

COLLECTION LEVEL	
Ref no	GB3228.85
Collection name / Title	Sikh Family History Project Revisited Archive
Accession number(s)	2019/3, 2019/6, 2019/7
Level of Description	Collection
Collection type	Donated Collection: Complete (fonds)
Date	1985-2019
Extent	5.3GB, 4 items
Name of creator(s)	Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust
Administrative / Biographical history	<p>The original Sikh Family History Project was set up in 1982 as a one year Community Enterprise Programme funded by the Manpower Services Commission. The project was established to help young Sikhs to learn and understand about their heritage and to combat the effects of growing racism in the 1980s.</p> <p>The Manpower Services Commission funded two researchers, a publicity officer and an administrator and contributed towards running costs. In the first year the project began by focusing on the first generation of elders and their experiences. These were the generation who had experienced Pre-partition Indian, the decisions behind their move to the UK, the migration journey and their view of and adaption to a new and strange environment. This group were able to provide a link back to the Punjab and record the history of the Manchester community from its arrival in the UK until the 1980s.</p> <p>The three goals of the project were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show young Sikhs that they have a legitimate place in the local community using the first hand testimony of those who had moved and integrated into the UK. Contribute to a wider multi-cultural education in Manchester to provide reliable information to combat misconceptions and stereotypes. Educate British Sikhs about the context of their community including social, cultural and economic traditions. <p>In the original project 42 interviews were undertaken with a cross section of the community, both men and women and often several generations of the same family. Alongside this photographs were collected which are held in the Manchester Digital Photograph Archive.</p>

	<p>The project ran for more than the year as additional funding was obtained from a variety of sources. There was considerable work undertaken around promotion of the project including events and exhibitions. The book 'Speaking for Ourselves' was produced using information and quotes from the original interviews.</p> <p>The original Sikh family History Project was pioneering in its aims, activities and achievements. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Education Trust (AIU Centre) have been aware of the project and keen to make links / promote the outputs of the project. Extensive searching has failed to identify the location of the original oral history recordings or the film that was produced towards the end of the project.</p> <p>As part of an ongoing project the AIU Centre carries out oral history interviews with individual people to capture their stories for the archive. One such interview was undertaken with Kanta Walker who had been a part of the Sikh Family History Project. Kanta was able to facilitate contact with Daljit Singh and Raj Kaur who were two of the project researchers. Initial discussions developed the idea of holding a reminiscence session for members of the original project group. Daljit Singh and Raj Kaur undertook to locate and provide contact details for as many of the project members as they could. From this information staff at the AIU Centre were able to set up the session for the 1 Feb 2019. In attendance were:</p>
	<p>Daljit Sing (SFHP Researcher and Management Committee member) Raj Kaur (SFHP Researcher) Parvinder Sohal (SFHP Administrator) Martin Palmer (SFHP Management Committee member) Kitty Fitzgerald (SFHP Writer) Kanta Walker (SFHP Management Committee Secretary) Phil Baldwin (SFHP Management Committee Chairman)</p> <p>For a small portion of the conversation the group was joined by Jasminder Kandola (SFHP Publicity Officer).</p> <p>The interview was undertaken at Manchester Central Library on Friday 1 February 2019. The interview was chaired by Joanne Robson, with support from Jennifer Vickers and Laila Benhaida. The interview was recorded in three separate tracks with a break for lunch.</p> <p>Martin Palmer brought a number of publications to the oral history session and donated them to the archive. These publications although not a direct outcome of the SFHP were influenced by the knowledge and contacts obtained as part of the SFHP.</p>
<p>Scope and content</p>	<p>This collection includes the oral history and related material (documents and photographs) from the Sikh Family History Project reminiscence session held Feb 2019. It also includes three publications that were donated on the day of the interview by one of the participants and a copy of the volunteer nomination made regarding the project for the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Volunteer Awards. An additional donation of photographs of the Sikh Community in Manchester was donated by a project participant.</p>

Archival history	Accession 2019/7 created by AIURRRC & ET. Accession 2019/3 donated by Martin Palmer and were in his care until the 1 Feb 2019. Accession 2019/6 - digital version of the original images donated by Daljit Singh, Oct 2019.
Immediate source of acquisition or transfer	Mixed source of acquisition
Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information	No appraisal or destruction undertaken. A video of the recording was attempted. The battery in the camera did not last the duration of the first session. Staff were unable to retrieve from the device the file that had been recorded and so this has not been added to the collection.
Accruals	No accruals expected
System of arrangement	GB3228.85/1 Oral History reminiscence session recording and associated material GB3228.85/2 Publications GB3228.85/3 Volunteer awards nomination GB3228.85/4 Photographs of the Manchester Sikh Community
Access conditions	Open
Conditions governing access (usage)	24 hours notice is required to view this collection. Material will then be accessible through Manchester Central Library Search Room, Manchester Central Library, St. Peters Square, Manchester, M2 5PD. To access this collection please contact: rrarchive@manchester.ac.uk
Conditions governing reproduction (permissions)	Collection for private research and study purposes only. Please contact the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Centre if permission for other uses if required.
Language/s	English
Physical characteristics and technical requirements	Hybrid collection including digital and physical files
Finding aids	Summary and index of the oral history session produced by Jennifer Vickers available on request
Existence and location of originals	GB3228.85/4 Original photographs are retained by the donor

Related units of description	<p>Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre Archive and Library: A database that was used to organise the event has been added to the AIUET digital archive and hardcopy research notes created by J. Robson on the project have been GB3228.22.</p> <p>Sikh Family History Project Annual Report 1982-1983 (AIURRRC Ref: MAN.HI.1/SIK)</p> <p>Speaking for Ourselves - Sikh Oral History Project (AIURRRC Ref: MAN/Hi.1/SIK)</p> <p>Manchester Archives and Local Studies Manchester Digital Photographic Archive: GB124.DPA/1654 Photographs and documents relating to the Singh family GB124.DPA/1655 Photographs related to Sarup Singh Landa and the early Sikh Community in Manchester GB124.DPA/1656 Photographs and documents related to Mr Dharay Singh Landa and family GB124.DPA/1657 Photographs related to Gurpal Singh Digwa and family GB124.DPA/1658 Photographs and documents related to Shemsher Singh Bhakar and family GB124.DPA/1659 Photographs and documents related to Kartar Pritam and family</p>
	<p>GB124.DPA/1660 Photographs and documents relating to Samiter Kaur Singh and family GB124.DPA/1661 Photographs and documents relating to Samiter Kaur Singh and family GB124.DPA/1721 Photographs relating to Kaljit Singh GB124.DPA/1736 Photographs related to Bunner Singh GB124.DPA/1743 Photographs and documents related to Sardar Singh and family GB124.DPA/1744 Photographs and documents related to Daljit Singh</p>
Archivist note	<p>Catalogue created Aug 2019 by J. Robson. Oral history summary by J Vickers Jun 2019. Information pertaining to photographs provided by D. Singh and R. Kaur, Sep 2019.</p>
Rules or conventions	<p>ISAD(G)</p>
Date(s) description created / revised	<p>Aug 2019, J. Robson</p>
Key Words	<p>Sikh Family History Project, Oral History, Reminisce, Sikhs in the UK, Monton Street Sikh Temple, Manchester</p>

Ref no	Level	Title	Description	Date	Extent
GB3228.85/1	Series	Sikh Family History Project Revisited - Oral History		Feb 2019	2 word docs, 8 WAV, 1 MP3, 4 Jpegs, 1 item
GB3228.85/1/1	Item	Copy of notes created by Jo Robson for use as a prompt on the day of the recording	Two copies of this document are held. The digital copy is as prepared before the event. The hard copy notes are the one's used on the day and include annotations based on the session etc.	31 Jan 2019	1 word doc, 1 item
GB3228.85/1/2	Item	Sikh Family History Project Revisited - Group Oral History Recording	<p>Track Index:</p> <p>00:00 Introductions</p> <p>06:58 Daljit praises the work of those involved in SFHP.</p> <p>08:17 The group explain more about how they each became involved. Fiona worked as a researcher for Phil and put forward initial project ideas with Kanta. Funding came from Manpower Services Commission (MSC) and was 'relatively easy' to access.</p> <p>10:05 Martin remembers Colin Barnett NW TUC organiser and Head of MSC. Set up the 'Anti -Racism Programme'. Helped secure money for Sacred Trinity Centre using MSC funds.</p> <p>11:40 Daljit remembers his first impressions of Phil and Fiona. Despite initial fears, 'They made us feel really wanted'.</p> <p>13:13 Parvinder explains her involvement. Applied for the opportunity and was happy to contribute a different perspective as a Sikh from India via East Africa. Describes the work she did with Jaswinder, sharing the stories collected.</p> <p>14:57 Kanta remembers drafting job descriptions and the project outline.</p> <p>15:38 Phil remembers researching recording equipment. 'In those days we used to use heavy reel to reel machines'.</p> <p>15:59 Martin remembers Bill Williams' contribution and the difference between remembering Sikh and Jewish heritage.</p> <p>17:10 A by-product of the project was the book 'The Sikh World' written by Daljit Singh and Angela Smith.</p> <p>17:32 Raj remembers how the team operated as a family with everyone pitching in. Daljit remembers what it felt like to be elevated from youth/ community worker to researcher. In awe of people like Bill 'A big man'. Kanta remembers having 'at least 6 sessions with him' listening to interviews, so she could understand what makes a good interview and accompanying interpretation.</p> <p>20:01 Daljit describes people's lack of understanding about the 'importance' of heritage early in the project.</p> <p>20:45 Raj remembers receiving advice and support from the wider team. Kanta describes the importance of developing trust and relationships.</p> <p>22:00 Daljit remembers enquiring about the project at Moss Side MSC. Was told the post would go to the President of the Gurdwara. 'There are always people who want to jump on the bandwagon'.</p>	1 Feb 2019	8 WAV files, 1 MP3
			<p>23:00 Martin asks about tensions between the 3 Gurdwaras. Kanta mentions the money 'wasted' through rivalry and Martin remembers 'the fighting'. Daljit thinks the SFHP project avoided rifts because staff was drawn from a much wider circle. Raj feels internal politics persist. Insider knowledge was helpful to navigate participation. Phil describes initial concerns about the project's capacity to engage.</p> <p>26:26 Today, the community unites for events despite temple politics. Daljit describes moving 'sideways' to navigate relationships. Kanta points to the success of the SFHP's work in schools, which facilitated 'positive identification'. Martin's work with Sacred Trinity pioneered methods to tackle anti-racism which were more widely adopted.</p> <p>28:48 Daljit's drafting of the Sikh statement on the environment led to Eco-Sikh. Having the ear of outsiders helped people to feel heard.</p> <p>29:15 Martin remembers that young people were reluctant to follow Sikh traditions. Daljit: 'The same debates keep coming up time and time again'. Feels the project had an impact because it valued lived experiences. Raj describes the current polarisation of young people. Parvinder observes that it's the same for many religions. The project facilitated exploration of these issues.</p> <p>33:33 Daljit describes Kanta's 'vision' for the project. Oral history was an incidental way of finding out about Sikh faith and culture. The group discuss observed differences in a range of UK settings. Parvinder: 'You enrich what you've got with other stuff...'</p> <p>36:58 Phil introduces the notion of community pride. Many people had photos taken in bus drivers' uniform. Some migrated out of choice, others by necessity. The project highlighted nuanced experiences.</p> <p>38:31 The project raised awareness of the Sikh community. Influenced the focus of oral history. Led to the 'Roots' Black History project and others.</p> <p>40:40 Martin observes that Sikhs are 'used to dealing with pluralism'. Daljit stresses the significance of differing cultures.</p> <p>44:00 Kitty's remembers concerns about being an outsider; Irish roots helped her empathise. Also attracted to the theory of Sikhism and the project's aims.</p> <p>46:14 Kanta discusses the overwhelming task of turning collected material into a narrative. Phil remembers that having someone to write up the project was not included in the original proposal. It came later, with learning from a concurrent project co-managed by MCCR, investigating the needs of 2nd generation South Asians. Kanta recalls that the findings of that project caused controversy and were suppressed.</p> <p>49:11 Daljit: 'We were a product of this system'. Describes anti-racism campaigns in schools and how they were at odds with over-riding structures that did not embrace diversity. Kanta recalls prejudice between minorities.</p> <p>50:52 Martin organised an inter-faith conference in Assisi. Daljit remembers headlines about the murder of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah at that time. The group discuss racism in schools. Kitty who was an art teacher recalls her experiences. Martin describes tension caused by the 'highly simplistic definition of racism'. The work of SFHP and Sacred Trinity attempt to address this.</p>		

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			<p>56:31 Jasminder Kandola briefly joins the conversation and introduces herself.</p> <p>58:22 Kitty felt enthused after her first meeting with Daljit and Raj. Everyone working together on something 'useful'.</p> <p>59:18 Daljit saw a need for more constructive models of co-existence. Stresses the importance of BAME role models.</p> <p>1:00:41 Parvinder welcomed the opportunity to do work that 'valued me and my people'.</p> <p>1:01:17 Phil values what the project achieved in spite of 'rocky' relationships within the team. Likens it to a family. Raj and Jaswinder described as 'diplomats'. Discusses the production of a video about Sikh heritage.</p> <p>1:06:11 'I was the only ethnic minority community worker with Social Services'. Trying to convince colleagues to undertake development work with BAME groups 'really tested your patience'. Hopes the project had an impact. Phil remembers it was hard to get senior managers interested. Lack of engagement on both sides with Kanta sometimes accused by communities of 'snooping on behalf of Social Services'.</p> <p>[Jasminder returns to work and does not re-join the conversation]</p> <p>1:11:53 Raj recounts her transition from housewife to project worker. 'It spurred me on to do more'.</p> <p>1:12:52 Martin values the opportunity provided for people of faith to narrate their lived experiences. 'It has shaped everything I've done ever since'.</p> <p>1:14:57 The whole project provided learning for Kanta. Staff brought their own skills and ideas despite lacking formal qualifications.</p> <p>1:17:55 Jo asks about the project outputs. Parvinder describes oral histories (audio and written versions), exhibitions and sharing events. Daljit claims the AIUET has continued the project's anti-racism education agenda. Kanta highlights the potential for such projects to build capacity within communities.</p> <p>1:21:20 Martin describes how the project united disparate people and communicated complex themes. More information about Eco Sikh.</p> <p>1:24:00 Raj describes the exhibitions developed for educational venues. The team also trained social workers and the police, liaised with Sikh families and tried to instil young people with a stronger sense of identity.</p> <p>1:27:40 The project moved from 'the community representative' model to greater complexity and diversity. Led to new ways of working.</p>		
GB3228.85/1/3	Item	Photograph of Sikh Family History Project Revisited - Group Oral History Recording participants		1 Feb 2019	4 Jpegs
GB3228.85/1/4	Item	Additional written notes from Kitty Fitzgerald to supplement the Sikh Family History Project Revisited - Group Oral History Recording		7 Feb 2019	1 word doc
GB3228.85/2	Series	Publications	These publications were donated on the day of the interview by Martin Palmer. Although not a direct output of the SFHP the knowledge and contacts from the project contributed to their development.	1985-1997	4 items
GB3228.85/2/1	Item	The Sikh World' by Daljit Singh and Angela Smith	This book was published by Macdonald as part of its Religions of the World series. This copy of the book was signed by both Daljit and Angela at the 1 Feb 2019 event.	1985	1 vol
GB3228.85/2/2	Item	The Sikh Statement on Nature' produced by the World Wildlife Fund [WWF]	This booklet was produced by the World Wildlife Fund as part of a series of statements by different faith groups regarding nature. Martin Palmer was involved in the production of this statement and included with the booklet is a copy letter from [Prince] Philip of Balmoral Castle to Martin [Palmer] in which the Philip suggests receiving the Sikh declaration on nature on an upcoming tour to India to open the WWF-India headquarters, 6 Sep 1989	1989	2 items
GB3228.85/2/3	Item	Holy Ground: The Guide to Faith and Ecology' Edited by Jo Edwards and Martin Palmer	This volume is a coming together of the statements on nature that the WWF had collected from 9 world religions. Included in the book is The Sikh Statement on Nature, writings from various dignitaries including His Royal Highness The Prince Philip and Martin Palmer of the International Consultancy on Religion, Education and Culture (ICOREC)	1997	1 vol
GB3228.85/3	Series	Nomination		Feb 2019	1 word doc
GB3228.85/3/1	Item	GMALSP Volunteer awards - Volunteer of the Year award nomination for Daljit and Raj Kaur		26 Feb 2019	1 word doc
GB3228.85/4	Series	Photographs of the Manchester Sikh Community	The donor retains the original photographs and has allowed high quality scans of the photographs to be taken to add to the archive collection. Thanks to Mr Daljit Singh for providing context for the photographs.	c.1954-1999	36 Tiff, 36 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/1	Item	Photographs of members of the Sikh community at Monton Street Sikh Temple	The gathering was part of a religious celebration	c.1954	3 Tiff, 3 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/2	Item	Photograph of original members of the first Sikh families to settle in Manchester outside the original Sikh Temple in Moss Side	The gathering was part of a religious celebration	c.1954-1955	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/3	Item	School photograph of Satueer, Ambrat and Rani Kaur	Satueer, Ambrat and Rani are daughters of Daljit Singh and Raj Kaur	c.1982	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/4	Item	Photograph of students of other faiths visiting Monton Street Sikh Temple	Mr Rattanpal Singh Landa is in the middle of the picture wearing a turban	c.1982	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg

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GB3228.85/4/5	Item	Photographs of a women's weekly service at Monton Street Sikh Temple	In image SFHP-11 left to right: Baljeet Kaur, Reeje Kaur, Mrs Smitra Kaur	1986	2 Tiff, 2 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/6	Item	Photograph of women having a snack after the women's meeting at Monton Street Sikh Temple	Left to right: Mrs Reeje Kaur, Mrs Bhagurar Kaur, Mrs Smitra Kaur	c.1986	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/7	Item	Photograph of the changing of the flag ceremony at Monton Street Sikh Temple	Gentlemen in the photograph: Mr Daljit Singh and Mr Manjeet Singh.	1988	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/8	Item	Photograph of members of the Sikh community outside Monton Street Sikh Temple		1988	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/9	Item	Photograph of a student visit to Monton Street Sikh Temple	Included in the photograph are students and members of the Sikh community	c.1988	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/10	Item	Photographs of the grounds outside of the Monton Street Sikh Temple	Includes a tree outside the temple?	c.1988	2 Tiff, 2 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/11	Item	Photograph of Mr Hazara Singh preparing a meal for the wedding of Rani Kaur and Dilveer Singh	Food preparation took place in the kitchen of the Monton Street Sikh Temple. This is also where the wedding took place.	Jul 1996	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/12	Item	Photographs of the wedding of Kulvinder Singh Roth and Satveer Kaur at Monton Street Sikh Temple	SFHP-26 Mr Daljit Singh at the Sikh Temple for his daughter's wedding. SFHP-27 Members of the Sikh community sitting in the temple office awaiting the wedding ceremony. Left to Right: Mr Narinjan Singh, Mr Raltanpal Singh, Mr Gurbachan Singh and Mr Darshan Singh Digwa. SFHP-19 Members of the Sikh community waiting to participate in the wedding ceremony at Monton Street Temple. Left to right: Mr Mukhtiar Singh, Mr Turi Singh, ? , ? , Mr Narani Singh, ? SFHP-20 Brides family awaiting the arrival of the groom. Left to right: Mr Manjeet Singh, Mr Narani Singh, ? , Mr Punjab Singh, Mr Daljit Singh. SFHP-25 Guests attending the wedding. Left to right: Mr Manjeet Singh Raltan, Mr Balder Singh, Mr Balkinder Singh Rhod, ? , ? , ? SFHP-21 Members of the Sikh community sitting outside the Temple. Left to right: ? , Mr Balraj Singh, ? , Mr Sunder Singh Sagar, ? , (sat) Mr Narinjan Singh, (stood) Baksheesh Singh, Mr Darsha Singh SFHP-30 Boys attending the wedding from Leeds (grooms family) SFHP-28 Coming together of the father's of the bride and groom, Mr Daljit Singh and Mr Raghbur Singh Roth. Traditionally both fathers will exchange money or rings and put garlands around each others neck. SFHP-14 Wedding ceremony at Monton Sikh Temple. Includes members of the bride and grooms family and the priest. SFHP-16 Satueer Kaur and Balvinder Kaur. Photograph taken during the wedding. SFHP-15 Mr Kimat Singh and Mrs Balvinder Kaur. Extended family photograph taken after the wedding. SFHP-17 Groom Mr Kulvinder Singh Roth and bride Satueer Kaur. Picture taken after the wedding. SFHP-31-36 Wedding guests partaking of a meal at Monton Street Temple	Aug 1998	19 Tiff, 19 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/13	Item	Photograph of Mr Manjeet Singh Raltan taking deliver of chairs at Monton Street Community Centre		Apr 1999	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg
GB3228.85/4/14	Item	Photograph of women attending IT classes at Monton Street Community Centre		Jun 1999	1 Tiff, 1 jpeg