

ANNUAL PSA DAY CONFERENCE OCT 21, 2022

Afternoon Workshops



5. SIKH HISTORIES IN B.C., ACTIVISM AND COMMUNITY BUILDING: S THE SIKH HERITAGE MUSEUM IN ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

This presentation will explore the history of Sikhs in British Columbia through a story telling about the National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford, BC, Canada. Using alternative methods of learning as a discourse to empower, I will offer challenging and truth telling conversations about Sikh activism and solidarity building through the experiences of white supremacy and anti racism in British Columbia. This presentation will be a threading of the past to the present and provide tangible resources and tools on how to educate to disrupt and challenge students.



Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra (Sharn, she/her) is Coordinator of the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley, co-curator of exhibits at the Sikh Heritage Museum, located in the National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford, BC, and a sessional faculty in the Department of History at UFV. Sharn's PhD looks at the affective experiences of racialized museum visitors through a critical race theory lens. She's a passionate activist, building bridges between community and academia through museum work. She is a past member of the BC Museums Association, and currently a Director with the Pacific Canada Heritage Centre - Museum of Migration. In her off-time, Sharn has founded Belonging Matters Consulting to help organizations and institutions work towards an anti-racist future.

<https://blogs.ufv.ca/chasi/2022/05/11/chasicast-2/> - A recent podcast where I shared experiences on my PhD journey and my activism.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/history-fraser-valley-sikh-settlers-tour-1.6468402> - An article and audio story of my giving a tour of the Sikh Heritage Museum

<https://challengeracistbc.ca/chapter-one.html> - A publication I have co-authored that is open access

<https://saclp.southasiancanadianheritage.ca/social-history-book/> - A book on the history of South Asians in BC, where I've contributed two chapters