

MASTER'S THESIS

Becoming Hong Kong-Punjabi: a case study of racial exclusion and ethnicity construction

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**Becoming Hong Kong-Punjabi:
A Case Study of Racial Exclusion and Ethnicity Construction**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Philosophy**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores how a group of young men born in Hong Kong develops a strong ethnic identity and becomes Hong Kong-Punjabi. Chapter 1 reviews the historical developments of ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, particularly the Indians and Punjabis/Sikhs and spells out why the study is focused on Punjabi youth. Chapter 2 discusses how the concepts of race, class and ethnicity are commonly used, and most importantly, provides the definitions of the concepts in reference to how they are encountered in the remaining chapters. Chapter 3 provides insights into the positions of non-Chinese residents in the social stratification system of Hong Kong. This chapter explores how the non-Chinese population, despite being permanent residents of Hong Kong, is treated differently from their Chinese counterparts. Chapter 4 provides ethnographic insights into the status anxiety of a group of local-born Punjabi male youngsters. Growing up in Hong Kong, these youngsters have reinvented and recreated their own standard of success based on their ethnicity because the dominant standard of success of the local society, that of achievement ideology, and the migrants' standard of success followed by their parents are irrelevant to them as Hong Kong-born Punjabis. Chapter 5 considers the circumstances under which the ethnicity of this group of local-born Punjabi youngsters is constructed and how they practice their ethnicity. This ethnicity is not simply handed down by their parents, thus the differences of their ethnicity to that of their senior generation is pinpointed. Finally, the concluding chapter explores the purposes and meaning/importance of this reinvented ethnicity in the lives of these Punjabi youngsters and the consequences that this ethnicity leads to.

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	How they actively	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DMS Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo)

EK Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School