# **PUNJABI AT UC BERKELEY**



Punjab, the land of five rivers. Geographically divided between Pakistan and India since 1947. United through shared history, language and culture.

Punjabi, the rich, melodious language spoken in Punjab and throughout the world by an estimated 150 million people.

Gurmukhi, the script formalized by Guru Angad Devji, the second Guru of the Sikhs. A sacred script for the Sikhs as the Guru Granth Sahib is written in Gurmukhi. Alternately, most Punjabi speakers in Pakistan employ the Perso-Arabic script called Shahmukhi by Eastern Punjabis.



Institute for South Asia Studies University of California, Berkeley southasia.berkeley.edu

# पंनाघी गुनभुधी at (AL

# **Punjabi Language Instruction**

Punjabi has been taught at UC Berkeley since the late 1980's. Language instruction is offered at the Beginning and Intermediate levels. Our Beginning and Intermediate courses teach the Gurmukhi script and spoken Punjabi. Furthermore, students are exposed to the traditions and cultural and religious history of the Punjab.

Planning is underway to offer an Advanced Punjabi seminar in the semesters to come. With this seminar our hope is to provide students with an opportunity to explore one or more of Punjab's literary treasures in greater depth.

Our Punjabi lecturer is Jvala Singh. Professor Singh is in the process of completing his PhD at the University of British



Columbia. His work examines precolonial Sikh historical narratives as depicted in 18th and 19th century Punjabi and Brajbhasha literature. In addition to his research and teaching, Jvala Singh also hosts the Suraj Podcast, a podcast on the Suraj Prakash, a popular text on the ten Sikh Gurus written by Kavi Santokh Singh.

## **The Mission and Future Goals**

The Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS) is looking for your support to create an endowment to support Punjabi language instruction and research at Berkeley. Success will allow ISAS to do the following:

- Enable heritage and non-heritage students to take Punjabi language classes
- Train the next generation of Punjabi-focused scholars
- Create new and innovative pedagogical materials to encourage the global study of Punjabi
- Increase Punjabi language holdings in Berkeleys' world-renowned South Asia library collection

#### **Specific naming opportunities**

- Named teaching chair in Punjabi Studies: \$6m
- Named administrative chair in Punjabi Studies: \$3m
- Named Punjabi-Gurmukhi language endowment: \$1m
- Named endowment to support student research fellowships: \$250k
- Named endowment to support recurring annual conference, workshop or symposium: \$250k

#### For more information please contact:

Dr. Anirban Gupta-Nigam, Associate Director Institute for South Asia Studies, 10 Stephens Hall, Berkeley CA 94720 (510) 642-3608 anirbangn@berkeley.edu

To make an online donation in support of Sikh & Punjabi studies please go to:

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#### Why Berkeley?

The Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS) at the University of California, Berkeley is one of the world's foremost centers for research and programs on South Asia. ISAS works with faculty members, graduate students, community members, private institutions, and non-profit organizations to deepen understanding of the region and to create new generations of scholars of South Asia. One key area of focus at ISAS is South Asian language study. Our goal is to equip scholars and practitioners with the tools they need to engage most effectively with the communities in which they live and work. Whether it involves studying classical texts, conducting archival research, working with villagers, or interviewing government officials, knowledge of the local language is essential to advancing research and engaging effectively with local populations. To this end, ISAS works to support Punjabi with the goal of focusing attention on the cultures and history of the Punjab. Our commitment derives from a deep appreciation of Punjabi's rich literary traditions. We do so in the knowledge that Punjabi is underrepresented in the US academia compared to other South Asian languages.



Prof. Singh (standing, top right) with Punjabi language students and members of the Punjabi Board of Trustees (group of four seated, bottom right) in April 2023

#### **Punjab-and Sikh Studies Related Programs at UC Berkeley**

- The Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal Endowed Fund for Sikh & Punjabi Studies: Established in 2020 by the friends and family of Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal, as well as those committed to the furthering of Sikh & Punjabi Studies, the Sabharwal Fund will support the creation of a semester-long visiting lecturer program. The visiting lecturer will be based in the Institute for South Asia Studies and the Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies. In addition to teaching two courses in Sikh & Punjabi Studies, the visiting lecturer will give presentations of their research work to the campus and local community. The first lecturer is expected to be in residence in Spring 2024.

  More information at SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/SABHARWAL-FUND
- **Guru Gobind Singh Fellowship:** Created by a bequest from the late Karam Singh Maughn, the fellowship is named for Guru Gobind Singh (1666 1708), the tenth Guru of Sikhism. The endowment offers an annual fellowship to a graduate of a university in the Punjab (India or Pakistan) pursuing graduate work at the University of California. The current amount of the Guru Gobind Singh Fellowship award is \$30,000.

  More information at SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/SINGH-FELLOWSHIP

#### **Ways to Give**

The University of California at Berkeley invites alumni, parents and friends active in the Punjabi-speaking community to support Punjabi language instruction. Gifts from families, businesses, and other organizations are also encouraged. Gifts may be given in the following forms:

- Outright cash contributions, tax-deductible within certain limits of law
- A pledge to be paid over several years
- Gifts of securities
- Matching gifts by employers. Many companies match gifts from retirees and board members as well as employees
- Bequests

All donations are tax deductible. All individuals donating above \$500 will be acknowledged on the Institute's webpage. All individuals donating above \$1000 will also receive a personalized certificate of appreciation from the Institute' acknowledging their support.



DR. RANJIT SINGH SABHARWAL ENDOWED FUND FOR SIKH STUDIES

The Institute for South Asia Studies is thrilled to announce the establishment of the Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal Endowed Fund for Sikh Studies.

Generously funded by the friends and family of Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal, as well as those committed to the furthering of Sikh Studies, the Sabharwal Fund will support the creation of a semester-long visiting lecturer program. The visiting lecturer will be based in the Institute for South Asia Studies and the Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies. In addition to teaching two courses in Sikh Studies, the lecturer will give presentations of their research work to the campus and local community. We expect the first lecturer to be in residence in Spring 2024.

The Fund and the Program is named in honor of the late Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal. Dr. Sabharwal received an MA in Mathematics at UC Berkeley in 1962 and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. He taught at California State University (East Bay) for twenty-six years. A much-respected and loved figure in the Bay Area Sikh community, Dr. Sabharwal was involved in the establishment of the Fremont Gurdwara as well as the Guru Granth Sahib Foundation, Inc. (Hayward Gurdwara).

For more information, please visit SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/SABHARWAL-SIKH-STUDIES-FUND

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### SIKH STUDIES AT UC BERKELEY



The Gurdwara at Stockton in 1929



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#### SIKH STUDIES AT BERKELEY



#### The Mission & Future Goals

The Institute for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley is looking for your support to strengthen research and scholarship in Sikh Studies, with a special focus on literature, history, and culture. Success will allow the Institute for South Asia Studies to:

- Train the next generation of scholars and academics focused on Sikh Studies
- Increase Sikh Studies-related holdings in Berkeley's world renowned South Asia collection.
- Build on our existing Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal Endowed Fund for Sikh Studies.

#### For more information please contact:

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**Dr. Anirban Gupta Nigam**Associate Director, Institute for South Asia Studies anirbangn@berkeley.edu

To make an online donation in support of Sikh studies please go to:

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Around 1520, Baba Nanak founded Kartarpur in the area that connects the present-day India and Pakistan, gathered some families there and oriented their living around the beliefs in the unity of the Creator and the institutions of the sacred book, three daily prayers, sharing of food, etc. At his passing, he nominated a successor and Gobind Singh (Guru 1675-1708), the tenth in this line, replaced his authority with that of the Panth/community and the Granth/scripture.

Working within this framework, the Sikhs established a powerful kingdom that fell to the British in the 1840s, which in turn created opportunities for travel around the globe as part of the British army and the possibilities for settlement overseas. At present there are 25 million Sikhs, 20 of whom live in Punjabi Suba, a state in India, and the rest are spread out from the Fiji islands to Europe and the Pacific coast.

Having evolved in full light of history, the Sikhs offer an important case study for those interested in the formation of religious communities, the issues facing a minority group in its homeland and the opportunities and challenges within the diaspora settings.

#### **Related Programs at UC Berkeley**

- Punjabi Language Instruction: Punjabi has been taught at Berkeley since the early nineties. We offer language instruction at two levels: Beginning and Intermediate. These courses are designed not only to create a strong foundation for the beginning Punjabi student and sharpen the skills of the intermediate Punjabi student but to also provide a basic cultural comprehension of the various Punjabi speaking societies across the Indian subcontinent, in Europe, and the U.S. Therefore, by learning Punjabi, students also learn about the rich cultural and religious traditions of the Punjab. In past classes, students have been particularly captivated by the poetic works in Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs, and those by the Punjab's Sufi poets. More information at: SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/PUNJABI
- Guru Gobind Singh Fellowship: Created by a bequest from the late Karam Singh Maughn, the fellowship is named for Guru Gobind Singh (1666 – 1708), the tenth Guru of Sikhism. The endowment offers an annual fellowship to a graduate of a university in the Punjab (India or Pakistan) pursuing graduate work at the University of California. The current amount of the Guru Gobind Singh Fellowship award is \$30,000. More information at: SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/SINGH-FELLOWSHIP



The Golden Temple, or Harmandir Sahib, in Amritsar, Punjab, northwestern India. © Tigerbarb/Shutterstock.com

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