



Making social worlds

Finding work

DrSekibakiba Peter Lekgoatha, Dept of History, University of Witwatersrand:

Upon arrival in the city, the migrant would go to the local labour office in Johannesburg here. It was on Albert Street. Where they would produce their passes, which indicated that they were looking for a job. And they would get a Work Seekers Permit. A stamp that said this person can look for a job. Now without that stamp the migrant could not get employed. So with a Work Seekers Permit then he was free to look for a job. And then when they get that job, they would obviously need to go back to the office in Albert Street. At that point they would be given the rights then that indicated that they are entitled to stay.

Malesela Selepe, Taxi driver:

I'm from a rural place and only the farm work was available by then and it was again status for one to work in Johannesburg so I wanted to join my friends and my colleagues, but you need to go to the chief to get the permission and the only permission that was given was those who were having the job, not those who are looking for the job, so I didn't have one. I just came here. I was living in fear. That was not myself only. We were a number of us. And I was arrested and my idea was then to spend only seventy-two hours and leave the area which I didn't. I was arrested again and by then I had to go home and I was in custody for two days I think and I was left. I make, return home but not long time and I came back. Fortunately I was employed.