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

of

CHARLOTTE HENDERSON

BA (York University, 2009)

“Reconceptualizing Bodies and Pleasure: Considerations by and for Sex-Positive Service”

School of Public Health and Social Policy

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
1:00PM
Harry Hickman Building
Room 120

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Pamela Moss, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Susan Boyd, School of Public Health and Social Policy, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Rebecca Johnson, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Dale Ganley, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Human sexuality has been overrun with narratives that limit the possibilities of pleasure. Sex-positive workers have the potential to challenge the ways in which these limitations become embodied. In this research I explore narratives of sex education and youth, pleasure as prevention, and the medicalization of sexuality. I engage in collective biography as a way to identify how these narratives shape the way bodies and pleasure get taken up in specific places. Drawing from poststructural feminist theory I propose three ways of reconceptualizing bodies and pleasure as emergent sites of change and potential. Through an analysis of the experiences of sex-positive service workers in Canada, I consider what else, and for whom, bodies, pleasure, and sex education might look like.