RECLAIMING DIASPORICITY:

Emergent Subjectivities in Sikh, Punjabi and South Asian Contexts

This workshop brings scholars of Sikh and South Asian studies from across the disciplines to explore new ways of re-imagining ‘diasporicity’ and further expand the conceptual toolbox with which to refine and redeploy the notion of diaspora beyond its function as a sociological descriptor.

The purpose of the conference is to reconsider our understanding of the “diasporic” as emergent subjectivity, or as articulating a form of life with the impulse and capacity to create alternative modes of becoming and being through lived experiences, rather than merely being subject to the kind of binaries that mark conventional notions of diaspora.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Saturday – September 29th

Ehrlicher Room
(3100 North Quadrangle)

9:00 – 10:15 Reading Cultural Diaspora

Harveen Sachdeva Mann
Loyola University, Chicago
Reimag(in)ing Sikh American Diasporicity in the 21st Century: From Gauri Gill’s The Americans to Valarie Kaur’s Revolutionary Love Project

Guriqbal Sahota
University of California, Santa Cruz
Namesakes in Diaspora: Reading with the Runaways

10:30 – 12:30 Profiling Diaspora

Balbir K. Singh
Virginia Tech
Securing the Sikh Body

Katy Pal Sian
University of York
Sikhs and Racialization in the ‘War on Terror’

Tavleen Kaur
(University of California, Irvine)
Brick by Brick: Sovereignty in and of the Sikh Built Environment

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch (Catered)

2:00 – 3:00 Diasporicity and Decolonization

Rita Kaur Dhamoon
University of Victoria
Decolonizing Diaspora: Sikh Subjectivities and Colonial Perversions

Amrit Deol
University of California, Merced
The Makings of a Mutiny: Exploring Diasporicity in Ghadar Party Politics in North America

3:00 – 4:00 Between Belonging and Nomadism

Sara Hakeem Grewal
Macewan University
‘Pindan’ch jamme, pardesan’ch firde’: Diasporic Essentialism in Canadian Sikh Hip Hop

Harjeet Grewal
University of Calgary
Untimed Nomads: Sikhism, Diaspora and Origin

4:00 – 4:30 Welcome Messages

Anne Curzan - Associate Dean of the Humanities, University of Michigan, College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts
Raman Singh - Chairperson, Sikh Studies Association of Michigan
Sonia K. Sandhu - Chattha Family Trust

4:30 – 5:30 Keynote 1

Pal Ahluwalia
University of the South Pacific
Rethinking Diaspora in the Age of Globalization

Sunday - September 30th

2022 S Thayer Building

9:00 – 11:30 Engendering the Diasporic

Natasha Behl
Arizona State University
Diasporic Researcher: An Autoethnographic Analysis of Gender, Race, and Knowledge Production in Political Science

Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa
Loyola Marymount University
A Sikh Diasporic Feminist Intervention: Uprooting a Static Sikh Identity via Ego-loss

Anneeth K. Hundle
University of California, Irvine
Sikh Diasporic Feminisms: Understanding and Theorizing Sikh Feminist Subjectivities

11:30 – 2:00 Lunch & Roundtable Discussion

Sikh Studies and Academic Public Engagement in Public Discourse

Inderpal Grewal
Yale University
Pashaura Singh
University of California, Riverside
Gurharpal Singh
University of London, SOAS

2:00 – 3:00 Keynote 2

Michael Nijhawan
University of York
Autoimmune States: Rethinking the Vulnerable Tissue of Diasporic Selves