

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

**An Analysis of Classical- and Neo-liberal imperatives in the Immigration
Policy and Ethnic Relations in New Zealand for a Cohesive Multi-ethnic Civil
Society**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts

in

Sociology

At Massey University, Albany,

New Zealand

John (Jong Duk) Park

2014

Abstract

The influence of classical- and neo-liberal imperatives in relation to immigration is not confined to the settlement processes of new immigrants. It seems to penetrate the whole procedure, including the formation of immigration policy, the selection of immigrants, their settlement, their residential and economic activities, and social experiences. Furthermore, it extends, on a national level, to the nation-building project of New Zealand for a cohesive multi-ethnic civil society. Current tensions and conflicts surrounding immigration in Western countries appear to be the immediate products of the collision between, on the one hand, ethnic immigrants who experience socio-economic discrimination in their search for social and economic spaces for them in the host society and, on the other, the existing inhabitants of the host society who might experience anxiety over the changed social space around them. The ultimate cause of these tensions and conflicts, however, seems to be the collision between, on the one hand, global and local capitalist imperatives to incorporate nation-states into the global capitalist system and, on the other, the social imperatives of nation-states to maintain a cohesive national society. In order to achieve the cohesive multi-ethnic national society, a countermovement may be required which, in Polanyi's term, facilitates the de-commodification of both labour and ethnicity, against the grain of classical- and neo-liberal imperatives.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Warwick Tie for the useful comments, remarks and suggestions through the learning process of this master thesis. Without his words of encouragement, this thesis could not be completed. My thanks also go to Dr. Trudie Cain for her initial advice and the library staff for their help.

Table of Contents

Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
Introduction	1
• The Natures of and Differences between Classical- and Neo-liberalism	1
Chapter 1. Benefits and Costs of Immigration	7
• Macroeconomic Impacts of Immigration	7
• International Trade and Migration	13
• Social Costs of Migration	15
Chapter 2. Selection of Economic Immigrants	19
• Overview of the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC)	19
• Individual Human Capitalisation of Immigrants	24
• The Commodification of Immigrants	27
• Unintended Consequences of the Points-System	30
Chapter 3. Discrimination Against Ethnic Immigrants	33
• Ambivalent Attitudes	33
• Employment Discrimination	35
• Discrimination and Neoliberalism	38
Chapter 4. Ethnic Enclaves	42
• Ethnic Residential Concentration	42

• Ethnic Entrepreneurship	45
• Segmented Assimilation	47
• Ethnic Precincts and Neoliberalism	50
• Māori Neo-tribal Economies and Neoliberalism	52
 Chapter 5. Immigrant Transnationalism	 57
• Definition of Immigrant Transnationalism	57
• Immigrant Transnationalism and Assimilation	59
• Asian Immigrants' Transnationalism in New Zealand	61
• Future of Immigrant Transnationalism	63
 Chapter 6. Social Cohesion and Nationhood	 66
• Social Cohesion	66
• Social Cohesion and Immigration	69
• Reconceptualization of Social Cohesion and Nationhood	70
• New Social Cohesion and Nationhood in New Zealand	75
 Conclusion	 79
• Towards a Cohesive Multi-ethnic Civil Society	81
 References	 83