

## South Asian Canadian Digital Archive (SACDA) Knowledge Mobilization Workshop August 24-25, 2017

\*\*This program is subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances\*\*

Funding for this workshop is gratefully acknowledged



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*We gratefully acknowledge that this workshop is taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Sto:lo First Nations and Musqueam people.*

**Thursday, August 24, 2017 – University of the Fraser Valley, South Asian Studies Institute, F Building, F125**

**9 am** – Refreshments: coffee/muffins/fruit/etc.

**10 am start** – F Building – University House, South Asian Studies Institute F125

**Welcome to SASI/UFV: Satwinder Bains** – Director South Asian Studies Institute; Director UFV India; University Advisory on Canada India Relations; Associate Professor – Social, Cultural, Media Studies.

**INTRODUCTION: Satwinder Bains, Dr. Tzu-I Chung, Dr. Anne Murphy**

**10:15-11am: Keynote Address: Dr. Nicole Ranganath** – Historian and Assistant Adjunct Professor Middle East/South Asia Studies, University of California, Davis

**BIO:** Nicole Ranganath is a Historian & Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program at the University of California, Davis who specializes in the history of the South Asian diaspora. She is also a core faculty member of the Mellon-funded Re-imagining the Indian Ocean Worlds Initiative. She is the historian and curator of the Pioneering Punjabis Digital Archive, a new resource that houses over 700 diaries, letters, photographs, films, and oral histories documenting the history of Punjabi

Americans in California over the last 120 years (<http://pioneeringpunjabis.ucdavis.edu>). The Archive is a collaboration between UC Davis and Yuba City's Punjabi American Heritage Society. She teaches courses on the history of the South Asian diaspora, South Asian film, and India. She is currently working on a book linking the colonial past in the Punjabi diaspora to North India, Fiji, and East Africa through the lives of Punjabi immigrants who served in the British colonial administration and later settled in northern California in the post-World War II era. Her research is currently funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the California Humanities. She earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and a BA in anthropology from UC Berkeley. She can be reached at [nranganath@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nranganath@ucdavis.edu).

*The Promise & Complexities of Engaging in Digital Scholarship through University/Community Partnerships*

The Pioneering Punjabis Digital Archive narrates the story of one of the earliest South Asian communities in the United States over the last 120 years. It is a deep exploration of the presence, struggles, and contributions of Punjabi Sikh migrants and their families who settled in the "Other Land of Five Rivers" – the Sacramento Valley in northern California. Despite decades of scholarship about this community, the experiences and perspectives of individuals in this community still remain largely hidden. This digital resource seeks to serve as a platform for diverse individuals and families in the Punjabi American community to share their experiences on the global digital stage. This address is designed to help other academic institutions and community organizations develop digital resources involving university/community partnerships. I will shed light on the vision, narration, and reception of this digital resource, as well as lessons learned about diverse aspects of the project development. I will also chart the future directions of this project, including my research on Sikhs in Fiji who later migrated to California, Sikh sacred music, and the first major oral history project at a US university focusing on women's narratives and folk songs in the Punjabi American community.

11:00am-12:40pm

**Presentations:** Moderator - Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, Coordinator SASI - UFV

11:00am-11:20am: Dr. Alex Wetmore and Dr. Heather McAlpine- UFV

*The WellSpring Project: What we've Learned from Swimming Upstream*

New methods in the ever-evolving field of digital scholarship offer unprecedented opportunities for the collection, archiving, sharing, and dissemination of materials. These methods facilitate more and better collaboration among scholars, bridging geographical distances as well as disciplines and ensuring that important cultural and historical materials are widely accessible.

This presentation will set out the goals, scope, and significance of our own developing initiative, The WellSpring Project, which we envision as an open-access, collaborative online project exploring cultural representations of water, health, and public bathing in Canada and the United Kingdom. By calling on an international network of researchers, we will digitize and, using TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) standards, encode literary texts relating to spa towns, medicine, tourism, religion, and the commercialization of

leisure, making them freely available online as “exhibits” in an online gallery around which we also hope to cluster critical and historical context.

The talk will also focus on how the project was built and what we have learned along the way, from working out theoretical issues (why we decided on an online project; determining our approach to the study of public bathing; establishing historical and geographical boundaries for the project), to confronting practical concerns (defining our respective roles in the project; articulating a call for contributions; establishing a workflow), to tackling technical and design aspects (deciding on a framework for the project; the selection of a Content Management System; learning to encode digital texts using the Text Encoding Initiative; learning Dublin Core standards for metadata).

It’s our hope that our experiences as budding practitioners of digital humanities scholarship will prove instructive to others hoping to establish online archival projects.

### 11:25am-11:45am: Moninder Lalli – SFU

Moninder Lalli is the Community Liaison Librarian for the Komagata Maru Website and the Librarian for South Asian Initiatives at Simon Fraser University Library. She was part of the team that had developed the vision for the *komagatamarujourney.ca*. This federally funded project had been an opportunity for developing a resource for scholars and the public to learn about the history and culture of Indo-Canadians. She will describe some challenges and some of the lessons learned during this process.

### 11:50am-12:10pm: Mary Anne MacDougall – UFV

Institutional repositories (IRs) have become a key platform in presenting the scholarly output of an institutions’ faculty and students. Large universities like UBC have grown their own IR (cIRcle) and other medium to smaller universities like UFV have implemented Arca, a platform built on Islandora which is a Canadian developed, open source platform currently used in over 100 public and private institutions worldwide. IRs can play a role in the development of the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive by forming the backbone to the project, but key considerations such as copyright, rapid technical evolution, sustainable funding, and digital content preservation need to be reviewed and clearly integrated into this kind of project.

### 12:15pm-12:35pm: Dr. Anne Murphy and Ajay Bhardwaj – UBC

*Documenting Punjabi Canadian History at UBC: Cultural production, Oral History, Artifacts and Archives*

This proposal will discuss student-driven, community participatory research and its potential for building an archive of Punjabi Canadian history. In on-going classes for the past several years, UBC students have been documenting Punjabi language and literary activities by recording the oral histories of participants on video. In a recently initiated class, "Documenting Punjabi Canada," the scope of the UBC Punjabi Oral History project is enlarged to embrace labour history and social life and, oral history techniques are enriched with exploration of diverse print and material resources, such as posters, pamphlets, tickets, photos, letters, handwritten labour newspapers and amateur audio and video cassette recordings and

so on. The cultural products emanating from it can take various forms, such as photo features, essays, video films, multimedia products, installations, sound designs and exhibitions, as exemplified by the 2015 version of the course taught at UBC. Bhardwaj and Murphy will discuss this model, its potential, and plans for the 2017 version of the class.

12:40pm – 1:30pm: Lunch and Discussion

1:30pm – 3:00pm – Presentations

1:30pm-1:50pm: Dr. Tzu-I Chung and Emma Wright – RBCM

*Creating the South Asian Canadian Digital Archive: Considerations from a Provincial Museum & Archives*

This presentation draws on the past examples of similar projects to highlight the importance of creating a South Asian Canadian Digital Archive. South Asian Canadian communities was historically underrepresented in many institutions. In tandem with the work to create the digital archive are the current efforts to establish and expand South Asian Canadian artifact and archive collections to be preserved for, and shared with, present and future generations. The success of this online resource most importantly is contingent upon sustainable collaborative relationships among research institutions, memory institutions (libraries, museums and archives), and communities. In addition, long-term technological renewability and web platform support are also key considerations for sustainability and success.

The creation of this digital archive is an opportunity to place the South Asian Canadian community and user at the centre, and create a platform that invites commentary and interaction. The scope, model and methodology of the digital archive should be clearly defined, in order to anticipate and address issues of access to the collections, as well as ongoing acquisition and description. By drawing on experiences of similar projects, there is an opportunity for the South Asian Canadian community to build an innovative online space, that incorporates current and future ways of exploring history and archival collections, whilst remaining grounded in professional best practice.

1:55pm - 2:15pm: Dr. Mary Saudelli – UFV

*Learning from Life: Life Histories, Pedagogy, and Meaning-Making*

Life histories offer valuable opportunities for educators to support lifelong learning, critical literacies and individual empowerment. This presentation will inform attendees of a yearlong ethnographic case study of infusing life history pedagogy in a trans-disciplinary, inquiry focussed, higher education curriculum. Findings reveal that life histories pedagogy supported valuable pedagogical goals, but also created opportunities for reciprocity in learning internationally.

2:20pm - 2:40pm: Virendra Kumar and Shea Wind - UFV

*From collection to online: an archival journey*

Shea Wind – Library Information Technology Student and Researcher, SASI UFV

Virendra Kumar – Data Analysis Student and Researcher, SASI UFV

This presentation will look at the digitization process from collection of archive to accessibility online. Shea bring his expertise of the Rules for Archival Description to explain the process of arranging and describing a range of archival documents. Viren will present a wireframe of the SACDA project.

2:40pm – 3:00 pm Refreshment Break

3:00pm- 4:00pm Mr. Samip Mallick – SAADA Executive Director –Q and A

**BIO:** Samip Mallick is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of SAADA, the South Asian American Digital Archive. Working at the intersection of technology and storytelling, Mallick has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Illinois. Prior to his work with SAADA, Mallick was the Director of the Ranganathan Center for Digital Information at the University of Chicago. He was also previously the Program Manager for the South Asia and International Migration Programs at the Social Science Research Council. Mallick serves on the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, and the advisory boards for Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois - Chicago and the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center's "Immigrant Voices" Project.

*Community Archives in the Digital Era: Building the South Asian American Digital Archive*

For the past nine years, SAADA (<http://www.saada.org>) has digitally collected, preserved, and shared stories of South Asian Americans. Though South Asians have been a presence in the United States for more than 130 years, their stories are not taught in classrooms, found in textbooks, or reflected in popular media. SAADA is working to change that. The organization's post-custodial digital-only approach reimagines the potential of community archives in the digital era. The archive, which now includes more than 3,000 unique items, reflects the largest collection of materials related to those in the US who trace their heritage to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, and the many South Asian diaspora communities around the world. The First Days Project (<http://www.firstdaysproject.org>), where SAADA collects and shares stories from immigrants and refugees about their first experiences in the US, was awarded the American Historical Association's Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History. And through initiatives such as Tides, SAADA's online magazine, Our Stories, a forthcoming book about South Asian American history for high school-aged readers, and Where We Belong, SAADA's Pew Center for Arts & Heritage-funded collaboration with artists, the organization brings materials from the archive to life, making them relevant to how we understand the diversity of the American experience. Samip Mallick, SAADA's Co-Founder and Executive Director, will speak about the organization's founding, its approach to building a community-based post-custodial archive, and its future directions.

4:00pm – 5:00pm Next steps and discussion

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**Friday, August 25 – University of British Columbia – CK Choi Building**

9:30am - Refreshments: coffee/muffins, etc.

10am - Room 120 CK Choi Building

**Welcome to UBC: Dr. Anne Murphy** Associate Professor, Asian Studies; Co-Director, Centre for India and South Asia Research Program Chair, Interdisciplinary Program in Religion, Literature and the Arts

10am – 10:20 am

**Presentation: Moderator- Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, Coordinator SASI UFV**

Dr. Milan Singh and Naveen Girn, Co-Directors – SACHA

*Engaging South Asian Canada History through the Archives*

The South Asian Canadian Heritage Association (SACHA) was founded with three goals in mind: (1) to create, facilitate, support and exhibit arts and research-driven initiatives rooted in South Asian Canadian history, culture and identity; (2) to provide avenues for academics, artists and activists to connect with each other and various communities through the exploration of arts and research; and (c) to offer a platform for the members of the South Asian community of Canada to share widely their stories by gathering and providing public access to oral histories, documents, photographs, and other archived material. The organization draws on the collective experience of its Directors in these activities, and its grounding in the scholarly, teaching and archival programs at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. The presentation will describe the scope of projects undertaken by the Directors, such as their collaborative archival work related to the Komagata Maru. The presentation will describe a state of the field of South Asian Canadian digital archival projects to date, and possible ways forward in designing a program for widespread archival collection and dissemination online.

10:30 – 12 noon

Working groups on Terms of Reference for SACDA

1. Criteria for SACDA development as a Digital Resource
2. Mobilization of archival research criteria
3. Infrastructure and Framework
4. Pedagogical resources
5. Journal/new scholarship
6. Collections/archives/repositories
7. Digital projects

12 noon – 1 pm – Lunch

1:00pm - 3pm

Working groups on the development of a South Asian Canadian Studies Network (SACSN)

1. Terms of Reference

- Inter-disciplinary
- Institutional model
- Outputs/inputs
- Governance models
- Membership: Faculty/students/staff/community
- Organization partners
- International Links
- Other

EXAMPLES:

<http://www.easas.eu/>

LINKS:

<http://www.easas.eu/links>

3pm Closing

***THANK YOU***