

Sikh and Punjabi Studies at UC Santa Cruz, 2014-15

The following activities were completed under the auspices of the Sikh and Punjabi Studies Program at UCSC. Activities are partly funded by three endowments, and supported by the volunteer effort of Professor Nirvikar Singh and the UCSC Sikh Student Association. Significant administrative support is provided by the UCSC Division of Humanities and Institute for Humanities Research.

The three endowments are

1. Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies (held by Prof. Nirvikar Singh), effective from 2010. [SSAC]
2. Guru Nanak Heritage Fund, effective from 2012. [GNHF]
3. International Economics/Punjab Studies Fund, effective from the 1990s (this is a very small fund but allows periodic support of activities) [IEPS]

For some events in the following list, the above sources of financial and other support are specifically noted.

- **Punjabi Language Teaching, Summer 2014**

Introductory Punjabi language (one quarter of instruction) has been supported since 2012 by the GNHF, with bridge funding from the Dean of Humanities and the SSAC. The class was taught for the third time in Summer 2014, each time at the San Jose Gurdwara. Enrollments were about eight students on each occasion.

In 2014-15, the class was approved for teaching on the main campus, and it will be offered there for the first time in 2015-16. The short term goal is to double previous enrollments, to at least 15 students. The longer term goal is to add a second course in Punjabi language, to create a two-quarter sequence.

[GNHF]

- **1984 – Beyond the Trauma, October 2014**

Thirty years ago saw the culmination of increasing social conflict in Punjab, a Sikh-majority state in India. In 1984, the government of India launched a military operation on the Sikhs' central religious site, aimed at militants but also ensnaring innocent pilgrims. Later that year, Sikh bodyguards assassinated India's Prime Minister in retribution. This was followed by pogroms against Sikhs all over India, and a decade of violence and repression in Punjab. The perpetrators of state violence have not been brought to justice, and the events of 1984 and after continue to cast a shadow on the people of the region.

Prof. Rahuldeep Singh Gill of California Lutheran University (CLU) spoke about this history, and how to move forward positively, but without forgetting the past, especially in the context of the Sikh diaspora in the US. Prof. Gill is Director of the Center for Equality and Justice at CLU. The talk was followed by an interactive discussion, moderated by Prof. Nirvikar Singh. Prof. Singh was visiting India in 1984 and experienced some of the events described above.

[SSAC and UCSC Sikh Student Association]

- **Sikh Studies & Post-Modern Orientalism, October 2014**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh gave a talk exploring how Sikh Studies in the North American academy is engaging with intellectual currents that can broadly be termed “post-modern.” More specifically, he offered a critique of the asymmetrical privileging of Western “post-modern” scholarship on Sikhs against the Sikh community’s own self-understanding. The talk was followed by an interactive discussion with participation of a wide cross-section of UCSC faculty.

- **Diaspora and Memory — Sikhs and 1984, December 2014**

This was a second event marking the 30th anniversary of 1984 (see above). The events of 1984 and subsequent years continue to cast a shadow on Sikhs across the globe. Prof. Gurinder Singh Mann, Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair in Sikh Studies at UC Santa Barbara and Prof. Pashaura Singh, Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies at UC Riverside, served as panelists, sharing their thoughts on, and experiences of these events, as well as the continuing implications for the global Sikh community. The panel and discussion were moderated by Prof. Nirvikar Singh.

[SSAC]

- **Sikhs in California Schools Curriculum, January 2015**

At the request of the Sikh Coalition, Prof. Nirvikar Singh provided a letter of support for an effort to ensure that Sikhs, as one of the oldest immigrant communities in California, received adequate discussion in the California schools curriculum.

- **Course: Introduction to the Sikhs, Winter 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh taught this 2-unit course, which he designed, for the fourth time in 2015. He teaches it in addition to his regular course load in Economics, so there is no financial claim on the three endowments. The course introduces the Sikh community, including its origins, history, belief system, and contemporary issues. Other topics include Sikh music, art, literature, and aspects of Sikh society. Particular attention is paid to the Sikh diaspora in the United States and in California, including comparative perspectives with other minority communities. For the first time, the class was listed under the new UCSC Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Students write papers and make oral presentations. The class has a diverse enrollment, and includes a student trip to the San Jose Gurdwara, offering class members and their accompanying friends a first-hand cross-cultural experience.

- **Mutiny in Oregon: Early Twentieth Century East Indian Radicals and the Birth of the Ghadar Party, March 2015**

In her talk, Johanna Ogden, an independent historian and activist from Oregon who served as consulting historian for Astoria's Ghadar Party Centenary Commemoration, resituated the birth of that radical movement in Astoria, Oregon. This work was based on new archival research. The Hindustani Association of the Pacific Coast, better known as the Ghadar Party, was a game-changing development in Indian history. Ghadarites called for and attempted the overthrow of British colonial rule in India during WWI, seeking a caste-free, secular and independent Indian nation. Ghadar was overwhelmingly initiated by and composed of Sikh laborers from the North American West and became a worldwide movement drawn from people of all castes and religions.

[SSAC]

- **Sikh Rappers & Social Justice, March 2015**

Sikh hip-hop artists Baagi and Hoodini (Gunjiv Singh and Jagmeet Singh) explored facets of the immigrant and minority experience in multicultural America, in an evening of music, poetry and collective discussion. The evening touched on topics such as race relations and social inequalities in today's complex society.

[SSAC]

- **The State of Sikh Studies in Western Academia, March 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh spoke in the Sikh Studies lecture series at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. He argued that although Sikh and Punjabi Studies has an impressive presence in North American academia, the field remains precarious in certain ways, both with respect to its position in academia, and with respect to the Sikh community, its object of study. In his talk, he provided a basis for this claim of precariousness, discussing broader asymmetries in the production and reproduction of knowledge in those parts of Western academia that encompass or influence Sikh and Punjabi Studies. He examined the relationship of the field to South Asian studies, religious studies, and aspects of postmodernism, as well as to underlying ideologies such as Hindutva. He illustrated his arguments, by drawing from five topics that have been salient or are emerging as important in Sikh and Punjabi Studies: the origins of Sikhism, the later evolution of the tradition, diversity in belief and practice, the Sikh diaspora, and Sikh sacred music.

- **Sikh Foundation Conference on Sikh Education in the 21st Century, March 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh was scheduled to be a presenter in the session on Sikh Studies in Universities. He was unable to attend, but prepared a recorded presentation on the Sikh and Punjabi Studies program at UCSC. This presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.sikhfoundation.org/our-events/sikh-education-in-the-21st-century/>

- **Gender-Differential Effects of Terrorism on Education: The Case of the Punjab Insurgency 1981-1993, April 2015**

Prakarsh Singh, Assistant Professor of Economics at Amherst College, Massachusetts, spoke on the long-run effect of the 1981-1993 Punjab insurgency on the educational attainment of adults who were between ages 6-16 years at the time of the insurgency. His work found a substantial and statistically significant negative effect on educational attainment by girls who were of school age during the conflict.

[IEPS]

- **Turban Day, April 2015**

This event was the second time that the UCSC Sikh Student Association held a Turban Day at the Quarry Plaza, a central location on campus. The students tied turbans on dozens of students, staff and faculty members, and shared information about the Sikh faith and community with all those who stopped by. The Aurora Chair funds helped purchase the turban cloth for the event.

[SSAC and UCSC Sikh Student Association]

- **Millennial Sikhs in a Capitalist Economy, May 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh delivered a talk with this title at the UC Riverside Sikh Studies conference, “Living and Making Sikhi in the Diaspora: The Millennial Generation Comes of Age.” The abstract of the paper follows: “Sikh teachings emphasize hard work and individual responsibility, as well as sharing and social justice. Those teachings also speak to the fundamental limits of material wealth accumulation. This paper examines how millennial Sikhs in northern California individually and collectively address the tensions of living and thriving in a modern capitalist economy, while also living up to Sikh principles. Arguments are developed based on interviews with young Sikh entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs, as well as other ethnographic research examining individual attitudes and collective action strategies by millennial Sikhs.”

- **Diasporic Religious Identity in Emerging Adulthood: The Case of British Sikhs, May 2015**

This talk by Dr. Jasjit Singh, Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, examined processes of religious transmission among members of minority diasporic religious communities, with a focus on British Sikhs. Using ethnographic methods including the first ever large scale online survey of British Sikhs, the talk explored the shift which has occurred for many young South Asians in Diaspora who now identify more closely with a religious as opposed to an ethnic identity. Focusing on different arenas of religious transmission including families, religious institutions and the internet, he examined how processes of religious socialization and familial nurture impact on identity, in particular among young people entering ‘Emerging Adulthood.’

[SSAC]

- **Secularism in India, May 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh spoke and led a discussion with students in Prof. Nathaniel Deutsch's graduate History seminar on Religion & Modernity. The discussion was broad, but included the case of Sikhs in post-independence India, and the relationship of that religious community to Indian framings and implementations of secularism.

- **Waking in Oak Creek, March 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh showed the DVD of this title, documenting the local community's response to the August 2012 killings at the Sikh *gurdwara* in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and led a discussion with the audience of members of the Sikh Student Association.

[Sikh Student Association]

- **Waking in Oak Creek (2), May 2015**

Prof. Nirvikar Singh also showed the DVD and led a discussion with the UCSC Police Department Citizen Academy, where the audience included students, community members and UCSC police officers.

- **Giddha (Women's Punjabi Folk Dance) Group, May 2015**

For the first time, UCSC women students organized a Giddha dance group to complement the long-standing Bhangra group. Both groups performed at the annual Indian Cultural Show. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for costume purchases for the Giddha group.

[SSAC]

- **Revolution or Assimilation: Understanding the Evolving Identity of the Punjabi Sikh Diaspora in California during the Early Twentieth Century, June 2015**

Rajan Gill completed his Master's essay with this title, under the supervision of Prof. David Brundage of the History Department.

- **Sikh Student Association *Seva* (Service) Days**

The UCSC organized monthly visits to the San Jose Gurdwara to perform *seva*, with activities such as helping in the *langar* (community kitchen).

- **Economic Transformation of a Developing Economy: The Experience of Indian Punjab, 2014-15**

In 2013, after a conference on “Re-Building Punjab: Political Economy, Society and Values,” organized by Dr. Inderjit Kaur and Prof. Nirvikar Singh at UCSC, which included Prof. Lakhwinder Singh of Punjabi University, Patiala, as a speaker, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed between the two universities. In March 2014, a joint conference on Punjab’s economy was held at Punjabi University, hosted by Prof. Lakhwinder Singh. In 2014-15, Prof. Lakhwinder Singh and Prof. Nirvikar Singh have worked on editing a book with the title above, based on the conference papers. The book is under contract with Springer. The Foreword will be provided by Dr. Kaushik Basu, Chief Economist of the World Bank. He has written, “...given the iconic status of the Punjab economy, such an understanding can shed light on development in general from which we can learn and benefit wherever we are located in the world. This is what makes the book, Economic Transformation of a Developing Economy: The Experience of Indian Punjab, an important one.”

Sikh and Punjabi Studies at UC Santa Cruz, 2015-16

The following activities were completed under the auspices of the Sikh and Punjabi Studies Program at UCSC. Activities are partly funded by two endowments, and supported by the volunteer efforts of Professor Nirvikar Singh and the UCSC Sikh Student Association. Significant administrative support is provided by the UCSC Division of Humanities and Institute for Humanities Research.

The two endowments are

1. Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies (held by Prof. Nirvikar Singh), effective from 2010. [SSAC]
2. Guru Nanak Heritage Fund, effective from 2012. [GNHF]

For some events in the following list, the above sources of financial and other support are specifically noted. Support and involvement of the UCSC Sikh Student Association is also noted.

Many events and activities are described at the web site, sikhstudies.ucsc.edu.

On the UCSC Campus

1. Presentation, *Waking in Oak Creek*, October 2015

Prof. Nirvikar Singh showed the DVD of this title, documenting the local community's response to the August 2012 killings at the Sikh *gurdwara* in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and led a discussion with the UCSC Police Department Fall Quarter Citizens' Academy, where the audience included students, community members and UCSC police officers.

2. Discussion of Current Events in Punjab, October 2015

At the request of the UCSC Sikh Student Association, Prof. Nirvikar Singh led a discussion with students on current political, religious and social events in the state of Punjab in India.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association]

3. Student-Staff Workshop, *Leadership for Social Justice: A Sikh American Perspective*, November 2015

This one-day workshop provided insights and training for individuals who wish to lead social change efforts. The workshop was conducted by the Sikh Coalition, a community-based organization that works toward the realization of civil and human rights for all

people, including Sikh-Americans. It included sessions devoted to lobbying, media, legal remedies, and a case study on effective advocacy. Workshop leaders were Arjun Singh, Sikh Coalition's national Director of Law & Policy, and Harjit Kaur, its Community Development Manager for Northern California.

Event Photos: <http://ihr.ucsc.edu/event/leadership-for-social-justice-a-sikh-american-perspective/>

[SSAC]

4. Course: *Introduction to the Sikhs*, Winter Quarter 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh taught this 2-unit course, which he designed, for the fifth time in 2016. He teaches it in addition to his regular course load in Economics, so there is no financial claim on the two endowments for his time. The course introduces the Sikh community, including its origins, history, belief system, and contemporary issues. Other topics include Sikh music, art, literature, and aspects of Sikh society. Particular attention is paid to the Sikh diaspora in the United States and in California, including comparative perspectives with other minority communities. The class is listed under the new UCSC Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, which provides administrative support. Students write papers and make oral presentations. The class has a diverse enrollment, and includes a student trip to the San Jose Gurdwara, offering class members and their accompanying friends a first-hand cross-cultural experience. The cost of chartering a bus for the trip is covered from the Aurora Chair income. This year, the class was allowed to increase in size to 43 students, having been kept at about 35 students in previous years.

[SSAC]

5. Student-Staff Workshop, *Leadership for Social Justice: A Sikh American Perspective* (2), February 2016

This workshop provided participants with practical tools for conceptualizing and effecting social change. Modules included: understanding and changing mindsets, community cultural leadership, implementing adaptive change, and supporting citizen-centered rather than client-centered approaches. The workshop leader was Jyotswaroop Kaur, at that time Education Director, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF).

Event Photos: <http://ihr.ucsc.edu/event/leadership-for-social-justice-sikh-american-perspectives/>

[SSAC]

6. Guest Lecture in *Introduction to the Sikhs, The Global Sikh Diaspora*, by Dr. Shinder Thandi, February 2016

Shinder Thandi is a Visiting Professor in Global & International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He specializes in Sikhs and Sikh Diaspora, Political Economy of Development, and related topics. He is the founder-editor of the *Journal of Punjab Studies*, in publication since 1994, and one of the founders and later Convenor of the Punjab Research Group, which was established in the UK in 1984.

URL: <http://ihr.ucsc.edu/event/intro-to-sikhs-class-visitor-cres-70s/>

[SSAC]

7. Planning Meeting for *Journal of Punjab Studies*, February 2016

Prof. Gurinder Singh Mann, former holder of the Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair of Global and Sikh Studies, and emeritus professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, joined Dr. Shinder Thandi and Prof. Nirvikar Singh in discussions for strengthening the visibility and profile of the *Journal of Punjab Studies*, one of only two academic journals devoted to Sikh and Punjabi Studies. The visitors also met with members of the UCSC Sikh Student Association.

[SSAC and UCSC Sikh Student Association]

8. University Interfaith Council Open Dialogue on Religion, March 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh served as a panelist representing Sikhism, along with representatives of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Paganism.

URL: <https://events.ucsc.edu/event/3517>

9. Punjabi Language Teaching, Spring Quarter 2016

Introductory Punjabi language (one quarter of instruction) has been supported since 2012 by the GNHF, with bridge funding from the Dean of Humanities and the SSAC. The class was taught for the fourth time in Spring 2016, and for the first time on the main UCSC campus. Enrollments were very strong, with 27 students taking the class, well above the target of 15 students.

As a result of the strong on-campus enrollment, a second course in Punjabi language, to create a two-quarter sequence, will be added in 2016-17. The course approval forms were prepared by Prof. Nirvikar Singh and have been reviewed and approved with minor modifications by the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics. Final campus approval is expected in Fall 2016, and the sequence will be offered in Winter and Spring 2017. Savings from previous years' income are being used to fund the second quarter of

the sequence for two years, after which additional external funding will be sought to make the sequence permanent.

Prof. Nirvikar Singh also made a class visit at the request of the Chair of the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics, and submitted a written report on the instructor, to fulfill university requirements.

[GNHF]

10. Punjabi Language Conversation Practice, Spring Quarter 2016

With funding from the Aurora Chair endowment, the UCSC Sikh Student Association organized weekly conversation practice sessions for students enrolled in the Introductory Punjabi Language class.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

11. Turban Day, April 2016

This event was the third time that the UCSC Sikh Student Association held a Turban Day at the Quarry Plaza, a central location on campus. The students tied turbans on dozens of students, staff and faculty members, and shared information about the Sikh faith and community with all those who stopped by. The Aurora Chair funds helped purchase the turban cloth for the event.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

12. Lecture by Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer, *Sikhism in the Global Age*, April 2016

Mark Juergensmeyer is Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair of Global and Sikh Studies, fellow of the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, professor of sociology, and affiliate professor of religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is an expert on religious violence, conflict resolution and South Asian religion and politics, has published more than two hundred articles and twenty books, and has received numerous academic honors.

URL: <http://ihr.ucsc.edu/event/sikhism-in-the-global-age/>

[SSAC]

13. Bhangra (Punjabi Folk Dance) Group, April 2016

UCSC students have organized a Bhangra group for several years, which performs at the annual Indian Cultural Show. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for costume purchases for the Bhangra group.

[SSAC]

14. Giddha (Women's Punjabi Folk Dance) Group, April 2016

UCSC women students organized a Giddha dance group for a second year, to complement the long-standing Bhangra group. The Giddha group performed at the annual Indian Cultural Show. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for costume purchases for the Giddha group.

[SSAC]

15. Waking in Oak Creek (2), May 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh again showed the DVD of this title, documenting the local community's response to the August 2012 killings at the Sikh *gurdwara* in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and led a discussion with the UCSC Police Department Spring Quarter Citizens' Academy, where the audience included students, community members and UCSC police officers.

16. Sikh Student Association Bhangra Bash, May 2016

The UCSC SSA held a social event for all UCSC students. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for event expenses.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

17. Contribution to Division of Social Sciences Summer Reading List, June 2016

The division asked students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the social sciences to share a book about an inspiring person or a provocative idea, a social movement or an influential leader. Prof. Nirvikar Singh suggested *The Book of Nanak*, by Navtej Singh Sarna, as a way of informing the campus community about the beliefs and culture of Sikh students at UCSC.

URL: <http://socialsciences.ucsc.edu/reading/2016.html>

18. Undergraduate Research on California's Punjabi-Mexican community, beginning Spring 2016

Inspired by Prof. Nirvikar Singh's discussion of earlier research on this topic (now several decades old), two undergraduate students have begun a project involving fresh ethnographic research on the current situation of this almost-vanished community and its lessons for contemporary California. The Aurora Chair endowment is providing funds for expenses involved in the field work.

[SSAC]

19. Sikh Student Association *Seva* (Service) Days (All Year)

The UCSC Sikh Student Association organized monthly visits to the San Jose Gurdwara to perform *seva*, with activities such as helping in the *langar* (community kitchen).

Off-Campus Activities and Outreach

20. Lecture, *Sikh beliefs and values and cultural traditions*, Land of Medicine Buddha, Soquel, August 2015

Prof. Nirvikar Singh delivered this lecture as part of the Land of Medicine Buddha Visiting Scholar Series for Summer 2015, and was attended by a cross-section of local community members.

URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/840997902674106/permalink/840997969340766/>

21. Lecture, *Sikhs in America*, Paras Youth Center, Fresno, October 2015

Prof. Nirvikar Singh gave a talk to several dozen Sikh community members, covering the history, socio-economic background, and current challenges of Sikhs in America, as well as background on the global Sikh diaspora.

[SSAC]

22. Lecture, *Sikhs in America*, San Jose State University, October 2015

Prof. Nirvikar Singh gave a talk to several dozen members of the SJSU Sikh Student Association, covering the history, socio-economic background, entrepreneurial experiences, and current challenges of Sikhs in America, as well as background on the global Sikh diaspora.

[SSAC]

23. Sikhs in the California Schools Curriculum, November 2015

At the request of the Sikh Coalition, Prof. Nirvikar Singh provided a second letter of support for an effort to ensure that Sikhs, as one of the oldest immigrant communities in California, have their identity recognized and preserved in the California schools curriculum. After he wrote the letter, it was also signed by two other California Sikh academics (Prof. Pashaura Singh of UCR and Prof. Rahuldeep Singh Gill of California Lutheran). The letter was sent to the California Instructional Quality Commission.

24. Guest Lecture, *Sikh Civil and Human Rights Advocacy in the USA*, UC Santa Barbara, November 2015

Prof. Nirvikar Singh gave a guest lecture on this topic to several dozen students in Dr. Shinder Thandi's class on the global Sikh diaspora, at UCSB. The talk included a detailed analysis of the work of three US-based civil rights organizations that focus on Sikh issues: SALDEF, Sikh Coalition and United Sikhs, as well as putting this work in the broader context of immigration and civil rights in the US.

[SSAC]

25. Keynote Address, *Sikhs in America*, Ceres Community Center, January 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh delivered this lecture to a large audience of law enforcement officers (including Sheriffs of four counties), attorneys, local politicians, and Sikh community members. The other keynote address was given by the Consul General of India. The event is held annually to educate the local community about Sikhs and the history of their presence in the US.

[SSAC]

26. Opening Lecture, *The State of Sikh Studies in Western Academia*, Sikholars Conference, Stanford, February 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh delivered a revised and updated version of a lecture first given at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada, in 2015. The conference is an annual event organized by Jakara, a Sikh nonprofit organization, and attracts about 100 attendees. The lecture sought to make the case that although Sikh and Punjabi Studies has several endowed chairs in North American universities, the field remains precarious in certain ways, both with respect to its position in academia, and with respect to the Sikh community, its object of study. The talk provided a basis for this claim of precariousness, discussing broader asymmetries in the production and reproduction of knowledge in those parts of Western academia that encompass or influence Sikh and Punjabi Studies, including South Asian studies, religious studies, and aspects of postmodernism, as well as underlying ideologies such as Hindutva. It analyzed these larger issues through five

illustrative but important areas of inquiry: the origins of Sikhism, the later evolution of the tradition, diversity in belief and practice, the Sikh diaspora, and the impact of colonialism on Sikh beliefs. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for the conference, which showcases young Sikh scholars and their work.

[SSAC]

27. Discussion of Book, *Agrarian Distress and Farmer Suicides in North India*, by L. Singh, K.S. Bhangoo and R. Sharma, Chandigarh, India, March 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh discussed the book at a formal book launch, sponsored by Punjabi University, Patiala, with which UCSC has an Agreement of Cooperation. His remarks were featured in the main daily newspaper of the region, and drew the attention of state-level economic policymakers concerned about these issues.

Scholarly Outputs

28. Research Article, *Punjab's Agricultural Innovation Challenge*, October 2015

In March 2015, Prof. Nirvikar Singh attended and served as session chair at an international conference on innovation systems at Punjabi University, Patiala. Based on that session, he wrote a paper with the above title, which is expected to appear in the conference volume, currently under submission. The abstract is as follows, "Fifty years ago, Punjab embarked on its famous Green Revolution, leading the rest of India in that innovation, and becoming the country's breadbasket. Now its economy and society are struggling by relative, and sometimes even absolute, measures. Using the original Green Revolution as a benchmark, this paper discusses five areas of challenge and promise for a new round of agricultural innovation in Punjab. These are: complexity of the agricultural economy, complementary inputs such as infrastructure, switching costs (including risks), balancing frontier innovation and adaptation, and the relative roles of the public and private sectors."

29. Book, *Economic Transformation of a Developing Economy: The Experience of Indian Punjab*, New Delhi: Springer, edited by Lakhwinder Singh and Nirvikar Singh, January 2016

In 2013, after a conference on "Re-Building Punjab: Political Economy, Society and Values," organized by Dr. Inderjit Kaur and Prof. Nirvikar Singh at UCSC, which included Prof. Lakhwinder Singh of Punjabi University, Patiala, as a speaker, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed between the two universities. In March 2014, a joint conference on Punjab's economy was held at Punjabi University, hosted by Prof.

Lakhwinder Singh. Subsequently, Prof. Lakhwinder Singh and Prof. Nirvikar Singh edited a book based on the conference papers, which was published in January 2016. The book has a chapter by Prof. Nirvikar Singh, titled “Breaking the Mould: Thoughts on Punjab’s Future Economic Development.”

The book has a foreword by Dr. Kaushik Basu, Chief Economist of the World Bank. He has written, “...given the iconic status of the Punjab economy, such an understanding can shed light on development in general from which we can learn and benefit wherever we are located in the world. This is what makes the book, *Economic Transformation of a Developing Economy: The Experience of Indian Punjab*, an important one.” In March, 2016, this book was also featured at the book launch event in Chandigarh (item 26) and attracted the attention of policymakers as well.

30. Research Article, *The State of Sikh Studies in Western Academia*, February 2016

This article was revised from the previous draft delivered at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada, and presented at the Sikhologists conference at Stanford. It is currently being revised further.

31. Research Article, *Cosmopolitanism, Tradition and Identity: Framing the Sikh Experience in California*, May 2016

This article was written in 2016 and has been submitted to the *Sikh Research Journal*, a new peer-reviewed online journal. It is currently under review. The abstract is as follows, “This paper analyzes academic accounts of the Sikh experience in California. In addition to providing an overview of various studies of the Sikh community, this paper points out implicit assumptions in these studies, as well as gaps in the literature. Issues discussed include Sikh religious identity, cultural practices and socioeconomic status, as well as the evolving national and global context in which the California Sikh community has grown.”

32. Research Article, *Portraits of the Sikh Gurus*, June 2016

This article was originally written in the summer of 2015, and substantially revised based on peer reviews. It will appear in 2017 in *The Kapany Collection of Sikh Art*, to be published by The Smithsonian and the Sikh Foundation, edited by Dr. Paul Taylor of the Smithsonian Institute and Sonia Dhami from the Sikh Foundation.

33. Article, *Punjab’s Economy: What Went Wrong?*, *Tribune, Chandigarh*, July 2016

This is a brief article, based on Prof. Nirvikar Singh’s earlier analysis, written for the main daily newspaper of Punjab.

34. Book, *The Other One Percent: Indians in America*, New York: Oxford University Press, by Sanjoy Chakravorty, Devesh Kapur and Nirvikar Singh, forthcoming, October 2016

This book includes work on Sikh Americans, who have been a significant part of the Indian American community for over a century.

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Summary

The highlights of activities this past year were a major donation to the University Library of books on Sikhism and the successful expansion of Punjabi language teaching to a two-quarter sequence. In addition, faculty and students at UCSC organized and participated in a range of cultural and educational activities with significant outreach components. Activities also included an international component, with multiple lectures delivered at Punjabi University, Patiala. Several significant scholarly outputs were also produced in the past year.

On the UCSC Campus

1. Presentation, *Waking in Oak Creek*, November 2016

Prof. Nirvikar Singh showed the DVD of this title, documenting the local community's response to the August 2012 killings at the Sikh *gurdwara* in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and led a discussion with the UCSC Police Department Fall Quarter Citizens' Academy, where the audience included students, community members and UCSC police officers.

2. Course: *Introduction to the Sikhs*, Winter Quarter 2017

Prof. Nirvikar Singh taught this 2-unit course, which he designed, for the sixth time in 2017. He teaches it in addition to his regular course load in Economics, so there is no

financial claim on the two endowments for his time. The course introduces the Sikh community, including its origins, history, belief system, and contemporary issues. Other topics include Sikh music, art, literature, and aspects of Sikh society. Particular attention is paid to the Sikh diaspora in the United States and in California, including comparative perspectives with other minority communities, particularly important in contemporary America. The class is listed under the new UCSC Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, which provides administrative support. Students write papers and make oral presentations. The class has a diverse enrollment, and includes a student trip to the San Jose Gurdwara, offering class members and their accompanying friends a first-hand cross-cultural experience. The cost of chartering a bus for the trip is covered from the Aurora Chair income.

[SSAC]

3. Punjabi Language Teaching, Winter and Spring Quarters 2017

Introductory Punjabi language (one quarter of instruction) has been supported since 2012 by the GNHF, with bridge funding from the Dean of Humanities and the SSAC. The class was taught for the fourth time in Spring 2016, and for the first time on the main UCSC campus. Enrollments were very strong, with 27 students taking the class.

A second course in Punjabi language, to create a two-quarter sequence, was added in 2016-17, and was taught in Winter and Spring of 2017. Prof. Nirvikar Singh worked with the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics to obtain campus approval for the new course. Enrollment was 14 students for the first quarter, and 6 students for the continuation class. We hope to build this enrollment, as the sequence becomes more widely advertised and known to students. Punjabi is currently the only modern South Asian language taught on the UCSC campus.

[GNHF]

4. Punjabi Language Conversation Practicum, Winter and Spring Quarters 2017

The Aurora Chair endowment was used to fund weekly conversation practice sessions for students enrolled in the Introductory Punjabi Language class. These sessions were conducted by the language lecturer.

[SSAC]

5. Turban Day, April 2017

This event was the fourth time that the UCSC Sikh Student Association held a Turban Day at the Quarry Plaza, a central location on campus. The students tied turbans on dozens of students, staff and faculty members, and shared information about the Sikh faith and community with all those who stopped by. The Aurora Chair funds helped purchase the turban cloth for the event.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

6. Giddha (Women's Punjabi Folk Dance) Group, April 2017

UCSC women students organized a Giddha dance group for a third year, to complement the long-standing Bhangra group. The Giddha group performed at the annual Indian Cultural Show. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for costume purchases for the Giddha group.

[SSAC]

7. Waking in Oak Creek (2), May 2017

Prof. Nirvikar Singh again showed the DVD of this title, documenting the local community's response to the August 2012 killings at the Sikh *gurdwara* in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and led a discussion with the UCSC Police Department Spring Quarter Citizens' Academy, where the audience included students, community members and UCSC police officers.

8. Sikh Student Association Bhangra Bash, May 2017

The UCSC SSA held this annual social event for all UCSC students, for the fourth time. Aurora Chair funds were used to provide partial support for event expenses.

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

9. Donation of Kapany collection of books on Sikhism to UCSC, June 2017

Prof. Nirvikar Singh worked closely with the donor and University Relations to secure the donation of Dr. Narinder Kapany's large collection of books on Sikhism to UCSC's University Library. The books are now part of the library's general collection. The donation also included a naming gift for a study room in the library, the Sundar Singh Kapany room, in honor of the donor's father.

10. Undergraduate Research on California's Punjabi-Mexican community, 2016-17

Two undergraduate students, Ruby Dhaliwal and Katherine Trejo (both since graduated) completed a project involving fresh ethnographic research on the current situation of this almost-vanished community and its lessons for contemporary California. The Aurora Chair endowment provided funds for expenses involved in the field work. A short documentary film has been produced and will be circulated. Prof. Nirvikar Singh provided some advice and inputs for the work.

[SSAC]

11. Sikh Student Association *Seva* (Service) Days (All Year)

The UCSC Sikh Student Association organized monthly visits to the San Jose Gurdwara to perform *seva*, with activities such as helping in the *langar* (community kitchen). The SSA also volunteered at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen in Santa Cruz in February, and Prof. Nirvikar Singh joined them in that effort.

Off-Campus Activities and Outreach

12. Public Lecture, *Punjab's Agricultural Innovation Challenge*, Punjabi University, Patiala, India, July 2016

13. Public Lecture, *The State of Sikh Studies in Western Academia*, Punjabi University, Patiala, India, July 2016

14. Roundtable Discussion, *The State of Sikh Studies in Western Academia*, Department of Guru Granth Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, India, July 2016

15. Keynote Address, *Sikhs in America*, Ceres Community Center, California, February 2017

Prof. Nirvikar Singh delivered this lecture to a large audience of law enforcement officers (including Sheriffs of four counties), attorneys, local politicians, representatives of the Consul General of India in San Francisco, and Sikh and non-Sikh local community members. The event is held annually to educate the local community about Sikhs and the history of their presence in the US.

[SSAC]

16. Sikholars Conference, Stanford, California, February 2017

The Aurora Chair endowment was used to provide partial funding for this annual conference, which seeks to give a forum for younger Sikh scholars to present their work. Dr. Inderjit Kaur, Research Associate in Music at UCSC, gave one of two keynote talks in the conference.

Scholarly Outputs

17. Research Article, Cosmopolitanism, Tradition and Identity: Framing the Sikh Experience in California, *Sikh Research Journal*, Vol. 1 No. 5, September 2016

Abstract: “This paper analyzes academic accounts of the Sikh experience in California. In addition to providing an overview of various studies of the Sikh community, this paper points out implicit assumptions in these studies, as well as gaps in the literature. Issues discussed include Sikh religious identity, cultural practices and socioeconomic status, as well as the evolving national and global context in which the California Sikh community has grown.”

18. Book, *The Other One Percent: Indians in America*, New York: Oxford University Press, by Sanjoy Chakravorty, Devesh Kapur and Nirvikar Singh, October 2016

This book includes work on Sikh Americans, who have been a significant part of the Indian American community for over a century.

19. Journal Special Volume, *Journal of Punjab Studies*, Vol. 22, Nos. 1&2, The Legacy of 1984 and Contemporary Challenges for Punjab, India, January 2017

Two-part special volume consisting of about 15 articles and 400 pages, co-edited with Jugdep Singh Chima. An editorial introduction for each issue was co-authored by Prof. Nirvikar Singh with Prof. Chima. Available in pdf format at: www.global.ucsb.edu/punjab/research/journal/volume-22

[IEF]

20. Research Article, The Challenge of Translating the Guru Granth Sahib: An Illustration and Preliminary Reflections, *Sikh Research Journal*, Vol. 2 No. 2, March 2017

Abstract: “This paper seeks to highlight some basic elements of the challenge of translating the Guru Granth Sahib (GGS) into modern English. It uses a novel strategy, working with a small segment of the GGS – one verse of its best known component, the *Jap[u] Ji* – and comparing multiple translations of this single verse. This focused exercise reveals some fundamental challenges of translation at several levels, including core ideas relating to the message of *Gurbani*, as well as more mundane practical challenges of translation. The comparison also illustrates different translation tactics and strategies, which can also impinge on the conveyance of meaning.”

21. Research Article, Portraits of the Sikh Gurus, May 2017

Published in *Sikh Art from the Kapany Collection*, Paul Michael Taylor and Sonia Dhami, eds., San Francisco: The Sikh Foundation & Smithsonian's Asian Cultural History Program.

Sikh and Punjabi Studies at UC Santa Cruz, 2017-18

The following activities were completed under the auspices of the Sikh and Punjabi Studies Program at UCSC. Activities are partly funded by three endowments, and supported by the volunteer efforts of Professor Nirvikar Singh and the UCSC Sikh Student Association. Significant administrative support is provided by the UCSC Division of Humanities and Institute for Humanities Research.

The three endowments are

1. Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies (held by Prof. Nirvikar Singh), effective from 2010. [SSAC]
2. Guru Nanak Heritage Fund, effective from 2012. [GNHF]
3. International Economics Fund for Punjab Studies. [IEF]

For some events in the following list, the above sources of financial and other support are specifically noted. Many events and activities are described at the web site, sikhstudies.ucsc.edu.

Summary

This past year, the focus was on institutional development. Aurora Chair funds were used to support activities of the Sikh Student Association, a younger scholar, and the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies department (which is the home department for the class, Introduction to the Sikhs).

UCSC Campus Activities

1. Course: *Introduction to the Sikhs*, Winter Quarter 2018

Prof. Nirvikar Singh taught this 2-unit course, which he designed, for the seventh time in 2017. He teaches it in addition to his regular course load in Economics, so there is no financial claim on the two endowments for his time. The course introduces the Sikh community, including its origins, history, belief system, and contemporary issues. Other topics include Sikh music, art, literature, and aspects of Sikh society. Particular attention is paid to the Sikh diaspora in the United States and in California, including comparative perspectives with other minority communities, particularly important in contemporary America. The class is listed under the new UCSC Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, which provides administrative support. Students write papers and make oral presentations. The class has a diverse enrollment, and includes a student trip to the San Jose Gurdwara, offering class members and their accompanying friends a first-hand

cross-cultural experience. The cost of chartering a bus for the trip is covered from the Aurora Chair income. This past year, a record proportion of students were of non-Sikh heritage, increasing the outreach aspect of the class. Students make oral presentations as well as writing final class papers, and they participate actively in discussions.

[SSAC]

2. Punjabi Language Teaching, Winter and Spring Quarters 2018

Introductory Punjabi language (one quarter of instruction) has been supported since 2012 by the GNHF, with bridge funding from the Dean of Humanities and the SSAC. The class was taught for the fourth time in Spring 2016, and for the first time on the main UCSC campus. Enrollments were very strong, with 27 students taking the class.

A second course in Punjabi language, to create a two-quarter sequence, was added in 2016-17, and the sequence was taught for a second time in Winter and Spring of 2018. Enrollment was 12 students for the first quarter, and 4 students for the continuation class. We still hope to build this enrollment, as the sequence becomes more widely advertised and known to students, and as the campus grows. Punjabi is currently the only modern South Asian language taught on the UCSC campus. Prof. Nirvikar Singh met with the Chair of the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics to plan for ongoing offerings of the 2-quarter language sequence.

This year, current and past students from the Punjabi class participated in a Punjabi play, as part of a long-standing tradition of an International Playhouse at UCSC, which features plays in multiple languages from among those offered at UCSC.

[GNHF]

3. UCSC Sikh Student Association Activities

This year, a grant was given to the UCSC SSA, which allowed it to become a focal point for many student activities. The list of activities is provided here, by categories.

Social Events

- Game Night: Hosted game nights for students to get to know each other and build their *sangat* (community)
- Thanksgiving Potluck
- Pajama Social
- Bowling Night
- Lohri Bonfire at Seabright Beach

- Sports Day & Potluck at Beach
- Bhangra Bash: cultural dance night, with food, performances, etc.!
- Supporting the Bhangra and Giddha folk dance teams with their expenses
- Supporting the Punjabi class in their potluck and Punjabi play within the International Playhouse production

Simran (meditation, etc.)

- Bi-weekly Rehraas Nights
- Sukhmani Sahib recitation
- Inter-SSA Kirtan each semester with San Jose State, Santa Clara University, etc. and local sangat
- Offering and organizing rides to Yuba City and Stockton nagar kirtans
- Going to San Jose Gurdwara on Diwali

Academic

- Study Sessions: Provided study spaces, testing materials and snacks for students around midterms and finals
- Gurbani Study Course: Hosted 12 sessions of Gurbani Study throughout the year led by two trained facilitators breaking down lines from Kirtan Sohila. With each session, we had booklets with Kirtan Sohila, videos, activities and discussions.
- Discussions: Throughout the year we hosted three speaker events for discussions, including Bhajan Singh, Peter Friedrich, G.B. Singh, Amardeep Singh (all authors within the community) and Amandeep Singh.
 - Topics covered: Women in Sikhi, Was Gandhi a revolutionary or racist?, Anand Karaj: meaning of Laavan and Maryada, Sikh Legacy in Pakistan

Seva (Service activities)

- 100+ care packages made and distributed throughout Santa Cruz
- Including sanitizer, protein shakes, water bottles, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, snacks, granola bars, tissues, women products, and any donations from the club!
- Seva Days - trips to the San Jose Gurdwara to do seva together and to provide rides to the gurdwara
- Self-Care event: Provided art activities, CAPS resources, CARE resources, ice cream sundaes, and other de-stressor activities to students
- Donation to and attendance at Jakara Sikholars conference

Other

- Turban Day: Tied turbans and provided free food to the campus community as we had conversations and presentations about the Sikh identity and Vaisakhi through visuals and flyers

- Tabling: Tabling or presenting at events held by different campus units and spaces, including the Asian American/ Pacific Islander Resource Center, Student Union Assembly, Interfaith Council, Fall Festival and general tabling at the Quarry Plaza and in front of the library
- General Meetings: Held general meetings throughout the year to keep the club updated about what events we are holding
- Attending United Sikh Movement conference 2017
- Planning for hosting USM Conference at UCSC in Fall 2018

[UCSC Sikh Student Association and SSAC]

4. Faculty Support

A grant from Aurora Chair funds allowed Associate Professor Guriqbal Singh Sahota to engage in professional development activities, including attending conferences, purchasing research materials, and building his professional network.

[SSAC]

5. CRES Department Support

A grant from Aurora Chair funds allowed the CRES department to host Prof. Sunaina Maira of UC Davis for a colloquium at UCSC. Prof. Maira has been an important academic voice for the rights of minorities in the US, including Sikhs, after 9/11.

The funds also supported the CRES graduation, where numerous students spoke, including students who had taken the “Introduction to the Sikhs” class. The work of the Sikh Studies program and its relation to CRES and diversity were emphasized.

Scholarly Activities

6. Research Project: Healthcare Demand in Rural Punjab, India

Prof. Nirvikar Singh is working with a doctoral student, Arshad Mirza, to analyze a survey of 500 individuals conducted in villagers around the town of Nabha, to determine the factors influencing their healthcare choices. This project is ongoing.

[IEF]