PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
School of Child and Youth Care

Lorie (Ahna) Berikoff
2006 University of Victoria M.A.
2003 University of Victoria B.A.

“Songs of Existence: Sons of Freedom Doukhobors Within Time”

November 5, 2013
12:30 pm
David Turpin building, room A144

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Marie Hoskins, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic
(Supervisor)
Dr. Daniel Scott, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic
Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic
Dr. Gweneth Doane, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic
(Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. John D. Caputo, Religion and Humanities, Syracuse University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge, Department of Philosophy, UVic
Abstract
The aspiration of this work was a call for justice for the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors – past, present and future. Sharing a Sons of Freedom identity, I worked within heritage; a heritage with deep cultural and spiritual roots that has encountered and responded to injustices through resistance and eventual assimilation into Canadian society. Justice as the primary motivation of this study is contingent upon hospitality or in the same breath deconstruction, derived from the work of Jacques Derrida and John Caputo.

Hospitality is the theoretical, ethical and methodological pulse of this study and made possible a collective re-contextualizing of identity. Hospitality is an open and excessive welcome principled upon unconditional inclusion yet faced with an inevitable interplay of exclusion in all inclusion. The parameters of this study situated within the context of a Sons of Freedom heritage determined the welcome – although broad was also specific and thus conditional.

A historical and contextual representation of the Sons of Freedom is provided in this dissertation, enlivened by songs, stories and perspectives welcomed from ancestral and present realms. Working within an ethic of hospitality involved working with others in co-created relational spaces. Being in shared spaces generated memories, stories, songs and perspectives impassioned by sadness, anger, hope, ideas and intentions to sustain and keep identity on the move. The role of researcher and participant, or host and guest, was often disrupted and the roles became interchangeable and shared amongst those involved. The blurred roles fostered spaces of sharing, trust, care and a sense that “we are in this together.” Walking-alongside others became a creative site for mobilizing counter narratives and critical interpretations to re-represent identity and on-going becoming. Justice, key to deconstruction and to this study opened up the possibility of claiming identity as opposed to escaping or being burdened with an identity laden with stigma and shame.
Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2007  SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
2008  HELP RESEARCH Award for Research in Early Childhood Care, Education and Health
2007  Petch Research Scholarship
2007  UVic Graduate Award
2007  President’s Research Scholarship
2007  Agnes Shahariw Memorial Scholarship
2006  UVic Fellowship
2004  UVic Fellowship
2005  Human Early Learning Partnership Grant
1998  Columbia Basin and BC Royal Museum Living Landscapes Grant
1998  Michael Foundation Grant

Presentations


6. 16th International Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education Conference: Weaving Within and Across Paradigms and Traditions. *Early Childhood Educators working across, between and within ‘modernist’ and*


**Publications**

