



## SNAPSHOT AGENDA\*

### DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

8:00am*	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
9:30am	<b>Keynote: The Personal is Professional: My journey as a Sikh scholar</b> <i>Dr. Muninder Kaur Ahluwalia, Professor &amp; Chair of the Department of Counseling, Montclair State University</i>
10:30am	<b>From Vision to Institution: Building the First Sikh University</b> <i>Gian Singh Sandhu, President and CEO, Guru Nanak Institute of Global Studies</i>
11:15am	<b>Coffee</b>
11:40am	<b>Philosophical Transgression, the Self, and the Emergence of Modern Sikh Subjectivities</b> <i>Dr. Harjeet Singh Grewal, Assistant Professor of Sikh Studies, Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary</i>
12:25pm	<b>A Relational Poetics, an Ethics of Being in Sikh Identity</b> <i>Dr. Ranbir K Banwait, Independent Scholar</i>
1:05pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:45pm	<b>Panel: Empowering Sikh Scholars/Academics: The Role of Mentorship for First-Generation Students</b> <i>Moderator: Dr. Damanpreet Kaur Kandola, Faculty at UBC Medicine.</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, GNI Faculty, Historian and Educator</i> <i>Dr. Simarpreet Singh, Researcher, Intellectual Property</i> <i>Taranjot Kaur Dhillon, Ph.D. Candidate, Brock University</i>
3:05pm	<b>Coffee</b>
3:25pm	<b>Tracing Equity and Inclusion with Feminist Scholarship and the Sikh Faith</b> <i>Dr. Roselene Dhaliwal, Visiting Faculty Arts &amp; Social Sciences, Simon Fraser University</i>
4:00pm	<b>Day 1 Summary</b> <i>Dr. Balbir Gurm, Scholar &amp; Consultant</i>
6:30pm	<b>Dinner and Fireside Chat with Jas Johal, Canadian Journalist &amp; Political Commentator</b> <b>Moderated by Neesha Hothi, Communications Strategist for Creative &amp; Cultural Sectors</b> <i>Crown Palace Banquet Hall</i> <i>12025 Nordel Way Unit 201, Surrey, BC V3W 3J2</i>

### DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

8:00am*	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
9:15am	<b>Keynote: AI Revolution: Where Are We Headed?</b> <i>Dr. Harjinder Singh Sandhu, Former CTO, Health and Life Sciences Solutions, Microsoft &amp; Former Assistant Professor of Computer Science, York University</i>
10:20am	<b>Restoring the Role of the Granthis in the Contemporary Gurdwara Institution</b> <i>Dr. Daljeet Singh, Head Granthi, Sikh Society Gurdwara Calgary and Respected scholar in Punjabi literature and Sikh religious studies</i>
11:00am	<b>Coffee</b>
11:20am	<b>Panel: AI and the Future of Education</b> <i>Moderator: Dr. Harjinder Singh Sandhu, Former CTO, Health and Life Sciences Solutions, Microsoft &amp; Former Assistant Professor of Computer Science, York University</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Qussay Salih, Associate Professor, KPU, Surrey</i> <i>Dr. Jasmit Singh, Chief Product Architect, Lookout Inc.</i> <i>Harpreet Kaur, Product Leader, Microsoft</i> <i>Inderpal Chadha, CEO &amp; Founder InSim Group</i>
12:40pm	<b>Bridging Educational Cultures: Punjab vs. Canada</b> <i>Dr. Lakhvinder Singh Bedi, GNI Professor &amp; Director Global Engagement and Registrar Operations</i>
1:25pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2:05pm	<b>Youth Talks (Ted Talk format)</b> <i>Navjot Kaur, Medical Student, UBC</i> <i>Mehak Dhaliwal, Integrated Sciences Student, UBC</i> <i>Roop Kaur Dhillon, GNI Intern &amp; UBC B.Comm Student</i>
2:45pm	<b>Panel: Beyond Silence: Advancing Sikh Mental Health Through Research and Practice: Exploring Therapy, Bereavement, and Disability Across Cultures</b> <i>Moderator: Dr. Muninder Kaur Ahluwalia, Professor &amp; Chair, Department of Counseling, Montclair State University</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. Amritpal S. Shergill, Registered Psychologist</i> <i>Dr. Robinder (Rob) P. Bedi, Professor, Counselling Psychology, UBC</i> <i>Dr. Raman Kaur Mohabir, Psychotherapist, California</i>
4:05pm	<b>Sikh-Panjabi-American Diasporic Imagination and Curated Memory</b> <i>Kiran Kaur, MA Student, University of California Santa Barbara</i>
4:45pm	<b>Day 2 Summary &amp; Closing Remarks</b> <i>Dr. Satpal Singh, Summit Academic Co-Chair</i>