



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**JOHN (JACK) HOSKINS**

BA (University of Victoria, 2015)

**“Online Corruption-Reporting, Internet Censorship, and the  
Limits of Responsive Authoritarianism”**

Department of History

Friday, July 14, 2017  
1:30 P.M.  
Clearihue Building  
Room B215

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Guoguang Wu, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Colin Bennett, Department of Political Science, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Victor Ramraj, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Helena Kadlec, Department of Psychology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

This thesis traces the development of the Chinese government's attempts to solicit corruption reports from citizens via online platforms such as government websites and smartphone. It argues that the rapid proliferation of online corruption report channels created by government bodies over the past twelve years is meant to gather information on corruption, abuses of power, and public knowledge and opinion about instances of these transgressions. The problem faced by authorities trying to obtain large amounts of data on corruption is that prospective complainants are offered little incentive to report corruption via official channels instead of social media. Complaints on social media are far more likely to lead to investigations than complaints delivered straight to the government, though neither channel is particularly effective.