



# Global Institute for Sikh Studies

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## Report 2017

The following includes our activities in the areas of Publications, Teaching, and Outreach; presents plans for 2018; registers gratitude for those whose support brought GISS into existence; and closes with a montage of pictures from the past year.

### I. Publications

#### 1. *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*

Vol. 24 (2017) <http://giss.org/researchnew.html>, pp. 1-346

Vol. 23 (2016) [http://giss.org/jsps\\_vol\\_23.html](http://giss.org/jsps_vol_23.html), pp. 1-313

Started in the U.K. in 1994 as *International Journal of Punjab Studies*, it continued as *Journal of Punjab Studies* at UC Santa Barbara from 2004 to 2015, and then moved to GISS and acquired its current name, *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*. To see the range of articles published within it, please visit the above links. As part of our service to the field, the contents of all 24 Volumes are available to download free of cost.

#### 2. *Brill's Encyclopedia of Sikhism* (Leiden: A.J. Brill, 2017), pp. 615.

<http://giss.org/books.html>

It is an honor that the editorial team and a large number of contributors to this landmark in Sikh studies are closely associated with GISS. (For its contents, please see <http://www.brill.com/products/book/brills-encyclopedia-sikhism-volume-1>)

### II. Teaching

We are deeply grateful to the following institutions for starting courses on Sikhism:

#### 1. Carthage College, Kenosha, WI, [http://www.giss.org/teaching\\_sikhism.html](http://www.giss.org/teaching_sikhism.html)

We welcome Prof. James Lochtefeld's initiative and look forward to working closely with him.

#### 2. Claremont McKenna College, CA, <http://www.cmc.edu/religious-studies/sikh-studies>

#### 3. Rutgers University, NJ,

<http://religion.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/980-840101-introduction-to-religion-social-patterns-10>

### III. Outreach

**We are indebted to the following for taking time to visit GISS:**

Francesca Cassio, Sikh Musicology, Hofstra University;  
Naindeep Singh Chann, History, UC Los Angeles;  
Cassie Garita, a UCSB graduate and currently Peace Corps volunteer, South Africa;  
Mark Juergensmeyer, Global Studies, UC Santa Barbara;  
Gurmeet Kaur, Atlanta based author of children's books;  
James Lochtefeld, Religion, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI;  
Farina Mir, History, University of Michigan;  
Gibb S. Schreffler, Ethnomusicology, Pomona College;  
Ami P. Shah, Religious Studies, Rutgers University;  
Angad Singh, an award-winning film maker, and a journalist, New York;  
Nur Sobers-Khan, South Asia Curator, The British Library, London;  
Charanjit Singh Sohal, Editor, Vahaga, a Punjabi journal based in Amritsar;  
Tyler Williams, South Asian Languages and Civilization, University of Chicago;  
Elvira and Gurusharan Sidhu (they hold the largest private collection of Indian Art in the U.S.).

**And I am obliged for invitations to lecture at the following institutions:**

Bard College; Barnard College; Ohio University, Athens; Central University, Bathinda; Delhi University; Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Gurmat College, Patiala; Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar; Khalsa College, Amritsar; Khalsa College of Education, Amritsar; Panjab University, Chandigarh; Punjabi University Patiala; Punjab Art Council, Chandigarh; Punjabi Academy, Delhi; Institute of Sikh Studies, Chandigarh; National Institute of Punjab Studies, Delhi; and the International Sikh Conclave organized by the State Government of Bihar, Patna, to commemorate the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

### IV. Looking Ahead

#### 1. Publications:

a) The work has begun on the silver jubilee issue of the *Journal of Sikh and Punjab Studies*, and we look forward to making it available to scholars in the field. We are grateful that the journal has reached this point in its history without a break.

b) The organizational work for *Brill's Encyclopedia of Sikhism*, Vol. II, is in place and the essays are expected to be completed before the end of 2018.

#### 2. Teaching:

In addition to the ones mentioned above, the teaching of Sikhism will be initiated in another institution in Fall 2018, and conversation is ongoing with one more.

### 3. Archives:

a) Thanks to the hard work of Joginder Singh Ahluwalia and Kulbir Singh Thind, the first ten Sikh texts (from *Puratan Janam Sakhi* to *Sri Guru Panth Parkash*) with facility to search their contents will be available on the GISS site before the end of 2018.

b) The plan to turn existing **micro-films** of the early Sikh manuscripts (1600-1800) into the latest digital form is underway, and the work will be completed by 2018.

### 4. Workshop:

We are considering to hold a one-day workshop on Sikh understanding of violence and its location in South Asian and Global Context.

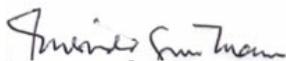
## V. Thank You!

My deep gratitude to the members of GISS' executive and advisory board for their help in conceptualizing the contours of this dream ([please see our mission statement](#)). We look forward to building on the baby steps taken during the first year of GISS' existence.

Heartfelt thanks to our patrons whose help launched the **teaching** of Sikhism at Claremont and Rutgers. Over sixty students in the three programs mentioned above learnt about Sikhism in a fifteen-week long session. Thank you to three of our board members who have entered GISS in their wills as the legal recipient of **their archives**. We appreciate their faith in GISS to be the caretaker of their life's work.

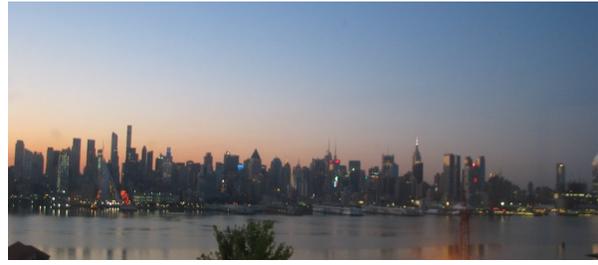
Finally, we are fortunate to have a 1200 square-foot apartment to be the founding home of GISS. The view of the river **Hudson**, having covered 300 miles and ready to unite with the **Atlantic Ocean** under the watch of **New York City** residents landed here from all over the globe provides a powerful though inverse setting to ruminate about the rise of **Kartarpur**, on the banks of the river **Ravi** gushing out of the **Himalayas** on its 700-mile long course to flow into the **Arabian Sea**, and the spread of its inhabitants, the "people of God" (*gursikhs*), first in the Punjab and then around the globe in the subsequent five centuries.

With warm regards.



**PLEASE VISIT GISS WHEN/IF YOU HAVE TIME  
AND KINDLY SEE THE PICTURES BELOW**

## GISS through 2016-2017: A Montage



*The amritvela*



The ducklings are asleep, baby rabbit and deer are up, and others have already launched their day's activity



*The rahiras time*



And the *divali* celebrations on the Hudson

Some of our honorable visitors



At GNDU, Amritsar

At PU, Chandigarh