Sikh Studies at UCSB (1999-2015)

Gurinder Singh Mann
Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair (1999-2015)
March 28, 2015
Our story started in the late 1960s with Mark Juergensmeyer, a doctoral scholar, at UC Berkeley (Political Science) arriving in the Punjab for his research.
And Narinder Singh Kapany with blue blood in his veins (his mother’s genealogy goes back to Guru Amardas (1551-1574) and a Physics Ph.D. in his bag arriving in the Bay area around this time.
The position in Sikh studies at UCSB was conceived in the late 1990s. And between 1999 and 2015, I had the good fortune of converting their vision into reality.

Drs. Juergensmeyer and Kapany, two visionaries, began to work together.
In my scheme of things, first and foremost came teaching. I developed courses in three areas:

1. Punjabi Language
2. Sikhism
3. Advanced courses on Sikhism and Punjab
Punjabi class 1999-2000
Punjabi Class, Winter 2014
In 2013-2014, the number of students who took my courses crossed 640

Global Diaspora class, Winter 2014,
Visiting the gurdwara in Ventura (Courtesy: A. Chandan)
The Early Sikh Texts (Spring 2011)
Global Sikhism (Spring 2012)
(Ph.Ds completed at UCSB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Current Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Anna Bieglow</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>North Carolina University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Dan Michon</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archeology</td>
<td>Claremont McKenna U., CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Megan Sijapati</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Gettysburg College, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rahuldeep S. Gill</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>California Lutheran U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gibb Schreffler</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Pomana College, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ami Shah</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Kent Place School, Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Chloe Martinez</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Haverford College, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. John Warneke</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I was also associated with the following doctoral projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Current Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. S.S. Gogoani</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Religion, GNDU</td>
<td>Librarian, Khalsa College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Karamjit Singh</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Architecture, GNDU</td>
<td>Lecturer, GNDU, Amritsar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 2012-2013, Asma Qadri</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visited UCSB to work on her post-doctoral project on Sufi poetry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following visited us while working on their Ph.Ds.
Nominated for Distinguished Teaching Awards 2013

December 11, 2013

Dear Gurinder,

We are pleased to notify you that you have been nominated for an Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. A nomination is a distinct honor and recognizes that the quality of your teaching is viewed as exemplary.

To continue with the next step of the award selection process, nominees are asked to submit a teaching packet for review. To do this, please go to the following website and log in using your UCSBnetID and UCSBnetPassword: https://senate.ucsb.edu/~awards

Please ask your department to assist you with preparing and submitting the necessary documents.
December 16, 2014

Dear Gurinder,

We are pleased to notify you that you have been nominated for an Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. A nomination is a distinct honor and recognizes that the quality of your teaching is viewed as exemplary.

To continue with the next step of the award selection process, nominees are asked to submit a teaching packet for review. To do this, please go to the following website and log in using your UCSBnetID and UCSBnetPassword:

https://senate.ucsb.edu/~awards

Please ask your department to assist you with preparing and submitting the necessary documents.
Based in the Punjab, its activity included classes in Punjabi at the elementary and intermediate levels; lectures by experts in history, art, and culture; and week-end field trips to major religious, historical and educational sites in the Punjab plains and hills. This six-week Program served as a venue for scholars from North America and Europe to meet and exchange ideas with their Punjabi counterparts.

182 participants came from 71 universities in 10 countries (USA, Canada, UK; Australia, France, Germany, Italy, India, New Zealand, and Sweden).

Alumni of the Summer Program occupy faculty positions at 16 universities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total 182**
Some of the alumni of the Summer Program now teach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Dobe</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Dobe</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Glover</td>
<td>Michigan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constance Elseberg</td>
<td>North Virginia College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanne McMahan</td>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farina Mir</td>
<td>Michigan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Murphy</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Rinehart</td>
<td>Lafayette College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Sawyer</td>
<td>SUNY, Westbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Sijapati</td>
<td>Gettysburg College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Sims</td>
<td>SUNY, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varun Soni</td>
<td>U of Southern California LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabha Soomekh</td>
<td>Loyola Marymount, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Van Dyke</td>
<td>University of Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pippa Virdee</td>
<td>De Montford University, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Williams</td>
<td>Principia College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sikh and Punjabi Studies Program
University of California, Santa Cruz

Professor Gurinder Singh Mann

In appreciation of his dedication in creating and running the
Summer Program in Punjab Studies for over a decade, providing
priceless training to a new generation of scholars of
Punjab and the Sikhs

Presented this 29th day of March, Two Thousand and Thirteen
Conferences at UCSB

1. December 4-5, 1999  "Guru Gobind Singh: Life and Legacy"
2. May 12, 2000  "Canon Formation in the Sikh Tradition"
3. April 21-22, 2001  "The Sikh Diaspora"
4. May 4, 2004  "Debates in Sikh Studies"
5. May 29, 2004  "Punjabi Culture"
"Guru Gobind Singh: Life and Legacy"
December 4-5, 1999
"Guru Gobind Singh: Life and Legacy"
December 4-5, 1999
Chancellor Henry Yang inaugurating

“Sikh Studies in the 21st Century”

May 16-17, 2014
“Sikh Studies in the 21st Century”
May 16-17, 2014
After dinner at West Campus
Conferences (Co-sponsored)


2. March 19-21, 2009  “State of Sikh Studies Since 1947” held at GNDU


Some of the luminaries we hosted at UCSB included the following


Sikh Studies included I. Banga (GNDU), T.S. Gill (GNDU), B.N. Goswamy (Panjab University), J.S. Grewal (GNDU), W.H. McLeod (Otago, New Zealand), and C. Shackle (London)

Punjabi poets: Amarjit Chandan (London), Surjit Patar (Punjab), Ahmad Salim (West Punjab), and Ajmer Rode (Vancouver)

Other artists: Gharib Das (Chandigarh) and Baldeep Singh (Punjab, {Music}), and the Singh Twins (London [Painting])
And I availed the invitation for lectures (56) at the following institutions:

- American Society of the Study of Religion;
- Barnard College, New York;
- Cali Lutheran University, S.CA;
- Carthage College, Carthage;
- Claremont University, Claremont;
- Cal State University, Northridge;
- Hofstra University, Long Island;
- Library of Congress, Washington;
- Rutgers University, NJ;
- Stanford University;
- Syracuse University;
- University of Florida, Gainesville;
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor;
- University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee;
- University of California at Berkeley, Davis, Riverside, Santa Cruz;
- Valparaiso University;
- Yale University;
- Simon Fraser Uni., Vancouver, U. of Fraser Valley, Abbotsford (Canada);
- Coventry University, Coventry;
- SOAS, London University (U.K);
- Lund University (Sweden);
- Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjabi University, Patiala,
- Indian History Congress, Patiala (India)
- Museum of Asian Art, San Francisco;
- Museum of Art, San Diego;
- Pioneers’ Museum, Imperial Valley, CA;
- National Museum of Natural History;
- Smithsonian Institutions, Washington DC
Outreach

1991- Advisor, Pluralism Project, Harvard University
2001  **Reviewer, teacher's credentials examination for Punjabi language in California**
2002-07 External Reviewer, Sikh Heritage Project, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
2004-  Trustee, Sikh Temple, Ventura
2006-  Member, American Society of the Study of Religion
2011- Advisor, Center for Guru Granth Studies, Guru Nanak Dev
2014  **And have conducted advisements on the creation of teaching materials for Punjabi in Singapore**
We have created an online course for Elementary Punjabi

The Center was awarded a grant by the United States Federal Government under Title VI for undertaking a project entitled “Punjabi Course Materials: Face to Face and at a Distance.”

In collaboration with the UC Consortium of Language Learning and Teaching and Instructional Development at UCSB, we developed instructional materials that have the potential for world-wide delivery via distance learning.
Publications

For Elementary Schools

A special issue of

Publications

For High Schools and University Freshmen

*Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs in America* –

(New York: Oxford University Press, 2001; paperback 2007)
Publications

- The Making of Sikh Scripture

(New York: Oxford University Press, 2001)

(Delhi: OUP, 2001 [hardbound], 2003 [paperback], 2006, 2009 [reprint])
Publications

- Sikhism
  (Prentice Hall, 2004)

- The Japanese and Spanish editions of the book were released in 2007
Publications

An Introduction to Punjabi

(Patiala: Punjabi University, 2011)
Journal of Punjab Studies moved to UCSB in 2004 and some of its special numbers included the following:

- 2004: Geography
- 2004: Culture
- 2005: Economy
- 2006: Punjabi Literature
- 2008: Guru Gobind Singh
- 2014: 19th Century Punjab
I believe that our Summer Program in the Punjab, teaching, conferences, workshops, and research related activities at UCSB, and community outreach helped our effort at disseminating information about Sikhs and the Punjab to wide-ranging forums.

As well as building UCSB as a major center of Sikh and Punjab studies.
To Conclude

I register my deep gratitude to

Prof. Juergensmeyer

for envisioning a position in Sikh Studies at UCSB and providing me support at every stage of my work during 1999-2015
Dean David Marshall
&
Dean Melvín Oliver

for their encouragement
Dr. Kapany

For his role in the creation of the position and full support in the subsequent years
Prof. Indu Banga (Panjab University)  
Prof. J.S. Grewal (GNDU)  
Prof. Giles Gunn (UCSB)  
Prof. J.S. Hawley (Barnard College)  
Prof. S.S. Thandí (Coventry University)  
Dr. J. S. Ahluwalia (Richmond, CA) &  
Dr. K. S. Thind (San Mateo, CA)  

For providing guidance at different stages of the program
And

Satinder & Harbhajan S. Ajrawat, Potomac, MD
Neena & Gurpal Singh Bhuller, Chester, VA
Amita & Dilmohan Singh Chadha, Brisbane, CA
Carmen & Robert Chell, El Centro, CA
Jaswinder & Amrik S. Chattha, Pittsburg, PA
Parminder Jassal & Herbert T. Head, Lake Forest Park, WA
Phyllis & Kírpal Singh Jassal, Des Moines, Iowa

For their help in the development of the program
Simultaneously I extend my apologies to Drs. Kapany & Juergensmeyer for taking retirement at 65 that some colleagues consider little premature.
I am, however, convinced that I have given all what I could to the UCSB program and it is time to make way for a new and fresh voice to be heard from Santa Barbara.

I leave this paradise with heavy heart, but with a sense of pride for what has been accomplished during my time here.
Bidding farewell to the program, I feel that I have done my part

Chalo Khalsa ji sade kuch dere
Asi akhari fateh gaja chale
Pao pani te raj ke chhan mano
Asi dol ke rat pia challe!
And it is time to be with my family and work on the exciting calling of being Nora’s “Bapu Ji”

Thank you very much for your time!