Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

NANCHU HE

MA (University of Victoria, 2009)
BA (York University, 2006)

“Why Does Media Marketization Reinforce Media Control in Post-Tiananmen China?”

Department of Political Science

Friday, August 14, 2015
10:00 A.M.
David Turpin Building
Room A144

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Feng Xu, Department of Political Science, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Amy Verdun, Department of Political Science, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Min Zhou, Department of Sociology, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Yuehzhi Zhao, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. David Capson, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, UVic

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

The current Chinese media political literature ascribes China’s effective media control to Communist Party censorship. Up until now, scholars and authors have overlooked how the enormous social and economic changes that China has undergone since economic reform has affected media control. This dissertation explores how such changes influence media control in China. It first examines the Chinese political economy and then focuses on studying China’s media, which has gone through considerable change since economic reform. Previously, Party ideological indoctrination and violent suppression were rampant. Today’s situation, however, could be characterized as indoctrination mingled with entertainment or what I call here “indoctainment”, and repression with an absence of full freedom of the media.

I argue that “repressive state capitalism” has propelled economic development in China, particularly since 1989. In the reform era, repression coexists with economic development and is actually productive to Chinese economic growth because repression has both ensured state intervention in the economy and safeguarded a stable environment that is pivotal to the flourishing of economic activities. Using this political economic approach, I propose a political economic theory of “marketizing media control” to account for effective media control after media marketization, beginning with an empirical investigation of the traditional media and ending with an investigation of the new media in China. In short, repressive state capitalism is my contribution to political economic theory and marketizing media control is my contribution to Chinese media politics.