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From one world to another photographs taken by Les Taylor on the 11th of January 2011.



Massey University, Albany,
New Zealand.
School of People, Environment and Planning

The Sikhs of South Auckland.
An Anthropological and Historical Account of Sikh Migration and
Resettlement in the Counties - Manukau Districts of Auckland, New
Zealand.

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

Masters of Arts in Social Anthropology

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ABSTRACT

Migration has always been part of the human endeavour. This aspect of human behaviour is often characterised as driven solely by an economic rationale in that individuals or families migrate in order to improve their economic well being. Because of this perspective most contemporary academic studies have focused on the economic push- pull factors of migration. However there has been little attention given to other dimensions such as normative family obligations, geographical dispersion of relatives and friends or historical depth of family migration that may facilitate or inhibit the migration and resettlement process.

To delve into these differing paradigms I spent considerable time with the Sikh Community as a participant observer and conducted interviews both formally and informally with Sikh migrants. I explored their reasoning for migration and documented their initial and long term experiences here in New Zealand.

I conclude that economic considerations, whilst important no longer play the dominant role, as espoused by neo-classical economic theorists. Rather it is factors such as clean air, weather patterns, infrastructure capability and political transparency that have eclipsed the importance of immediate and future economic considerations when considering, implementing or maintaining the migration process.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Abstract:</u>	3
<u>Acknowledgments:</u>	4
<u>Table of Illustrations:</u>	6
<u>Introduction:</u>	8
<u>Chapter One:</u> The Global Story - Overrun or just arrived too late?	23
<u>Chapter Two:</u> Land of Origins - The Punjab - Land of the 5 Rivers	30
<u>Chapter Three:</u> International Migration - Streams into Rivers.....	40
<u>Chapter Four:</u> Migrational Theories and Considerations	56
<u>Chapter Five:</u> The New Zealand Stories.....	81
<u>Chapter Six:</u> Ethnographic Conclusions	115
<u>Appendix:</u> Interview Questions	117
<u>Bibliography:</u> References	122

TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>Illustration 1</u> : From one world to another.....	1
<u>Illustration 2</u> : Baisakhi Day celebrations.....	9
<u>Illustration 3</u> : Elderly Sikh Couple and friend.....	12
<u>Illustration 4</u> : Harminder Singh and family.....	16
<u>Illustration 5</u> : Citizenship Ceremony.....	16
<u>Illustration 6</u> : Leaving Sarpuwali	30
<u>Illustration 7</u> : Boys in a Punjabi Village.....	33
<u>Illustration 8</u> : Heavy Fog on the Grand Trunk Road.....	34
<u>Illustration 9</u> : Heavy Fog Urban Punjab.....	35
<u>Illustration 10</u> : Canal Waters Central Punjab	36
<u>Illustration 11</u> : Motivational Poster.....	39
<u>Illustration 12</u> : Dairy Farming Gurdaspur Punjab.....	51
<u>Illustration 13</u> : Variety of Vehicular Traffic	55
<u>Illustration 14</u> : Out of State Workers.....	58
<u>Illustration 15</u> : Migrant Workers Living Conditions.....	63
<u>Illustration 16</u> : Marketing Prop	74
<u>Illustration 17</u> : Migrational Education Seminar	75
<u>Illustration 18</u> : Billboard Promoting Educational Migration	75
<u>Illustration 19</u> : Billboards Promoting Educational Migration.....	76
<u>Illustration 20</u> : Trans-National Punjabi Family.....	77

TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>Illustration 21</u> : Newly Constructed Concrete Home	82
<u>Illustration 22</u> : Government Flats	82
<u>Illustration 23</u> : Sarupwali Village.....	83
<u>Illustration 24</u> : Secondary School Pathankot.....	87
<u>Illustration 25</u> : Kirtan Devotional Service.....	96
<u>Illustration 26</u> : Kirtan Devotional Service.....	97
<u>Illustration 27</u> : Elderly Sikh Woman.....	98
<u>Illustration 28</u> : Elderly Sikh and Grand Daughter	98
<u>Illustration 29</u> : Washing Punjabi Style	111
<u>Illustration 30</u> : Sikh Punjabi Family.....	112