

***SIKH EDUCATION
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY***

(28 MARCH 2015)

Dr. Pashaura Singh, University of California, Riverside

Oak West Lounge

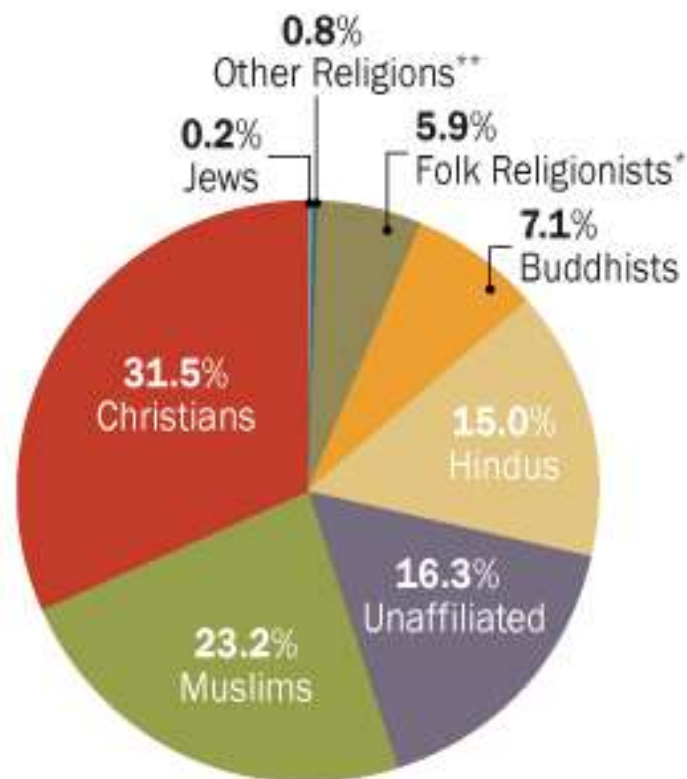
Tresidder Memorial Union (2nd Floor)

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Global Religious Landscape December 2012

Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



*Includes followers of African traditional religions; Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

**Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life •
Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

THE JEWISH MODEL OF PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION

- Global Jewish Population = 15 million (0.2 % of 7 Billion People)
- Israel = 6 million; US = 6 million; Europe = 1.5 million; Rest of the world = 1.5 million
- From World War II onward, Jews have steadily achieved more power than ever before in terms of both self-determination and cultural capital.
- In the US: 6% in the House of Representatives and 12% in the Senate.
- In the US Supreme Court: 3 Justices out of 9.
- Faculty positions in US Colleges & Universities: 33%
- Student body in top 20 schools and Ivy Leagues: 25%

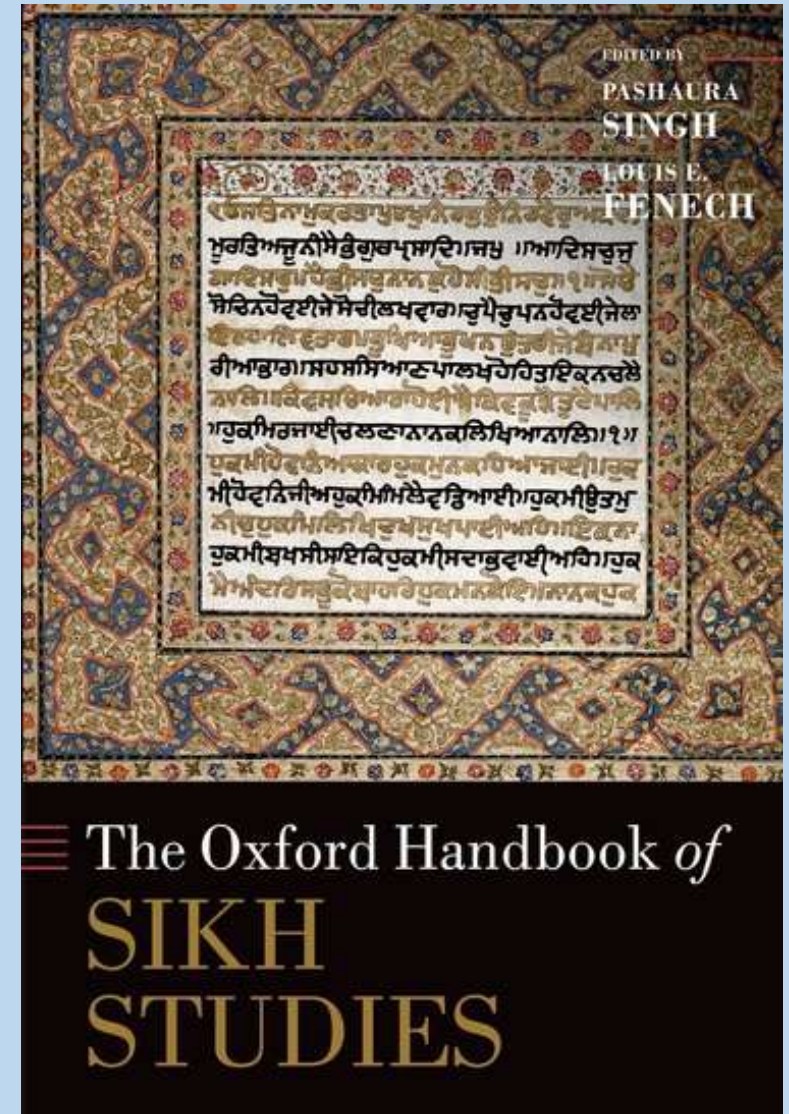
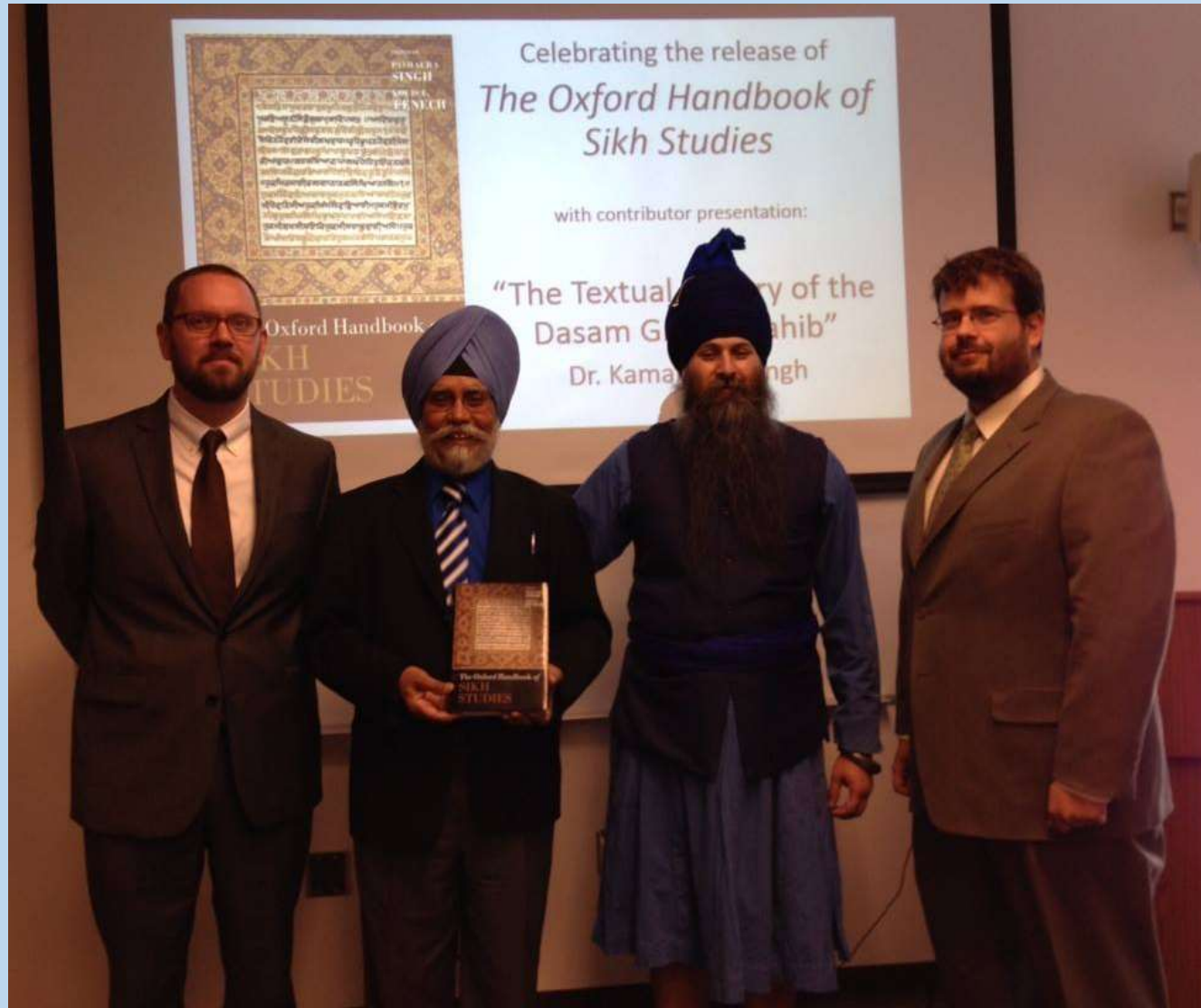
EIGHT CHAIRS OF SIKH STUDIES IN NORTH AMERICA

- The new Chairs of 'Sikh Studies' have been part of different university departments:
- 'Religious Studies' and 'Philosophy' (University of California campuses at Riverside and Santa Barbara, and Hofstra University at Long Island, New York);
- 'Asian Languages and Cultures' (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and University of British Columbia, Vancouver),
- 'Economics' (University of California, Santa Cruz), 'Music' (Hofstra University) and 'Ethnic Studies' at California State University East Bay.

2013 Dialogues with/in Sikh Studies: Texts, Practices and Performances



2014 *The Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies*



IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF SIKH STUDIES

- The first major comprehensive survey of the Sikh tradition which does not delimit its study to a single genre
- Initiates new researchers into the growing field of Sikh Studies
- Uses an innovative structure integrating various ways of expressing Sikh-ness (*Sikhi*) from a range of disciplines
- Questions key critical terms, challenges established frames of reference, and offers alternative 'readings' of Sikh ways of knowing and being
- Combines the scholarship of three generations of academics in the field from all over the world.

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF SIKH STUDIES

- The handbook is divided into eight thematic sections that explore different 'expressions' of Sikhism. Historical, literary, ideological, institutional, and artistic expressions are considered in turn, followed by discussion of Sikhs in the Diaspora, and of caste and gender in the Panth. Each section begins with an essay by a prominent scholar in the field, providing an overview of the topic. Further essays provide detail and further treat the fluid, multivocal nature of both the Sikh past and the present. The handbook concludes with a section considering future directions in Sikh Studies.

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Future of the Global Sikh Community

- When we talk about what the future holds for the global Sikh community, there is only one thing that *is* certain:
- There are always going to be multiple understandings of Sikhs, Sikh traditions, and Sikh identities. This has always been the case in the past, this is very true in the present, and it will remain so in the future.
- Once this fact is incorporated into the Sikh community's dominant truth, its future will begin to arrive.

SIKH EDUCATION CULTIVATES THE SPIRIT OF ALTRUISM (*vidiya vichari tan parupkari*)

- Sikhs can contribute positively to sustainable security in today's globalizing world by their enthusiastic acceptance of extraordinary diversity of faith and practice.
- In the pluralistic and multicultural societies of the postmodern world, where stress is being placed upon liberty, diversity, tolerance, security, and equality of race and gender, Sikh ideals are thoroughly in place in the developing values of the global society.
- To this day, Sikhs conclude their morning and evening prayers with the words: "Through the divine Name, Nanak, we remain in high spirits (*charhdi kala*); and in thy will, O True Sovereign, may peace and prosperity come to one and all."