

2014 REINHOLD NIEBUHR AWARD

Honoring a faculty member or administrator whose body of academic work and life promote or exemplify social justice, the Reinhold Niebuhr Award this year goes to a social scientist truly devoted to the practice of engaged scholarship. She is one of the world's leading experts on India's Sikh population, their push for independence in the 1980s and '90s, and the human rights abuses they have suffered as a result. In her quest to understand religious motivations for militancy among Sikhs and others, she has conducted ethnographic research in the midst of conflict zones, documenting the stories of victims and fighters alike in the face of threats to her safety and complex ethical dilemmas. Her experiences have led not only to compelling books and articles but also to her serving as an advocate for Sikhs deprived of humanitarian assistance, due legal process, and just political representation. A frequent collaborator with her students, she has been described by one senior member of the Sikh community as “the Edward Said of the Sikhs—our intellectual analyst, our literary voice, and our moral conscience.”

The University of Notre Dame is proud to present the 2014 Reinhold Niebuhr Award to

Cynthia K. Mahmood

Associate Professor of Anthropology