shamsul, ISEAS, 2011).

Speakers



Ravneet Kaur is Director of Development for Jakara Movement, a Sikh volunteer, activism, and leadership organization. She has been active in the Sikh community in the U.S. from founding a local youth group to volunteering with the Jakara Movement for the past 10 years, serving on its Preliminary Board, and as its first Director of Programs. Drawing on her professional experience in management and development, she has recently transitioned to being Jakara Movement's Director of Development and works with Jakara leaders and local *misI* (chapter) councils to develop, expand, and implement programs.



Sapreet Kaur is the Executive Director of the Sikh Coalition, a community-based non-profit organization which works to safeguard the civil and human rights of all people and promote a world where Sikhs may freely practice and enjoy their faith. She and the Sikh Coalition advocate for advances in religious freedom in the workplace, in the classroom, and in the public square. In 2013, Sapreet became the first Sikh to speak in a Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service.



Zabeen Khamisa is a Doctoral Student in the joint University of Waterloo/Wilfred Laurier University Ph.D. Program in Religious Diversity in North America. Her research is focused on the role religion plays in the social innovation movement in Canada. In particular, she is interested in understanding the experiences of Canadian Sikh youth social entrepreneurs.



Dr. Sangeeta K. Luthra is an Adjunct Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at Santa Clara University (CA, USA). Her research interests include women's development and empowerment, feminist theory, cultural politics of development, and Sikh American institution building in the post-9/11 period. Her writing on diasporic Sikhs has been featured in SikhChic.com, Punjabi Beat Magazine, and Sikhpoint.com and she is a contributing writer and member of the editorial board of *The Sikh Love Stories Project*. Her recent paper, "Out of the Ashes: Sikh American Civil Society and the Promise of Gender Equity" is currently under review.



Dr. Jasbir Singh Mann is an orthopedic surgeon, practicing in California since 1980. He is a Sikh community activist, the President of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation (Anaheim, CA), and a writer on Sikh academic issues. He has edited six books on Sikhism and arranged many international conferences on Sikh Studies. In 2001, he was the recipient of a D.Lit. (*Honoris causa*) from Punjabi University, Patiala for his contributions to Sikh Studies. His latest publication is the edited volume *Sikh Gadar Lehar 1907-1918* (Shri Guru Granth Sahib Foundation, 2015). He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons, and a Fellow of the American College of International Physicians.

Speakers



Dr. Nicola Mooney is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social, Cultural and Media Studies & Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies, University of the Fraser Valley (BC, Canada). Dr. Mooney is an ethnographer whose research largely focuses on the Jat Sikh community as it navigates transitions from rural to urban and diaspora locations; the colonial origins and postcolonial manifestations of these shifts; their influences on ethnicity, caste, class, gender, religion, memory, and identity; and, how they are represented in popular and performance cultures. Her most recent monograph is *Rural Nostalgias and Transnational Dreams: Identity and Modernity among Jat Sikhs* (U of Toronto, 2011), and she has also published on film, dance, gender, migration, diaspora, Partition, and 3HO/Sikh Dharma.



Dr. Susan Prill is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. She earned her doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (London) in 2005. Her recent scholarly work includes “Sustainable *Sikhi*: Sikh Approaches to Environmentalism” (*Sikh Formations*, forthcoming), and “*Sikhi* through Internet, Films & Videos” (in Singh and Fenech, OUP, 2014). Her current research explores the intersection of Sikhism and environmental movements.



Dr. Baljeet Singh Sahi is a practicing veterinarian in California and President of Sikhs for the Preservation of Sikhism and Sikh Heritage, a watchdog organization for Sikh and Punjabi Studies and Sikh politico-religious affairs in Diaspora. He is also the spokesperson for the Coalition of Gurdwaras of California and a correspondent with World Sikh News. He has been actively involved in Sikh affairs for twenty years and has lectured on subjects related to Sikh Studies at various community and academic venues. His current focus is on post-Guru history of the Sikhs, particularly their armed resistance to suppression in pre and post-independent India.

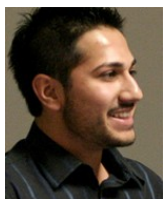


Dr. Sujinder Singh Sangha (OBE, FRSA), retired as the Principal & CEO of Stockton Riverside College (UK). He was the first ever Asian to lead a College in the UK. His current research interests include leadership in education and contemporary Sikh and Punjab affairs. He is Independent External Director of GNA University (Phagwar, Punjab, India) and is taking initiative to establish Sikh and Punjabi Studies at a leading UK university. He was recognized by Her Majesty the Queen for his contribution to education. He has written and published extensively.



Dr. Gurmel Singh Sidhu is Professor of Biology at California State University, Fresno. He is also a Director of Research and Development for Greek and Turkish biotech companies. He has written several scientific books, including *Genetics of Pathogenic Fungi* (1986), *AIDS: A Miserable Disease* (2003), *Life and Cloning* (2004), and *DNA: The Language of Life* (2006). He has also authored over 150 scientific papers for a range of scientific journals. Dr. Sidhu has authored nine books of poetry, edited another nine, and written over 100 literary articles and reviews.

Speakers



Ashveer Pal Singh is a Doctoral Student in the Department of Anthropology at Stanford University (CA, USA). He is currently researching the implementation of the Aadhaar Card program by the Punjab government and its utilization in government planning and programming with specific reference to welfare distribution. He is interested broadly in Punjab and its diasporas, governance and bureaucracy, and using ethnography to examine actually existing realities.



Dr. Jasjit Singh is a Research Fellow at the University of Leeds (UK) based in the School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science. His research examines the religious lives of South Asians with a particular focus on understanding processes of religious and cultural transmission among Sikhs in diaspora and the different arenas in which this transmission occurs. His recent publications include: “The Guru's Way: Exploring diversity among British Khalsa Sikhs” (*Religion Compass*, 8 [7], 2014); “Sikh-ing Online: The role of the Internet in the religious lives of young British Sikhs” (*Contemporary South Asia*, 22[1], 2014); and “Family Values: The Impact of Family Background on the Religious Lives of Young British Sikhs” (in Jacobsen & Kristina Myrvold, Ashgate, 2014).



Dr. Kamalroop Singh is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Birmingham (Birmingham, UK), from which he also holds an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Sikh Studies. He belongs to the Nihang Singh order and took initiation into the Khalsa in 1999. He has published *Dasam Granth Questions and Answers* (Archimedes, 2011). *Dasam Granth: Essays, Lectures, and Translations* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press, India. He is an expert linguist and has worked for the Crown Prosecution Services and taught languages at the School of Oriental and African Studies. He has been a consultant to a number of museums and galleries and regularly travels around the world and teaches about subjects related to Sikhs.



Navdeep Singh is Policy Director of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), an Attorney, and an author. He leads the public policy and research division at SALDEF, and, as Policy Director, he brings his experience in civil rights and national security to his advocacy and public policy work. An expert in strategic legal policy, Singh co-authored “Turban Myths”—the first empirical study on implicit bias and attitudes towards the Sikh American community—with researchers from Stanford University. Singh received his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School and his B.S. in Systems Engineering, Economics, and Asian Pacific American Studies from the University of Virginia.



Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh is the Crawford Family Professor of Religion and Chair of the Religious Studies Department at Colby College (Waterville, ME, USA). Her research interests focus on poetics and feminist issues. She has published extensively in the field of Sikh Studies, including *Of Desire Sacred and Secular: Anthology of Lyrics from the Punjab* (I.B. Tauris, 2012), *Sikhism: an Introduction* (I.B. Tauris, 2011), *The Name of My Beloved: Verses of the Sikh Gurus* (HarperCollins, 1995 & Penguin, 2003), *Metaphysics and Physics of the Guru Granth Sahib* (Sterling 1996), and *The Feminine Principle in the Sikh Vision of the Transcendent* (Cambridge, 1993).

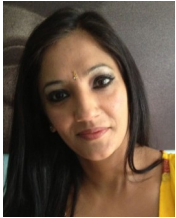
Speakers



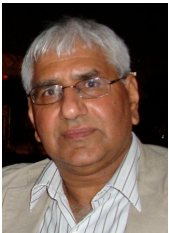
Dr. Nirvikar Singh holds the Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies at UC Santa Cruz. He teaches a class he designed, “Introduction to the Sikhs”, in the new Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Department. He has helped bring Punjabi language teaching to UCSC and has been active in organizing and participating in academic conferences and community events that relate to the Sikh tradition, its history, and the contemporary challenges it faces in the global diaspora. A particular interest of his, reflected in a published piece (*International Journal of Punjab Studies*, 2001) on the intellectual and social origins of the Sikh tradition, concerns the modes of production of knowledge with respect to the tradition, and how it interacts with broader academic currents and political forces. He has also written on Sikh entrepreneurs, the Punjab economy, political conflict in Punjab, and early 20th century Sikh reform movements.



Satnam Singh has a degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from the University of Copenhagen where he specialized in the Islamic youth movements of Denmark. He is currently working as a consultant on countering radicalization and violent extremism. His main area of research is pre-colonial Sikh literature, with a special focus on the writings produced at the court of the tenth Guru. His research has also covered Sikh identity formation in modern Europe, specifically focusing on the Sikh warrior traditions and how they are practiced in the UK.



Dr. Opinderjit Kaur Takhar is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at the University of Wolverhampton (UK). Her research interests include issues of caste, gender and identity among Punjabi Dalits and Sikhs. Her research on Sikh Identity and sects/groups among Sikhs was published as *Sikh Identity: An Exploration of Groups Among Sikhs* (Ashgate, 2005). She Guest Edited (with S.S. Jodhka and Hugo Goringe) a special issue (2017) of the *Journal of Contemporary South Asia*, and is an Editorial board member for the journals *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, Theory and Understanding Sikhism: The Research Journal*.



Dr. Shinder S. Thandi teaches Development Economics at Coventry University (UK). He is the founder-editor of the *Journal of Punjab Studies* and has published many papers on Indian and Punjabi migration and on different dimensions of Punjabi diaspora and homeland relations. His publications include: *Punjabi Identity in a Global Context* (ed. with Pritam Singh, OUP, 1999); *People on the Move: Punjabi Colonial and Post Colonial Migration* (ed. with Ian Talbot, OUP, 2004); and *A South Asian History of Britain: Four Centuries of Peoples from the Indian Sub-Continent* (co-author with M. Fisher & S. Lahiri, Greenwood, 2007). His recent research papers have included: “Sikh Migration, Diasporas and Transnational Practices” (in Singh & Fenech, Oxford, 2014) and “Shady Character, Hidden Designs and Masked Faces: Reflections on Vilyati Sikh Marriages and Discourses of Abuse’ in (in Hawley, Brill, 2013).



Panel Chairs

Dr. Michael Alexander is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA) with an expertise in Judaism and American Religion. He is the author of *Jazz Age Jews* (Princeton, 2001) which won a National Jewish Book Award.

Panel Chairs



Muhamad Ali is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). His areas of research include Islam in southeast Asia, Qur'anic exegesis, comparative Muslim societies, transmission of Islamic knowledge; religious pluralism, and Islamic movements and politics. His most recent book is *Islam and Colonialism: Becoming Modern in Indonesia and Malaya* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015).



Dr. Michael Hawley is Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Mount Royal University and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary (Canada). He is the editor of *Sikh Diaspora: Theory, Agency, and Experience* (Brill 2013), co-editor, with Pashaura Singh, of *Re-imagining South Asian Religions* (Brill 2013), and reviews editor for the journal *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, Theory*. His current research focuses on Sikh diaspora and he is working on a documenting the Sikh community in Calgary.



Dr. Matthew King is Assistant Professor of Transnational Buddhism in the Department of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). His teaching and research broadly focus on transnational Buddhism; religion in Tibet and Mongolia; Buddhist monastic historiography; Buddhism and politics, science, and economics; and the global circulation of knowledge about Buddhism and Buddhist Peoples. His articles have appeared in journals such as the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and *History & Anthropology*. He has also contributed chapters to recent volumes on Inner Asia published by Brill, Oxford, and Routledge.



Dr. Amanda J. Lucia is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). Her research engages encounters between Hinduism and American religions, new religious movements, gender, immigration, ethnicity, globalization, postcolonial theory, and ethnographic methodology. Her first book, *Reflections of Amma: Devotees in a Global Embrace* (UC Press, 2014) recently received UCR's Center for Ideas and Society's Emory Elliot Book Award. Her articles and reviews have been published in *Nidān*, *CrossCurrents*, *History of Religions*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, and *Journal of Hindu Studies*.



Dr. Gurinder Singh Mann was the first holder of the Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair in Sikh Studies (1999-2015) and founder director of the Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies at UC, Santa Barbara (2004-2015). His research interests focus on Sikhism, Punjabi language, and religion and society in the Punjab. His publications include *The Goindval Pothis* (Harvard, 1997); *The Making of Sikh Scripture* (OUP, 2001); and *Sikhism* (Prentice Hall, 2004). He has coauthored *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America* (OUP, 2001), and *Introduction to Punjabi* (Punjabi University, 2011). His current projects include a series of critical editions and translations of early Sikh texts, co-editing of Brill's *Encyclopedia of Sikhism*, and making the teaching of Punjabi available on the internet. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Sikh Temple, Ventura, CA.

Panel Chairs



Dr. Mohinder Singh is Professor of Eminence in the Dept. of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, (India) and Director of the Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi. Previously, he taught History at the University of Delhi (1968-79) and the Punjabi University, Patiala (1979-82). He has also served as Director of the Guru Nanak Foundation, New Delhi (1982-90); Director of the National Institute of Panjab Studies, (1990-2010); Member of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities, Govt. of India, (2005-07), and Member of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Govt. of India (2010-2014). He has had the privilege of representing Sikhism in several International events and was given audience by the Queen during Commonwealth Observation Day in London and an audience with H.H. Pope Francis during the Prayer for Peace at the Vatican in October, 2013.

Staff Organizers



Left to Right: Damien Lee Gonzalez (Financial Analyst), Ryan Mariano (Administrative & Event Assistant), Diana Marroquin (Accounting Assistant), Diane Shaw (Financial & Administrative Officer).

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The Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside offers a wide range of courses covering all of the major religions of the world and exposing students to a wide variety of methodological and theoretical approaches to the academic study of religion. The Department offers undergraduate Majors and Minors in Religious Studies, and Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees in Religious Studies. Students at all levels have the opportunity to explore in depth the diverse social, intellectual, ethical, and theoretical issues that arise when studying the manifestations and impacts of religion today and throughout human history.

Faculty members in the department are active scholars in the field of Religious Studies and command a broad spectrum of scholarly approaches to a wide range of religious traditions. Throughout the year, the Department hosts an active calendar of lectures, colloquia, conferences and other events centered on the academic interdisciplinary study of religion. Annually, the Department presents the Holstein Family Community Lecture in Religious Studies, a lecture by a distinguished visiting speaker on the interactions of religion and society as manifested in social, cultural, and ethical debates. In recent years, the Department has played host biannually to large international academic conferences on Sikh Studies and South Asian Religions sponsored by the Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies.