



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

**Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts**

of

VIARA GIOREVA

BA (University of British Columbia, 2011)

**“Nonhuman Neighbours: Animals, Community, and Relationships on the West
Coast of British Columbia”**

Department of Political Science

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
9:00AM
David Turpin Building
Room A318

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Heidi Stark, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Nicole Shukin, Department of English, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Karena Shaw, School of Environmental Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Rodney Herring, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This thesis argues that nonhuman animals are constructive of human societies by virtue of the complex relationships they form with humans, both at an individual and at a community level. This thesis also suggests that particular constructions of human/nonhuman animal relationships fail to account for animal agency, and that the transgressions of liminal animals highlight this agency. Specifically, this thesis uses two case studies – deer in Oak Bay and bears on the Central Coast – to show how nonhuman animals can be seen as actors and as active shapers of our mixed-species social orderings and communities. Rather than being passive objects who are subject to government policy and human orderings, this thesis argues that these nonhuman animals are shaping political processes in their communities through the relationships they have formed with the humans around them.