

## Discussion of religion and nation-states using the example of Sikh Diaspora

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Many people have migrated abroad from Indian Punjab. Reportedly, most of the emigrants are Sikh, who build and manage Sikh temples called gurdwara at their migration destinations. Initially we examined historical and social changes in Punjab before and after the Partition of India and Pakistan to elucidate the Sikh identity background. That investigation revealed how political leaders among the Punjabi Sikhs understood their own circumstances in relation to the central government of newly born India. Through study of the post-Partition politics and society of Punjab, we sought to identify push factors of migration from Indian Punjab.

In the latter half of the presentation, we specifically examined Sikh diaspora communities and their gurdwaras. Results of earlier studies of Sikh diaspora and Indian Punjab demonstrated that unstable circumstances in Indian Punjab influenced both new migrants and those who had already settled abroad, especially in the UK. The Sikh community and their gurdwaras in Canada were explained as a latest example. Furthermore, through observation of the gurdwaras in Canada, we sought each mutual influence among the Indian government, Canadian government, and the gurdwaras abroad. In conclusion, this discussion explained the gurdwaras abroad as complicated spaces to which diverse meanings can be assigned by the migrants and their subsequent generations, the government of India, local governments, and Sikhs in India.