



INDO-CANADIAN STUDIES CENTRE

University of Mumbai



Indian Diaspora Centre

Online Book Launch

THE SIKH NEXT DOOR: AN IDENTITY IN TRANSITION

By

Dr. Manpreet J. Singh

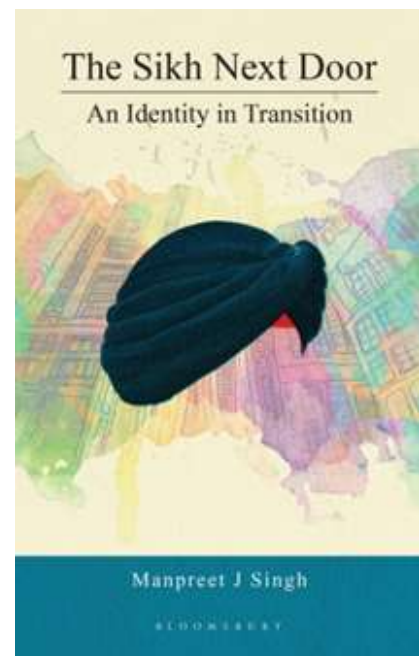
Chief Guest: Dr. Kanwal Singh Neel, Simon Fraser University, B.C., Canada

Special Guest: Dr. Satwinder Bains, Director, SASI, UFV, B.C., Canada

22 October 2020, 9:00 AM Indian Standard Time

Previous day, 21 October, 8:30 PM PDT in Vancouver

The Sikhs have been a people in transition. Unwanted displacements, willing movements and a changing world have led them through demographic, occupational and experiential shifts. While this has led to the evolution of new facets within the community, it has also evoked mixed responses from outside. As new generations of Sikhs engage with the world through sensibilities defined by their contemporary contexts, they find themselves constructed in images dissonant with their lived realities. *The Sikh Next Door: An Identity in Transition* traces these changes while also making an incisive analysis of old stereotypes—some heroic, some menacing and some farcical. The work attempts to reframe the Sikhs, bending a few existing narratives and offering an impetus for a more nuanced understanding of the community.



Dr. Manpreet J. Singh did her M.Phil. in English from Guru Nanak Dev University and PhD in English from Mumbai University. She has taught in various institutions, most recently at Mata Sundri College, Delhi University. As South Asia Diaspora Fund Senior Research Fellow from ICSC Mumbai and CICS UFV, she worked on Sikh diaspora in British Columbia. Her extended research paved the way for *The Sikh Next Door: An Identity in Transition*, published by Bloomsbury Academic, India. She has two previous books to her credit - *The Golden Arc*, a collection of poems and *Male Image Female Gaze: Men in Shashi Deshpande's Fiction*.



Dr. Kanwal Singh Neel is a career educator who has served as a teacher with the Richmond School District, and the Associate Director of Professional Programs in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Vancouver, Canada. He is currently a coordinator with SFU's *Friends of Simon*, an outreach program where university students tutor and mentor immigrant and refugee children after school. Kanwal has been a tireless volunteer for over 50 years in the South Asian community. He was coordinator for the 75th Anniversary of the *Komagata Maru* Incident. He has won many awards including the Prime Minister's National Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics.

Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains is the Director of the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and an Associate Professor in Social Cultural Media Studies, College of Arts. Satwinder's critical analysis of India's multilingual policy and planning has fueled her interest to study the impact of language, culture and identity on South Asian Canadian migration, settlement, and integration. Her research includes and intersects cross-cultural education with a focus on anti-racist curriculum implementation; race, racism, and ethnicity; identity politics; Sikh feminist ideology; migration and the South Asian Canadian Diaspora and Punjabi Canadian cultural historiography.



Zoom Link for the Event: Meeting ID - 940 7518 4162 | Passcode - 289870

<https://zoom.us/j/94075184162?pwd=a3NEM1oxNEUyWVlhdGw4dG9GQ2J0dz09>



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SCHEDULE

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| 9:00 a.m. to 9:10 a.m.: | Welcome and Introduction by Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha
Director, CoHaB Indian Diaspora Centre |
| 9:10 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: | Book Launch and Speech by Chief Guest, Dr. Kanwal Singh Neel
Simon Fraser University, B.C., Canada |
| 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.: | Response by Author Dr. Manpreet J. Singh |
| 9:50 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.: | Publisher's Response: Mr. Chandra Sekhar
Academic Books, Bloomsbury India |
| 10:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.: | Remarks by Special Guest: Dr. Satwinder Bains
Director, South Asian Studies Institute, University of the Fraser
Valley (UFV), B.C., Canada |
| 10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.: | Summation by Dr. Sachin Labade
Honorary Coordinator, Indo Canadian Studies Centre
University of Mumbai |
| 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.: | Question and Answer Session |
| 10:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.: | Vote of Thanks by Ms. Kirti Risbud
Research Associate, CoHaB IDC, University of Mumbai |
