

SYMPOSIUM ON

Religion, Society and Social Consciousness:

Investigating Religiously Inspired and Organized Community Service and Social Movements

Richcraft Hall

River Building - 2220

Carleton University, Ottawa.

October 16th, 2017

Morning Session 10:00 AM

Welcome Remarks: Dr. Inderjit Singh Sambhi, President, Ottawa Sikh Society

Greetings & Opening Remarks: Dr. Richard Mann

Guest Speakers

Introduction of First Speaker: Dr. Gurcharan Singh

Speakers

10:30 Dr. Richard Mann: Taught at Wilfrid Laurier University, McMaster University and the College of William and Mary before coming to Carleton in 2006. Author of *The Rise of Mahāsena: The Transformation of Skanda-Kārttikeya in North India from the Kuṣāṇa to Gupta Empires*. [Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2012] and several articles in Journals such as *Religion Compass* and *Journal of Religious Studies and Theology and Sikh Formations*.

Title: “How the Media Frames Religious Groups: The Absence of Pingalwara and the presence of Turbans”

11:00 : The documentary, “Pingalwara: In Letter & Spirit”, is a short film which provides an education overview of the social and political context that contributes to the stigma attached to individuals with disabilities in India. Additionally, this film will provide the viewer with an understanding of the current conditions for such individuals, a background of the history of Pingalwara and Bhagat Puran Singh Ji, the founder of Pingalwara and lastly, the current conditions of Pingalwara.

The filmmaker is: Japman Kaur is a currently a 3rd year student in the Kinesiology program and Wayne State University. In her filmmaking debut she documents her work at the Pingalwara in Punjab, India. The organization helps folks with a range of disabilities with daily functioning and advocacy. Japman Kaur is also a community organizer who runs programs for Sikh youth in Canada and the US.

11:30 Bikram Singh Bal is a litigation lawyer. He completed his B.A. (Hons.) at Carleton University and his J.D. at the University of Alberta. During his undergraduate study and legal education, Bikram has a strong focus on genocide studies, alternative dispute resolution, and reconciliation and healing in post conflict communities. Bikram has written and spoken on genocides around the world, including the Rwandan Genocide and the Sikh Genocide. Bikram also participated and contributed to a documentary on the Sikh Genocide.

Title: “Bhagat Puran Singh: A Life of Unwavering Service and Devotion”

Lunch 12 Noon

Afternoon Session 1:00 PM

1:00 Dr. Tom Sherwood is an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada who served as Carleton University Chaplain until 2009, when he was appointed United Church Senior Scholar. He has taught part-time at Carleton since 1982... also at Saint Paul University and in the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality, where he is the Dean for this academic year, 2017-18. He is the former Religion and Society columnist in the Ottawa Citizen. His recent book on young adult spirituality is *Listening to The Echo* (Friesen Press, 2016).

Title: *"Public Christianity: Liberation theology and the Social Gospel"*

1:30 Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Bal is a Professor in the Child and Youth Care program at Humber College in Toronto. She completed her PhD in Cultural Studies from Queen's University in Kingston Ontario, where she focused on children's rights, education, and returned for fieldwork to her village in Punjab. Bal serves on the Board of Directors of the Sikh Feminist Research Institute and Kaur's United International.

Title: *"Children of the Divine: Bhagat Puran Singh's Pingalwara and the children's rights principle of non-discrimination"*

2:00 Dr. Deidre Butler is Director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and is the Jewish Studies specialist in the Religion program at Carleton University. Butler is an award-winning teacher whose teaches in the areas of modern Judaism, gender, sexuality and religion, and religious and philosophical responses to the Holocaust. Butler's research operates at the intersections of religion, ethics and feminist thought. Her current research project focuses on Jewish divorce in Canada and the intersections of religious and civil law.

Title: *"To Mend the World: Jewish Feminism and Tikkun Olam"*

2:30 PM Round Up

Moderators:

Dr. Richard Mann: Taught at Wilfrid Laurier University, McMaster University and the College of William and Mary before coming to Carleton in 2006. Author of *The Rise of Mahāsena: The Transformation of Skanda-Kārttikeya in North India from the Kuṣāṇa to Gupta Empires*. [Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2012] and several articles in Journals such as *Religion Compass* and *Journal of Religious Studies and Theology*.

All Speakers come together for Q and A

Resolutions

Vote of Thanks