

A Journey of 550 Years: Sikh Studies in Academia

Conference Programme

Tuesday 3rd 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*

11.00-1.00 Panel 1: Guru Nanak: Bani, Life and Legacy

Chair: Pashaura Singh, University of California Riverside

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.... after break

5. Kamaljit Kaur, Khalsa College for Women Ludhiana: *The Impact of Guru Nanak's Travels on People's Mind*

6. Arvinder Singh, Principal Gujranwala Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Ludhiana: *Guru Nanak's Model of Multicultural Society and Peaceful Coexistence And It's Relevance in the 21st Century*

7. 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 cont....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 4th 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 cont... 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 5th September

9.30-11.00 Panel 5: Rise of Sikh Power

Chair: Doris Jakobsh, University of Waterloo Ontario

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: 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

12-1pm: 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