

A Journey of 550 Years: Sikh Studies in Academia
Conference Programme

Tuesday 03 September

- 9.30 - Welcomes:
 - Miceal Barden (Dean of Faculty); Frank Wilson (Head of Humanities);
Opinderjit Kaur Takhar (Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies)
 - 10.00 -10.45 - Keynote:
 - Professor Pashaura Singh, University of California Riverside: *Relevance of Guru Nanak's Teachings from a Global Perspective*
 - 11.00-13.00 - Panel 1:
 - Guru Nanak: Bani, Life and Legacy
 - Chair: Pashaura Singh, University of California Riverside
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1. Devinder Chahal, Institute for Understanding Sikhism Montreal: *Nanak and his Philosophy in the eyes of a Scientist*
 2. Toby Braden Johnson, University of California Riverside, *Telling Old Stories in New Ways: Guru Nanak in Contemporary Children's Books*
 3. Jaspal Kaur Kaang, Panjab University Chandigarh: *Poetic Sensibility of Guru Nanak Bani*
 4. Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds: *The Radical Reformer – the Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak*

(Panel 1 cont'd after break)

5. Kamaljit Kaur, Khalsa College for Women Ludhiana: *The Impact of Guru Nanak's Travels on People's Mind*
6. Manvinder Singh, Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar: *Guru Nanak: The Pioneer of Universal Brotherhood*

LUNCH

- 2.00-5.30 Panel 2:
 - Sikh Institutions, Community and Praxis
- Chair: Shinder Thandi, University of California Santa Barbara

- 1. Michael Hawley, Mount Royal University Calgary: *Sikhs in Alberta*
- 2. Christine Moliner, Jindal University Haryana: *Between social invisibility and politics of recognition: the Singh Sabha gurdwara in Paris and French laïcité*
- 3. Harjinder Singh Lallie, University of Warwick: *Management and Financial Activities of Sikh Gurdwaras in the UK*

Panel 2 continued after break

- 4. Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley Canada: *The Praxis of Contemporary Langar: Embodied Ethics, the Promise of Commensality, and Problems of Modernity*
- 5. Mandeep Sehmi, Coventry University: *Why can't we walk backwards four times and cancel our Lavan?' British Sikh Attitudes to Marriage and Divorce*
- 6. Arvind Mandair, University of Michigan: *My Intellectual journey from Natural Sciences to Humanities*

- 6.30pm
 - DINNER at Sitara Hall (Mander Street, Wolverhampton)
 - Welcome from Tim Steele, Pro Vice Chancellor International, University of Wolverhampton

Wednesday 04 September

- 9.00-1.00 Panel 3:
 - Studying Sikhs of Diaspora: Migration to Transnationalism
- Chair: Meena Dhanda, University of Wolverhampton

- 1. Van Dusenbery, Hamline University USA: *From 'Overseas Sikhs' to 'the Sikh Diaspora' to 'Global Sikhs': Retrospect and Prospects in the Study of Sikhs beyond Punjab*
- 2. Shinder Thandi, University of California Santa Barbara: *Navigating between Parallel Lives: Reflections on personal journey and contribution to Sikh and Punjab Studies over the past four decades*
- 3. Sangeeta Luthra, Independent Scholar USA : *Sikh Studies and Sikh Institution Building in the United States: Some reflections on academic research, public scholarship, and advocacy in post 9/11 America*

Panel 3 continued after break

- 4. Doris Jakobsh, University of Waterloo Ontario: *Sikh feminisms: Then and Now*
- 5. Aneeth Hundle, University of California Irvine: *Transnational Sikh Feminisms: Articulating a Research Field*

LUNCH

- 2.00-5.30 Panel 4:
 - Sikh Panth, Diversity and Polity
- Chair: Opinderjit Kaur Takhar, University of Wolverhampton

- 1. Ronki Ram, Panjab University Chandigarh: *Understanding Diversity and Deras within Sikh Society: Some Critical Reflections*
- 2. Kehar Singh, former Professor at Punjabi University Patiala: *Perspectives on Sikh Polity*
- 3. Himadri Banerjee, Jadavpur University Kolkata: *The Other Sikh and their journeys outside Punjab in eastern and north-eastern India*
- 4. Eleanor Nesbitt, University of Warwick: *Guru Granth Sahib in the Writings of Western Women*
- 5. Sujinder Sangha, Former Principal and Writer: *The development of Sikh and Punjabi Studies in UK higher Education*

- 6.30pm: Conference Dinner
 - Chancellor's Hall, University of Wolverhampton
 - Welcome from Professor Geoff Layer, Vice Chancellor University of Wolverhampton

Thursday 05 September

- 9.30-11.00 Panel 5:
 - Rise of Sikh Power
 - Chair: Doris Jakobsh, University of Waterloo Ontario
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1. Gurinder Singh Mann, Sikh Museum Initiative UK: *Guru Nanak depicted through Sikh relics and artefacts in the UK*
 2. Louis E Fenech, Northern Iowa University: *Five Guys Called Singh or The Previous Lives of the Precious Five*
 3. Satnam Singh, Independent Researcher, Danish Ministry of Education: *The Khalsa Shall Rule: Politicizing the Sikhs in the Anandpur Court*
 4. B K Bhatti, Punjabi University Patiala: *The Contribution of Guru Arjan Dev towards Sikhism and his Martyrdom: A Historical Perspective*

BREAK

11.30–12.00 Panel 6:

- Current research in the Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies, University of Wolverhampton
- Chair: Michael Hawley
- Narinder Kaur Bring, PhD Candidate: Sikh Musicology
- Supreet Rai, PhD Candidate: Attitudes towards mental health amongst British Sikhs
- Jasleen Kandhari, PhD Candidate: Sikhi and Art
- Closing remarks: Opinderjit Kaur Takhar

LUNCH

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

List of Presenters and Chairs:

- Himadri Banerjee
- BK Bhatti
- Narinder Kaur Bring
- Devinder Singh Chahal
- Meena Dhanda
- Van Dusenbery
- Louis E Fenech
- Michael Hawley
- Aneeth Hundle
- Doris Jakobsh
- Toby Braden Johnson
- Jaspal K Kaang
- Kamaljit Kaur
- Jasleen Kandhari
- Harjinder Singh Lallie
- Sangeeta K Luthra
- Arvind Mandair
- Gurinder Singh Mann
- Christine Moliner
- Nicola Mooney
- Eleanor Nesbiit
- Supreet Rai
- Ronki Ram
- Sujinder S Sangha
- Mandeep S Sehmi
- Jasjit Singh
- Kehar Singh
- Manvinder Singh
- Satnam Singh
- Opinderjit Kaur Takhar
- Shinder S Thandi