

# RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES - SPRING 2016

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

RESEARCH SEMINAR 4

## Revival of Sikh Music Tradition in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Sikh music is commonly practiced at Sikh temples around the world. It generally involves recitation of religious texts and singing with instrumental accompaniment by professional musicians and/or the congregation. For its rapid development since the 1980s, the number of recordings, publications, and performances featuring Sikh religious music and/or musicians has increased. Meanwhile, a trend has developed to revive the authentic practice of Sikh music. While exhibiting a tendency to standardize musical details and celebrate individual musicians, contemporary practitioners also emphasize authenticity and tradition in re-imagining the musical practice at the time of the Sikh Gurus.

In this presentation, I examine the phenomenon of Sikh music revival in 20th century Punjab with ethnographic research of a Sikh religious school in Punjab, India. I will answer the following questions: when, where, and how was the revival of Sikh music tradition established? What are the “traditional” and “modern” elements involved in the revival? How does the religious music revival reflect the Sikh subalternity in Post-Partition India?



### SPEAKER

Dr LI Wai Chung  
Assistant Professor  
Centennial College

李慧中 (LI Wai Chung) received a BA and MPhil in music from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Last year, she obtained her PhD in Ethnomusicology at The University of Texas at Austin. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Humanities at the Centennial College, Hong Kong.

**6 April, 2016 (Wednesday)**

**12 – 1:15pm**

**Room 402**



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SPRING 2016

RESEARCH  
SEMINAR  
SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY  
12 – 1:15PM

27 JANUARY  
MAK, SABINA

2 MARCH  
TANG, DENISE

23 MARCH  
WU, WEI PING

**6 APRIL**  
**LI, WAI CHUNG**

20 APRIL  
SONG, GENG

4 MAY  
TORASKAR,  
HELEN

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