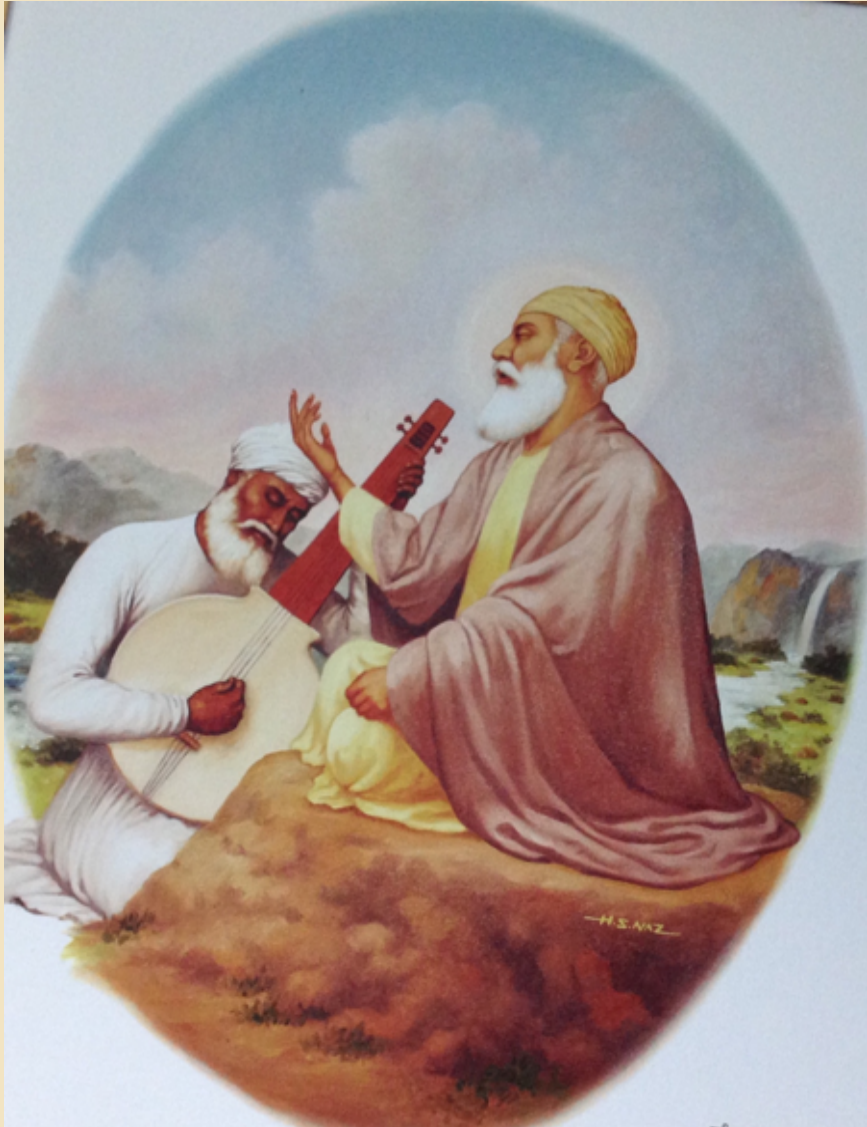


**6th Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Chair  
In Sikh Studies Conference**



*“Celebrating Guru Nanak: New Perspectives,  
Reassessments and Revivification”*

May 3-4, 2019

# Conference Program

(All panels will be in the Interdisciplinary Building Symposium Room, INTS 1113)

## Friday, May 3rd

### 7:45am-8:15am Hotel Pickup

**8:30am**            **Registration and Tea/Coffee**

**8:50am**            **Inauguration of Guru Nanak Art Exhibition** – Dr. Kiril Tomoff, Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS), UC Riverside, CA, USA

**9:00am**            **Welcome** – Dr. Kiril Tomoff, Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities, CHASS, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**Introduction** – Dr. Pashaura Singh, Professor & Dr. J.S. Saini Chair in Sikh & Punjabi Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**Keynote Speech I** – “Guru Nanak in the Arena of Global Philosophies” – Dr. Arvind-pal Singh Mandair, Associate Professor of Sikh Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

**Respondent:** Dr. Robert Cathey, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, USA

### **10:00am**            **Panel # 1: Philosophy & Religious Theory**

Chair: Dr. Anneeth Kaur Hundle, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair in Sikh Studies, University of Irvine, CA, USA

“Guru Nanak’s Philosophy of Language and Being in Siddh Gosht” – Puninder Singh, Doctoral Candidate, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

“The Political Philosophy of Guru Nanak and its Contemporary Relevance” – Dr. Sujinder Singh Sangha, Stockton Riverside College, UK

**Respondent:** Tejpaal Singh, Doctoral Student, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**11:10am**      **Break**

**11:30am**      **Panel # 2: Secularism and Identity**

Chair: Dr. Michael Hawley, Associate Professor of Religion, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

“Sikhism and Secularism” – Dr. Amritjit Singh, Langston Hughes Professor of English & African American Studies, Ohio University, Athens, OH, USA

“Guru Nanak and Sikh Identity” – Dr. Nirvikar Singh, Professor and Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

**Respondent:** Adam Tyson, Doctoral Student, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**1:00pm**      **Lunch**

**2:00pm**      **Panel # 3: Guru Nanak in Sakhi Literatures**

Chair: Dr. Corinne Elizabeth Knight, Instructor, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“Guru Nanak in light of Sajjan *Thug* Sakhi” – Dr. Harjeet Singh Grewal, Sessional Instructor, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary, AB, Canada

“Image of Guru Nanak as depicted in the Puratan Janam Sakhi” – Dr. Balwinderjit Kaur Bhatti, Professor & Head of the Department of Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, India

“What are they teaching these kids?: A look at a small-town Sikh community and their Lessons about Guru Nanak” — Dr. Toby Braden Johnson, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA

**Respondent:** Gurbeer Singh, Doctoral Student, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**3:30pm**      **Break**

**3:50pm**      **Panel # 4: Crossing Borders**

Chair: Dr. Muhamad Ali, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“The limits to control of sacred spaces: Nankana Sahib, the partition of Punjab and access to Sikh shrines in Pakistan since 1947 – Dr. Gurharpal Singh, Professor of Sikh and Punjab Studies, SOAS, University of London, UK

“No-Man’s-Land: Fluidity between Sikhism and Islam in Partition Literature and Film” –Dr. Sara Grewal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB, Canada

“Exploring the Multiple Interpretations of the Legacy of Guru Nanak in Pakistan through the historical Gurdwaras” – Haroon Khalid, Independent Researcher and Author, Islamabad, Pakistan

**6:00pm Reception Dinner at Alumni Visitors Center**

**6:30pm Special Remarks:** Dean Milagros Pena, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS), UC Riverside, CA, USA  
Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox, UC Riverside, CA, USA  
Dr. Harkeerat S. Dhillon, Trustee, UC Riverside Foundation

**6:45pm Dinner**

**7:30pm Keynote Speech II** — Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, Distinguished Professor of Global Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

**Honorees:**

Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer, Distinguished Professor of Global Studies, UC Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Crawford Family Professor of Religion & Chair of Religious Studies Department, Colby College, Waterville, ME, USA

Dr. Pal Ahluwalia, FASSA Vice Chancellor and President, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Republic of Fiji

Dr. Mohinder Singh, Director, Institute of Panjab Studies, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi, India

**Recognition of Dr. Gurcharanjit Singh Attariwala for initiating the process of Renovation of the Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur (Pakistan), twenty-five years ago**

## Saturday, May 4th

**7:45am-8:15am Hotel Pickup**

**8:30am Tea/Coffee in Conference Room**

**9:00am Introduction** – Dr. Arvind-pal Singh Mandair, Associate Professor of Sikh Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

**Keynote Speech III** – “Guru Nanak: A Contemporary Message for Precarious Times” – Dr. Pal Ahluwalia, FASSA, Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Republic of Fiji

**Respondent:** Dr. Robert Cathey, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago

**10:00am Panel # 5: Cross-cultural Interactions**

Chair: Dr. Karen Leonard, Professor Emerita of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

“Guru Nanak as *Nirgun Bhakt*: The First Sikh Master, the Sikhs, and the Seventeenth-century *Bhakt-Māl* of the Dadupanthi Raghavdas” — Dr. Louis E. Fenech, Professor of History, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA, USA

“Tasting the Sweet: Guru Nanak and Sufi Delicacies” – Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Crawford Family Professor of Religion & Chair of religious Studies Department, Colby College, Waterville, ME, USA

**11:15am Break**

**11:30am Panel # 6: Secularity, Gender & the Panth**

Chair: Dr. Michael Hawley, Associate Professor of Religion, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

“Dangerous Evolutions: Consciousness, Cosmogony and Cosmology as a Secularizing Force” – Dr. Balbinder Singh Bhogal, Professor & Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, USA

“‘The first, the purest, the saintliest and the noblest of them all’: Guru Nanak in the writings of western women 1814-1920” – Dr. Eleanor Nesbitt, Professor Emerita, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

“Contemporary Issues and Challenges in the Panth: Guru Nanak’s vision and the twenty-first century” – Dr. Opinderjit Kaur Takhar, MBE, FHEA, Director of Centre for Sikh and Punjabi Studies, University of Wolverhampton, UK

**Respondent:** Adam Tyson, Doctoral Student, UC Riverside, CA, USA

**1:00pm**

**Lunch**

**2:00pm**

**Panel # 7: Guru Nanak in the Music**

Chair: Dr. Anneeth Kaur Hundle, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair in Sikh Studies, University of Irvine, CA, USA

“The Gurbani Kirtan *Parampara*: A Pedagogy that Decolonizes the Sikh Self” – Dr. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa, Instructor of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, USA

“*Gurbani Kirtan* through Decolonial Lenses: New Challenges of an Ancient Genre” – Dr. Francesca Cassio, Professor and Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair in Sikh Musicology, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, USA

“Sounding Guru Nanak’s Message: Means that Matter” – Dr. Inderjit N. Kaur, Assistant Professor of Musicology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

**3:40pm**

**Break**

**4:00pm**

**Panel # 8: Sikh Activism, Reassessments and Revivification**

Chair: Dr. Pashaura Singh, Professor & and Dr. J.S. Saini Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“How did the Process of Renovation of Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan begin?” – Dr. Gurcharanjit Singh Attariwala, Nanaimo, BC, Canada & Tejpal Singh Bainiwal, Doctoral Student, UC Riverside, CA, USA

“How can we inculcate Guru Nanak’s Teachings in our Children?” – Dr. Manpreet Kaur Singh, M.D., MS Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Associate Director, Pediatric Bipolar Disorders Clinic, Stanford University, CA, USA

“Guru Nanak’s Universal Message is a Solution for our Modern Times” – Harbir Kaur Bhatia, Cultural Commissioner, Santa Clara Cultural Commission, and Chair in Community Relations & Advisor to Joy of Seva, CA, USA

**Vote of Thanks:** Dr. Harkeerat S. Dhillon, Trustee, UC Riverside Foundation

**6.30pm**

**Dinner at Dr. Harkeerat Singh Dhillon’s Home**

## Conference Organizers



**Dr. Pashaura Singh** is Professor and Saini Chair in Sikh Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at UC Riverside. He is the author of four Oxford monographs and eight edited or co-edited volumes. His most recent monograph, *A Dictionary of Sikh Studies* was launched recently online at Oxford Reference Site to commemorate Guru Nanak's 550th Birth Anniversary.



**Tejpal Singh Baniwal** is a second year Ph.D. student at the University of California Riverside. He studies early Sikh American history and has been doing research on Gadri Babey and Sikhs in America during the early 1900s. He is the lead researcher for Stockton Gurdwara and working with the National Park Service to designate the Stockton Gurdwara as a National Historic Landmark.



**Adam Tyson** is a second year Ph.D. student at the University of California Riverside with an M.A. in Comparative Religion from the University of Washington (Seattle). He studies history of philosophy and religion with particular respect paid to mystical traditions in Islam. Specifically, he studies the history of Sufism/*tasawwuf* and the socio-political movements associated with it in the early modern period.



**Gurbeer Singh** is a Ph.D. student at University of California, Riverside in the Religious Studies department. He received his undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of California, Merced. Gurbeer's research interest is mainly nineteenth century Sikh history and invented traditions and histories within the Sikh Spheres.

## Honorees



**Dr. Pal Ahluwalia** is FASSA Vice Chancellor and President at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Republic of Fiji. His main research interests lie in the areas of African studies and social and cultural theory. In 2008, he was appointed Chair in Transnational Diasporas and Reconciliation Studies for the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). His latest book is *Out of Africa: Post-Structuralism's Colonial Roots* (Routledge, 2010).



**Dr. Gurcharanjit Singh Attariwala** graduated in medicine from the University of Madras and came to Canada in 1957. He was trained in ophthalmology in Ottawa and Montreal followed by a fellowship from American Academy at Washington DC. Dr. Attariwala practiced in Calgary for 37 years, where he served as the head of department for 20 years. He retired in Nanaimo in 2001 but practiced part time till 2016. He was the Chair of Sikh Society Calgary and Founder of Guru Nanak Shrine Fellowship.



**Dr. Mark Juergensmeyer** is a distinguished Professor of Sociology and Global Studies at UC Santa Barbara, where he was Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair of Sikh Studies and founding director of the Orfaea Center for Global and International Studies. He authored over twenty books, including *Sikh Studies* and *Religious Rebels in the Panjab*. He has taught at Berkeley, Hawaii, and Panjab University, Chandigarh, and was a research scholar at Guru Nanak Dev University.





**Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh** is the head of the Department of Religious Studies at Colby College, and holds the Crawford Family Professor Chair. Her interests focus on Asian Religions, feminist issues, and sacred art and poetry. Dr. Singh has published extensively in the field of Sikh studies.



**Dr. Mohinder Singh** is presently Director at the National Institute of Panjab Studies, New Delhi. He has taught History at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi and Punjabi University, Patiala. He was Director of Guru Nanak Foundation, Member of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Professor of Eminence, Punjabi University, Patiala and visiting Professor at UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Singh has authored several works on Sikh History and Religion.

## Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Arvind-pal S. Mandair** is Associate Professor at the University of Michigan. His research interests include Sikhism and South Asian religions at the intersection of disciplines such as: Continental and Comparative Philosophy; Postcolonial theory; and Religion and Political Theory. His books include *Secularism and Religion-Making* (OUP, 2009) and *Sikhism: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Continuum Bloomsbury, 2013). He is a founding editor of *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, Theory*.

## UC Riverside Administrators



**Dr. Kim A. Wilcox** was appointed as UC Riverside's ninth chancellor in August 2013. Previously, he served as provost at Michigan State and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas. A first-generation college graduate, Chancellor Wilcox earned his Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University and also holds master's and doctoral degrees from Purdue University. During his tenure, UC Riverside has seen historic growth across its education, research, and public service missions, including research funding and philanthropic giving as well as the establishment of new schools of medicine and public policy. Also under Chancellor Wilcox's tenure, UC Riverside has become a national model for achieving student success, particularly across socio-economic and ethnic categories.



**Dr. Milagros Peña** is the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Riverside. She is the author of *Theologies and Liberation in Peru: The Role of Ideas in Social Movements* (Temple U., 1995) and *Latina Activists Across Borders: Grassroots Women's Organizing in Mexico and Texas* (Duke U., 2007), which was awarded the 2008 "Distinguished Book Award" by the Latino/a section of the American Sociological Association. She is also author or co-author of two additional books and over forty journal articles, book chapters, and reports.



**Dr. Kiril Tomoff** is the Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities. With a Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet History from the University of Chicago, he spent a significant time in Moscow doing archival research with the help of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Fellowship. He has presented papers at regional, national, and international conferences in the United States, Norway, Hungary, Germany, and Australia. He returned to Moscow in 2004 as the Director of the Moscow Study Center of the University of California's Education Abroad Program. He is the author of *Creative Union: The Professional Organization of Soviet Composers, 1939-1953* (Cornell University Press, 2006).

## UC Riverside Sikh Chair Supporters



**Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini** endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies is the result of generous contributions given by the Saini Foundation, the Sikh Foundation, and by a number of individuals and the University. The title of the Chair honors the memory of the late Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini, who was a cardiologist in Phoenix, Arizona.

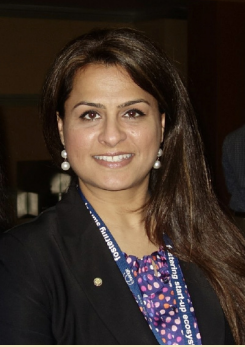


**Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany** is the founder and Chairman of the Sikh Foundation, a non-profit organization that conducts programs in publishing, academics, and the arts. As a scientist and inventor, Dr. Kapany is widely recognized as the “father of fiber-optics” and holds over 100 patents. Throughout his life and career, he has also been an entrepreneur, business executive, professor, philanthropist, art collector, and an artist himself.



**Dr. Harkeerat Singh Dhillon, MD** is an orthopedic and hand surgeon at the Riverside Medical Clinic (Riverside, CA, USA). Since 2004, he has been a Trustee of the University of California, Riverside Foundation and chaired the Campaign for Sikh Studies at UC Riverside. He is on the Board of Advisors at California Baptist University and is a Board Member of the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties. Dr. Dhillon is the Founder and President of the Riverside International Film Festival and the Producer of a feature film, *Beyond Honor* (2004). Additionally, he is the author of *Invisible Hands: A Book of Poetry* (2011), and *Misty Darkness: A Book of Poetry* (2015).

## Speakers



**Harbir Kaur Bhatia** serves in a variety of organizations, as a Board Member of Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clara Cultural Commission, Advisor to Joy of Sewa, San Jose Sikh Gurdwara Community Relations. Harbir has received multiple awards for her leadership. She is passionate about creating awareness and connecting people especially with regards to civil rights, humanitarian causes, women and children.



**Dr. Balwinderjit Kaur Bhatti** is a Professor and Head of the Punjab Historical Studies Department at Punjabi University, Patiala. She specializes in Medieval history of Punjab and Sikh History in particular. Dr. Bhatti has done research on an early 19th century manuscript, *Udasi Bodh*, written by Udasi poet Sant Rein. With nearly 5 dozen published research papers, she has recently published her book on *Sri Guru Granth Sahib: Samajik Sarokar*.



**Dr. Balbinder Singh Bhogal** is a Professor in Religion and the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies at Hofstra University, NY. His primary research interests are South Asian religions and cultures specializing in the Sikh tradition, particularly the Guru Granth Sahib, its philosophy and exegesis. Secondary research interests include: hermeneutic theory and its radicalization through deconstruction; Indian Philosophy and its relation to Continental Philosophy, Mysticism, Translation and Decoloniality.



**Dr. Francesca Cassio** is Professor of Music and the Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair in Sikh Musicology at Hofstra University (NY). Accomplished scholar and musician, she has lectured and performed in South Asia, Europe and North America. Author of a monograph on *dhrupad*, her essays cover several research areas in the field of South Asian music, ranging from music history to pedagogy, gender, minority, postcolonial and decolonial studies.



**Dr. Lou Fenech** is Professor of History at Northern Iowa University. He has focused his research exclusively on the history and religion of the Sikhs since his first undergraduate class, and has produced a number of articles and books on these topics. He is co-editor with Pashaura Singh of the *Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies* (2014) and has most recently completed a manuscript dealing with the history of the *Panj Piare or the Five Most Cherished in Sikh history*.



**Dr. Harjeet Singh Grewal** teaches Sikhism and Religious Philosophy courses in the Department of Classics and Religion at the University of Calgary. He completed his dissertation, titled “Janamsakhṭis: Retracing Networks of Interpretation,” at the University of Michigan in 2017. His research interests include Sikh philosophy, diaspora, and literature.



**Dr. Sara Grewal** is an Assistant Professor of Postcolonial Literature in the Department of English at MacEwan University in Edmonton, AB, Canada. Her research interests include Urdu and world literature, translation, historical poetics, race and ethnicity studies, as well as global hip hop. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Ghazal and the Urdu Imaginary*.



**Dr. Toby Braden Johnson** is a kid from Iowa who was lucky to have awesome professors help him learn amazing things and expand his academic horizons at UC Riverside (PhD 2015). His work focuses on the janam-sakhis specifically and on narrative and pedagogy in general. Toby’s publications include chapters in *The Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies*, the Database of Religious History, *Re-Imagining South Asian Religions*, and *Sikhism in Global Context*.





**Dr. Inderjit N. Kaur** is an ethnomusicologist at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, specializing in South Asian musical cultures. Her analytical research interests include sound, affect, senses, phenomenology, and transnationalism. She has published critical interventions in Sikh studies on the meaning of *ghar* in the *sabad* headings in Guru Granth Sahib, the use of the term *gurmat sangeet* to refer to kirtan, and the issue of authenticity in *sabad kirtan*.



**Haroon Khalid** has an academic background in Anthropology and history, and has been a travel writer and freelance journalist since 2008, traveling extensively around Pakistan, documenting historical and cultural heritage. Khalid has written several books about Sikhs in Pakistan, including: *A White Trail: a journey into the heart of Pakistan's religious minorities* (2013), *Walking with Nanak* (2016), and *Imagining Lahore: the city that is, the city that was* (2018).



**Dr. Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa-Baker** is a permanent Instructor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. From 2015-2018 she held an endowed position as Clinical Professor of Sikh & Jain Studies at LMU where she organized conferences, lectures, and certificate programs. The papers from the first conference “Music & Poetics of Devotion in Jain and Sikh Traditions” are now published in a special issue of *Sikh Formations*.



**Dr. Eleanor Nesbitt** is an Emeritus Professor of Religions and Education at the University of Warwick. Her publications include *Guru Nanak* (with Gopinder Kaur, Bayeux Books, 1999, winner of Shap Award 2000); *Pool of Life: The Autobiography of a Punjabi Agony Aunt* (with Kailash Puri, Sussex Academic, 2013); *Sikhism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2nd edn 2016) and *Sikh: Two Centuries of Western Women's Art and Writing* (Kashi Books, 2019).



**Dr. Sujinder Singh Sangha** OBE FRSA - the first Principal and CEO of Asian origin in the UK FE Colleges - has been associated with further, higher and vocational education. He is continuing with his independent research and writing in Punjabi and English after retirement. He was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of his contribution to Local and National Further Education.



**Dr. Amritjit Singh** is the Langston Hughes Professor of English and African American Studies at Ohio University. Past President of MELUS and SALA, he received the MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 and the SALA Distinguished Achievement Award in Scholarship in January 2014. Singh has published over 15 books. In 2017, Fairleigh Dickinson UP published a festschrift titled *Crossing Borders: Essays on Literature, Culture, and Society in Honor of Amritjit Singh*.



**Dr. Gurharpal Singh** is a political scientist. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, SOAS (2011 to 2017), and is currently Professor of Sikh and Punjab Studies at SOAS. His publications include *Communism in Punjab* (1994); *Ethnic Conflict in India* (2000), *Sikhs in Britain* (2006), *The Partition of India* (2008). He was one of the founding editors of the *International Journal of Punjab Studies* and *Sikh Formations*.



**Dr. Manpreet K. Singh** is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Director of the Pediatric Mood Disorders Program in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Stanford. She is an author of more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, most involving research approaches designed to address pivotal issues in child psychiatry. She is a Sikh activist who promotes Sikh teachings among children.



**Dr. Nirvikar Singh** is a distinguished Professor of Economics and Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair of Sikh and Punjabi Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. His research includes economic theory, development economics, political economy, and an award-winning book on Indian-Americans. He has written on several aspects of Punjab's economy. In Sikh Studies, his work includes essays on Sikh identity, history, entrepreneurship, art, and literature; and on translating the Guru Granth Sahib.



**Puninder Singh** is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Michigan. His doctoral work is focused on the concepts of *shabad* and *naam* in theory and practice in the Sikh tradition.



**Dr. Opinderjit Kaur Takhar** is Director of the Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies at the University of Wolverhampton and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She is an Editorial Board member of the peer reviewed Journals *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture and Theory*, and also *Religions of South Asia*. Opinderjit was awarded a MBE in 2018 for her services to Higher Education and the community in Wolverhampton.



## Panel Chairs & Respondents



**Dr. Muhamad Ali** is the director of Middle East and Islamic Studies program and an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at UC Riverside (CA, USA). His areas of research include Islam in southeast Asia, Qur'anic exegesis, comparative Muslim societies, transmission of Islamic knowledge; religious pluralism, and Islamic movements and politics. His most recent book is *Islam and Colonialism: Becoming Modern in Indonesia and Malaya* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015).



**Dr. Robert Cathey** is Professor of Theology at the McCormick Seminary. He is past President and a member of the Executive Committee of The American Theological Society – Midwest. He participated in the fourth and fifth Parliaments of the World's Religions. Robert has authored several articles, chapters, and books including *God in Postliberal Perspective: Between Realism and Non-Realism*. His teaching and research interests include philosophic theology, religious pluralism and social solidarity.



**Dr. Michael Hawley** is Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Mount Royal University in Calgary. He is founding Co-Chair of the Sikh Studies Group at the American Academy of Religion (AAR). He is the editor of *Sikh Diaspora: Theory, Agency, and Experience* (Brill 2013). He is currently working on a project documenting the history of the Sikhs in Alberta. His favorite dish is *Karela*.



**Dr. Anneeth Kaur Hundle** is Chair of Sikh Studies and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. She is currently completing her book manuscript, "Unsettling Citizenship: African Asian Lives and the Politics of Racialized Insecurity in Transnational Uganda", with the support of the UC President's Faculty Research Fellowship. Hundle is also currently Associate Editor of *Sikh Formations* and developing her second book manuscript on transnational Sikh feminisms.



**Dr. Corinne Elizabeth Knight** holds a PhD in Religious Studies from UC Riverside and currently teaches business writing and freshman composition. Her research focus is on the intersection of religion and popular culture, specifically in regard to television and webcomics. She is also the manager for the UCR Pipe Band.



**Dr. Karen Leonard** has published on the history and culture of India especially the former Hyderabad State, and on Asian American and Muslim American history and culture. Her book on the Punjabi Mexicans in the U.S., *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans*, is the relevant work for this conference. Leonard retired in 2014, after chairing the Anthropology department at the University of California, Irvine.

## Special Thanks



**Dr. Parvinder Singh Khanuja** is an oncologist and researcher who practices in Chandler and Mesa, Arizona. He and his wife, Parveen, are members of Phoenix Art Museum's Director's Circle and Asian Arts Council. They also have a personal collection of Sikh art. Recently, Dr. Khanuja has made a generous donation for a named space in the Museum's Asian Art Gallery that is dedicated to displaying Sikh art. This space is one of only two such exhibit spaces in the country, allowing Phoenix Art Museum to present Sikh art on an ongoing basis.



**Bicky Singh** is the founder of the SikhLens Foundation. SikhLens seeks work from artists in a variety of fields, including but not limited to movies, books, music, and art. It creates appropriate avenues for this work to be shared with the rest of the world with the aim of getting more exposure for the presenters; and at the same time creating awareness about Sikhs.

## Staff Organizers



Left to Right: Diane Monroe-Shaw (Financial & Administrative Officer), Diana Marroquin (Accounting Assistant), Francesca Moreira (Event/Accounting Assistant), and Geneva Amador (Event/Accounting Assistant)

**Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers!**

Conference program book designed by Tejpaal Singh and Christina Kang. The front cover original painting is at Punjabi University Patiala and was photographed by Dr. Pashaura Singh during his visit in 2014.

Paintings on B-40 Janam-Sakhis (1733 CE) to be displayed in Guru Nanak Exhibit with the Courtesy of Dr. Parvinder Singh Khanuja and Sikh gallery at Phoenix Art Museum.

# Guru Nanak Exhibit

(Courtesy of Dr. Mohinder Singh and National Institute of Panjab Studies, New Delhi in collaboration with University of California, Riverside)













The Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside offers a wide range of courses covering all of the major religions of the world and exposing students to a wide variety of methodological and theoretical approaches to the academic study of religion. The Department offers undergraduate Majors and Minors in Religious Studies, and Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees in Religious Studies. Students at all levels have the opportunity to explore in depth the diverse social, intellectual, ethical, and theoretical issues that arise when studying the manifestations and impacts of religion today and throughout human history.

Faculty members in the department are active scholars in the field of Religious Studies and command a broad spectrum of scholarly approaches to a wide range of religious traditions. Throughout the year, the Department hosts an active calendar of lectures, colloquia, conferences and other events centered on the academic interdisciplinary study of religion. Annually, the Department presents the Holstein Family Community Lecture in Religious Studies, a lecture by a distinguished visiting speaker on the interactions of religion and society as manifested in social, cultural, and ethical debates. In recent years, the Department has played host biannually to large international academic conferences on Sikh Studies and South Asian Religions sponsored by the Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies.