Special issue on Masculinity and Gender Relations in Canadian Punjabi Communities
Call for Papers

Deadline for Abstracts: 05 November 2018

Punjabis in Canada occupy a significant place in the country’s socio-cultural, political, and economic landscape. Their population is growing with a young generation of Punjabis being born and growing up in Canada as well as with the arrival of Punjabis from elsewhere. Yet scholarly work about Canadian Punjabis is limited, particularly research related to gender dynamics. Within an intent to contribute to literature on gender issues among Canadian Punjabis, we propose a collection of scholarly articles on masculinities and gender relations. Several issues such as gender discrimination, intimate partner violence, ‘honour’-based crimes, son preference and sex selection, and drug and gun violence confront a relatively young Canadian Punjabi community in a racialized context of socio-economic and cultural discrimination. South Asian men have been associated in the media and in dominant discourses in violent terms—as gangs, victims, and perpetrators of violence—and as participating in “barbaric cultural practices.” South Asian families are scrutinized as contributing to this hyper violence through poor parenting practices and cultural values that favour boys over girls, supporting ideologies that see racialized communities as inherently violent and backward in their practices. These constructions originate from deep colonial beginnings and are supported through repetitive messaging and practices, such as racial profiling, media portrayals of crime and violence, and even through practices that target racialized communities as requiring change, rather than the colonial racist system being overhauled and decolonized.

There are important questions to be asked on how gender is constructed in Punjabi communities in Canada, what social factors contribute to the hypermasculinity of Punjabi boys and men, what roles hypermasculinity plays in transnational migration, family formation, and gender dynamics in Punjabi households, and several other questions that have received inadequate attention in research and writing. We are particularly interested in explorations of Punjabi masculinities, colonial constructions of South Asian families and communities and its role in toxic masculinity, the impact of systemic and everyday racism on the lives of second-generation Punjabi women and men in Canada as well as research that explores these issues through lens of transnationality, connecting not only Punjab and Canada, but also the wider networks and nodes of the global Punjabi Diaspora.

The proposal is for a collection of (8 to 10) articles to be published as a special issue in a peer-reviewed journal. The journal will be decided on the basis of shortlisted abstracts. The special issue will contribute to (re)-thinking masculinities and gender in the Canadian Punjabi community in relation to how marked (Punjabi) bodies encounter systemic racism and violence and the intersections with hypermasculinity and family violence.

By Canadian Punjabi, the proposal refers to those whose (ancestral) place of origin is Punjab in present day India and Pakistan, whose religion is Sikhism/ Hinduism/ Islam and any other or no religion. When we use the term ‘community’, it is intended to encompass the diversity among Punjabis in Canada.
Contributions to the special issue are invited from scholars in diverse fields, theoretical frameworks, and scale (micro-level to global or transnational scale) that explore the Punjabi Diaspora in Canada from multiple contexts. Micro-level analyses contextualized in larger processes of change are particularly sought for this collection. We welcome in particular interdisciplinary contributions founded in the view that the issues we are dealing with are multi-faceted and embedded in complex structures and processes. Articles should be based on original first-hand data collection or on the analysis of original data. The articles should push further existing understandings of masculinities and gender issues in the Canadian Punjabi community. We would particularly like to welcome contributions from emerging researchers working on this topic.

Editors
Sharada Srinivasan, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Gender, Justice and Development, University of Guelph
Mandeep Kaur Mucina, Assistant Professor, University of Victoria
Margaret Walton-Roberts, Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

Calendar
01 October 2018: Call for papers
05 November 2018: Deadline for abstracts (Abstracts should be 250 words long including a title)
20 November 2018: Shortlisted authors to be contacted
01 March 2019: Deadline for full draft papers (9000 words all inclusive). All draft papers made available to all authors. Each contributor must read all of the papers before the workshop. Each author is invited to prepare a discussion of one of the papers.
09–10 May 2019: Two-day workshop at the University of Guelph
31 July 2019: Deadline for revised papers and introduction
September/ October 2019: Submission to journal

Email canadian.punjabi.masculinity@gmail.com to submit an abstract (250 words including a title) along with four keywords and a 100-word bio for each author by 5 November 2018.