

Conner Singh VanderBeek

P: +1 (209) 450-6849

E: csv@umich.edu

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/sirvanderbeek>

W: <http://www.csvanderbeek.com/>

A: 2116 Stone Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Video: <https://vimeo.com/sirvanderbeek>

Education

University of Michigan

PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology

Expected Spring 2023

MA Dual-Degree in South Asian Studies

Fall 2021

Confucius China Studies Program, Confucius Institute, Beijing

July 2018

Northwestern University

September 2010-June 2015

BMus/BA Dual-Degree: Received June 2015

▲ Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences: Asian Languages & Civilizations

▲ Bienen School of Music: Composition and Musicology

SIT Study Abroad: National Identity and the Arts, New Delhi

Fall 2014

Presentations and Publications

- ▲ Master's Thesis in South Asian Studies, *Anachronism, Racial Hierarchization, and Negation in Sikh Identity Politics in the US and Canada, ca. 1897-Present* (completed Fall 2021).
- ▲ “#MovingVancouverFwd: Vancouver Culture/Shift funding revisited.” In *Rungh*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (2021), <https://rungh.org/movingvancouverfwd/>.
- ▲ “Expressing and Justifying Sikh Identity in Canadian Arts, or, the Near-Impossibility of Critique.” 7th Sikh Studies Conference, UC Riverside, 2021.
- ▲ Two chapters in forthcoming volume *The Sikh World* (Routledge Press): “The Sikh Internet” & “Sikh Sovereignty and Modern Government”
- ▲ “‘Mitraan da Gangster Scene’: Punjabi Gangster Music and Internalized Racism in Punjabi Canada” – presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology 65th Annual Meeting, Ottawa, October 2020, <https://vimeo.com/471629571>. Additional versions of the paper presented at IASPM Canada 2021, Cape Breton, and AAS 2022, Hawaii.
- ▲ “Found in Translation: Ruby Singh and the Khan Brothers’ genre-bending musical collaboration.” *Rungh Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 2020), <https://rungh.org/found-in-translation/>.
- ▲ “No drone zone, pushing stylistic boundaries: Mohamed Assani’s *Wayfinder* reviewed.” *Rungh Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 2020), <https://rungh.org/no-drone-zone-pushing-stylistic-boundaries/>.
- ▲ “Changing Brands, Shifting Sites and Sights.” *Rungh Magazine*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (December 2019), <https://rungh.org/changing-brands-shifting-sites-and-sights/>.
- ▲ “To Be a Child of Diaspora: The Irreconcilable Outsider in Sikh Discourse” – published in *Sikh Formations*, 11 January 2019, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17448727.2018.1545192>.
- ▲ “North Indian Classical Music” – lecture at Skyline High School, Ann Arbor, MI, December 7, 2018.
- ▲ “My Intimately Unknown Friend: DJ Khaled and the Sonic Architecture of Snapchat” – presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology 63rd Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, November 2018.

- ♣ “Whose Martyr? Gurdas Mann’s ‘Punjab’ and the Contested Memory of Bhagat Singh” – presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, October 2018.
- ♣ “My Intimately Unknown Friend: DJ Khaled, Social Media, and the Shifting Landscape of the Ethnographic Field” – presented at the 3rd Forum of the International Council for Traditional Music, Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, July 11-14, 2018
- ♣ “who belongs in the Indian city? an experiment in defining Indian urbanity” – published in *Culture Monks’* 2018 series *Urban Body : entrapments & releases*, <https://culturemonks.in/2018/02/08/who-belongs-in-the-indian-city-an-experiment-in-defining-indian-urbanity-by-conner-singh-vanderbeek/>.
- ♣ “Sikh Kirtan and Gurmat Sangeet: Debating the Authentic in Sikh Music” – presented at Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib in Plymouth, Michigan, January 22, 2017.
- ♣ Senior Honors Thesis, “Sunday, *baṛī** Sunday: An Ethnography of the Gurdwara Sahib of Chicago,” published in *Northwestern University Research Journal* Spring 2016 issue, www.thenurj.com/sunday-ba-sunday-an-ethnography-of-the-gurdwara-sahib-of-chicago/.
- ♣ *Singhs on the Small Screen* – an undergraduate research blog, Winter 2016 (California) and Summer 2014 (Toronto) <http://blog.undergradresearch.northwestern.edu/blog/conner/>.

Compositions and Collaborative Projects (selected)

2022

- ♣ *ਸ਼ੀਸ਼ੇ 'ਚ ਤਰੇੜ* | *sheeshe 'ch tharer* | *Cracks in the Mirror*, an exhibition by Simranpreet Kaur Anand with Conner Singh VanderBeek. At The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada.

2021

- ♣ *Digital Javanese Gamelan Project*, a series of basic video lessons for Javanese Gamelan. With support by U-M CSEAS and the US Department of Education (ongoing).
- ♣ *ਬੰਦੇ ਚਸਮ ਦੀਦੰ ਫਨਾਇ* || *Bande chasm deedn fanaai* || , a collaborative, mixed media exhibition with Simranpreet Anand. Currently on exhibition in *chasm-e-bulbul* at Bayview Village, Toronto. <https://www.simranpreetanand.com/rumaleysahib1>.
- ♣ *The Adventures of Himmat Kaur and Fateh Singh*, a children’s story by Gavan Cheema. Featuring illustrations by Simranpreet Anand with the voices of Gavan Cheema and Conner Singh VanderBeek, <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8655555>.
- ♣ *Union*, an immersive exhibition by Kiran Bhumber and Nancy Lee. April 24 – June 5, 2021. <https://www.richmondartgallery.org/union>
- ♣ *FINALLY SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO*, an album co-created with Christopher Gomez. Released 19 January 2021, <https://sphinctercontrol.bandcamp.com/album/finally-something-to-look-forward-to>.

2020

- ♣ *Interior Designs*, an album co-created with Christopher Gomez. Released 2 November 2020, <https://sphinctercontrol.bandcamp.com/album/interior-designs>.

2019

- ♣ *Extremely Stable Genius*, an album co-created with Christopher Gomez. Released 5 July 2020, <https://sphinctercontrol.bandcamp.com/album/extremely-stable-genius>.
- ♣ *Transplant*, a dance/music/technology performance for 5X Fest with Kiran Bhumber. June 12, Vancouver, Canada.

2018

- ♣ *On the condition of being multiple places*, an audiovisual piece. Summer 2018, <https://vimeo.com/296923359>.
- ♣ *Phulkari*, a multimedia performance by Kiran Bhumber. Premiered April 6 at Duderstadt Video Studio, University of Michigan. Music director and composer.
- ♣ “There’s also fog where I come from” – performed by the University of Michigan Gamelan, March 26, 2017 at Hill Auditorium, University of Michigan

2017

- ♣ *never twice the same*, an audiovisual recital. On October 7, 2017 at SMTD, University of Michigan, <https://vimeo.com/album/4819997>.
- ♣ “Checkpoint Hoogly” – a video installation with music by Kiran Bhumber. Premiered June 25, 2017 at Café Toto, Calcutta, India.

2016

- ♣ *Let’s talk about our feelings*. – a two-volume project devoted to destigmatizing depression and mental illness through music, November 2015-December 2016: <http://www.csvanderbeek.com/#!talk/cn8bk>.

2015

- ♣ *The way they understood themselves*, a song cycle for baritone, soprano, narrator, piano, and harmonium, with poetry by David Alejandro Hernandez and narration by me. Premiered April 30, 2015 at Northwestern University. <https://soundcloud.com/sirvanderbeek/sets/the-way-they-understood-themselves>.
- ♣ “ਜੋੜ.jor (connect)” for oboe (dbl. Eng. horn), bassoon, violin, and cello – premiered February 4 by the International Contemporary Ensemble, <https://soundcloud.com/sirvanderbeek/jor-connect>.

Awards, Honors, and Grants

- ♣ EXCEL grant, Summer 2020.
- ♣ Louise E. Cuyler Prize, Summer 2019.
- ♣ University of Michigan Gamelan Composer in Residence, 2017-2018 academic year.
- ♣ International Institute Individual Fellowship, Summer 2017.
- ♣ Glenn McGeoch Memorial Scholarship for best teaching of non-majors, Winter 2017.
- ♣ Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grant, Summer 2014.
 - Studied modes of cultural preservation in Punjabi community of Greater Toronto Area, including among gurdwaras, politicians, seniors clubs, writers societies, and the region’s distinctive community of Punjabi YouTube comedians.
- ♣ Hsu-Wigmore Award for Best Honors Thesis in Asian Studies, 2014.
- ♣ Beinecke Brothers Scholarship, 2014.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Assistant and Grader, University of Michigan SMTD	September 2016-Present
GSI for Musicology 140 – History of U.S. Musics (Dr. Mark Clague)	Winter 2022
GSI for Musicology 139 – Introduction to the Study of Musicology (Dr. Charles Lwanga)	Fall 2021
GSI for Musicology 345 (Bollywood Sounds in South Asia; Dr. Inderjit Kaur)	Fall 2020
GSI for Musicology 346 (Music in Science Fiction; Dr. Ryan Bodiford)	FA20, WI21, WI22
GSI for ENS 406 & 407 – Javanese Gamelan (Dr. Susan Walton, Steve Laronga, & Raharja)	FA17-WI19
♣ Instructor of beginner section, Winter 2019	

Grader for Musicology 122 – Introduction to World Music (Dr. Inderjit Kaur)	Winter 2020
Grader for Musicology 122 – Bollywood Music (Dr. Inderjit Kaur)	Winter 2019
♣ Translated and subtitled Bollywood and Punjabi songs for lectures	
GSI for Musicology 121 – Introduction to the Art of Music (Dr. Gabriella Cruz)	Winter 2017
GSI for Musicology 139 – Introduction to the Study of Musicology (Dr. Christi-Anne Castro)	Fall 2016

Work Experience

Program Assistant, Center for Southeast Asian Studies @ U-M	October 2020-Summer 2021
Website Designer, Sikh Studies Endowment @ U-M	January 2019-Present
Admissions Consultant, FutureWorks Consulting	July-October 2015
Receptionist and Videographer, Bienen School of Music @ Northwestern U.	April 2013-June 2015
Founding Member and Composer, VideoLAB Intramural Agency	October 2013-June 2014
Student Caller, Northwestern University Phonathon	July-August 2013

Volunteer Experience

Media Coordinator, Campaign of Dr. Parminder Singh **June 2018**

- ♣ Scheduled and managed social media posts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for Parminder Singh, Liberal Party MPP Candidate for Brampton East.
- ♣ Oversaw and designed radio and print media for the campaign in both English and Punjabi.
- ♣ Canvassed for the candidate among English-, Punjabi-, and Hindi-speaking neighborhoods in Brampton.

Executive Assistant, Campaign of Dr. Parminder Singh **June-September 2014**

- ♣ Databased party membership and helped manage public events with Brampton, Ontario's Punjabi community.
- ♣ Bolstered Dr. Singh's social media presence through regular photographic and written posts.

Skills

- ♣ Music: Music composition, arrangement & orchestration, piano (jazz + western classical), harmonium, Javanese gamelan playing (kendhang, bonang, rebab, gendèr) & pedagogy, basic tabla, noise music
- ♣ Photography, videography, photo and video editing (Photoshop, Lightroom, Premiere Pro)
- ♣ Web and graphic design (Wix, Wordpress, Illustrator)
- ♣ Audio recording, editing, and production
- ♣ Fluency in English and Punjabi, proficiency in Hindi and Spanish, basic reading in Urdu, translation of poetry, music, and prose in Hindi and Punjabi.
- ♣ Fiber and textile arts: sewing, weaving, embroidery