

Editorial: A New Incarnation

In 1994, a group of UK-based scholars—Eleanor Nesbitt, Gurharpal Singh, Pritam Singh, Ian Talbot, Darshan Singh Tatla, and Shinder Singh Thandi, launched *International Journal of Punjab Studies* (IJPS), the first academic periodical based overseas but dedicated to the region of Punjab. While Gurharpal left in 1997 and Darshan followed him soon after, the others supported the IJPS through the first decade of its production. In 2004, the IJPS was shifted to the newly established Centre for Sikh and Punjab Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and was re-launched as the *Journal of Punjab Studies* (JPS). Indu Banga of G.N.D.U., Amritsar, Mark Juergensmeyer and Gurinder Singh Mann, both of UCSB, joined the original editorial team, and the JPS flourished there from 2004 to 2015.

In the past twenty-two years, the Journal has carried over 220 articles written by scholars ranging from eminent figures in the field to young academics. 54% of these essays are on historical Punjab, 30% on contemporary Punjab both east and west, and 16% on Punjabi Diaspora. In terms of religious communities 30% of these studies focused directly on the Sikhs, 11% on the Muslims, and 4% on the Hindus. There have also been twelve special issues on specific themes such as *Partition of Punjab*, *Twentieth-Century Punjabi Literature*, *Guru Gobind Singh: Life and Times*, *Music and Musicians of Punjab* etc. We would like to believe that during the past two decades the IJPS/JPS has acted as an important catalyst in initiating new research in Sikh and Punjab Studies and simultaneously raising awareness of the importance of this area of research.

Mann's retirement from UCSB, his move to the east coast, and the rise of Global Institute for Sikh Studies (GISS), created a unique opportunity for the JPS to move to New York. This reincarnation also created the prospect of some changes in its setup. It is renamed as the *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies* (JSPS), which synchronizes well its firm commitment to the region of Punjab and the fact that a large number of articles that appeared in it were on the Sikhs. Furthermore, six exceptional young scholars, whose professional trajectories have grown with the

Journal itself, have volunteered to step into the role of editorship and help the JSPS' production from Volume 25 onward. This also takes care of the much-needed generational shift given the fact that the JSPS is now in the third decade of its existence. Mann and Thandi will be responsible for the intermittent Volumes 23 and 24. Finally, we have decided to introduce a permanent section on Primary Sources, which will include a pre-1800, hitherto un-translated source, of regional history. This begins with Vol. 23 and underlines the historical approach that lies at the basis of the JSPS.

We are confident that the GISS will provide the JSPS a comfortable home in the years ahead. And in turn the JSPS, given the extensive disciplinary wherewithal—anthropology, economics, history, music, politics, and religion—of its leadership, will play a significant role in building a firm foundation for Sikh and Punjab Studies, an important element in the mission statement of the GISS.

Gurinder Singh Mann

Shinder Singh Thandi