

April, 2021

Press Release

***The South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and the Vancouver Maritime Museum (VMM) host free Sikh Heritage Month BC events to launch new exhibition.***

South Asian Studies Institute, University of the Fraser Valley  
Vancouver Maritime Museum  
National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple, Khalsa Diwan Society Abbotsford  
Sikh Heritage Museum

A new exhibit, ***Komagata Maru: Discrimination Meets Determination*** is launching at the Sikh Heritage Museum located in the National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford on April 14, 2021. It is an adaptation of an exhibition titled *Komagata Maru: Challenging Injustice* created by the VMM during the centennial year commemorations of the Komagata Maru in 2014.

**SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE**  
University of the Fraser Valley

**Sikh Heritage Month BC**

vancouver **maritime** museum

**Komagata Maru**  
**Virtual Presentations**

To celebrate the opening of the exhibition *Komagata Maru: Discrimination Meets Determination* at the National Historic Site, Gur Sikh Temple Sikh Heritage Museum

**Komagata Maru: Challenging Injustice**  
Conversations for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow  
4:00 p.m. April 14, 2021  
Tickets: Free

**From Migrants to Revolutionaries**  
Reflections on the Komagata Maru's 1914 Voyage  
7:00 p.m. April 15, 2021  
Tickets: Free

On the partnership with the SASI, VMM Curator Duncan MacLeod says, "We are honoured that the South Asian Studies Institute has adapted our exhibition. It's vital for institutions like the VMM to take a stand against racism and prejudice, and this exhibition

highlights not only an injustice of the past but the important contributions of those who challenged it."

To launch the exhibition and the partnership between the SASI and the VMM, two virtual events are planned. The first virtual event, hosted by the **SASI on April 14th at 4:00 pm** and a part of the Sikh Heritage Month BC commemorative events, is ***Komagata Maru: Challenging Injustice—Conversations for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow***. The virtual launch will feature reflections by descendants of the passengers of the *Komagata Maru*, conversations about why the story continues to matter today, poignant poetry and the need for activism and vigilance against ongoing racism.

According to SASI Director, Dr Satwinder Kaur Bains this event, "Highlights the ongoing work to dismantle systems of racism and to mark the voyage of many Indian immigrant hopefuls to Canada more than a century ago, as a reminder of past injustices so that we may be vigilant in the present time and for the future".

On **April 15 at 7:00 pm**. The VMM is hosting a talk called invited ***From Migrants to Revolutionaries: Reflections on the Komagata Maru's 1914 Voyage*** by Dr Renisa Mawani, a professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia. Dr Mawani will tell the story of the 1914 passage of *Komagata Maru*. Drawing from the testimony and recollections of passengers, she will explore the solidarities, alliances and animosities between the Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus on board. Dr Mawani will also look at how reports of inter-faith camaraderie circulated among colonial officials in London, Hong Kong, Vancouver and Calcutta affected events.

***Komagata Maru: Discrimination Meets Determination*** will be featured as an exhibit for one year at the Sikh Heritage Museum, National Historic Site Gur Sikh Temple in Abbotsford. The exhibit will be available for viewing seven days a week from 9:30am – 4:30pm. A section of the exhibit will be installed permanently as an outdoor feature of the Sikh Heritage Museum with funding support to SASI from the BC Arts Council. The SASI has published a catalogue on the exhibit with financial support by Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Yosef Wosk Publication Fund.

For more details about these events and to register: <https://vanmaritime.com/komagata-maru-events-to-address-racism/>.

For more information:

[Sharanjit.Sandhra@ufv.ca](mailto:Sharanjit.Sandhra@ufv.ca)