

## The Issue

It is often claimed that young Sikhs are losing interest in Sikhism and in Sikh identity

**THE TIMES**  
Sikhs head for the barber and turn their backs on tradition

**Independent.ie**  
Irish Sikhs abandon traditional turbans

**The Telegraph**  
Young Sikhs abandon turban in favour of 'Bollywood haircuts'

**The New York Times**  
For young Sikhs, the turban is old hat

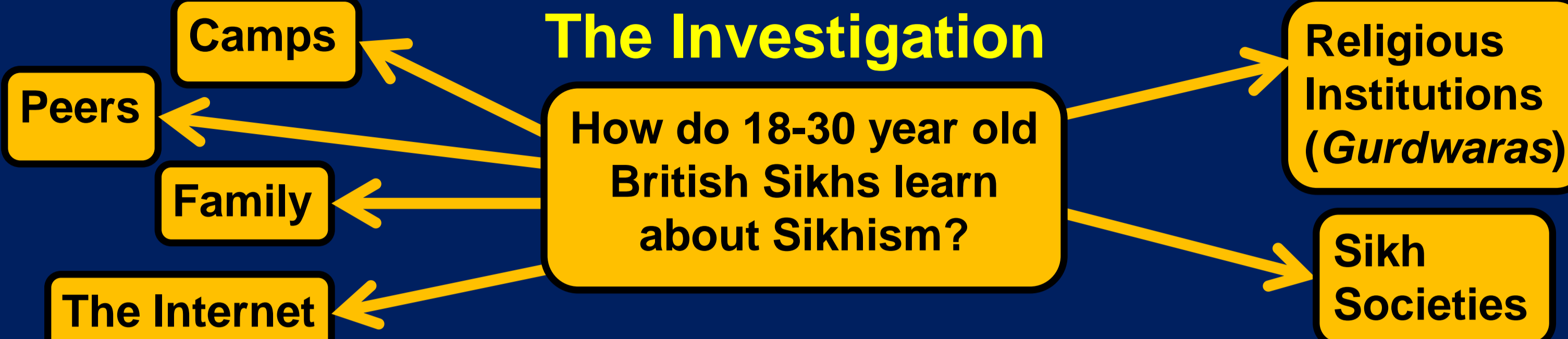
# Keeping the Faith

## The transmission of Sikhism among young British Sikhs

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## The Investigation



## The Findings

Young Sikhs searching for *authenticity* both in tradition and in religious authority

**Gurdwaras** more places of 'worship' than formal learning

Groups with distinct sub-cultures becoming more popular

Youth events as much about the *congregational* experience as about formal learning

Translation Software allows greater interaction with scripture – challenging traditional notions of religious authority

## The Questions

But is this actually the case?

This project answers the following questions:

1. How do young British Sikhs construct ideas on tradition and religious authority?
2. How do young British Sikhs participate in religious institutions (*Gurdwaras*)?
3. Why do young British Sikhs organise events to teach Sikhism to their peers?
4. How do new technologies (translation software, the internet) impact on the transmission of Sikhism?

## The Methods

- Interviews with key 'transmitters' of Sikhism
- Speaking at events run for young Sikhs
- Focus Groups with Sikh students
- Phone-in shows on a Panjabi radio station
- Analysis of Lectures and Websites
- First ever large scale online survey of young British Sikhs (600+ responses)
- Participant Observation at Sikh Youth Events (Camps and University Sikh Societies)

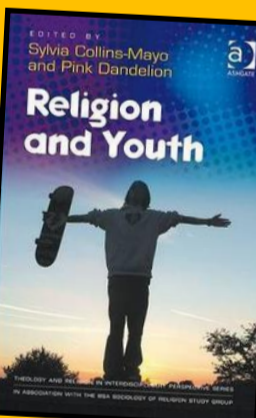
## The Impact

Research disseminated on both national and Sikh media



Expert contributions to other research projects

Book Chapters and Journal Publications



Significant awareness in the Sikh community

National and International conference presentations

# SHOWCASE



The first annual University of Leeds postgraduate researcher conference  
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