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

of

KYLEE-ANNE HINGSTON

MA (University of Saskatchewan, 2006)
BA (Hons.) (University of Regina, 2002)

“Articulating Bodies: The Narrative Form of Disability and Disease in Victorian Fiction”

Department of English

Monday, April 20, 2015
9:00am
David Turpin Building
Room A144

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Lisa Surridge, Department of English, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Leighton, Department of English, UVic (Member)
Dr. Pamela Moss, Studies in Policy and Practice, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Martha Stoddard Holmes, Literature and Writing Department, California State University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. George Tzanetakis, Department of Computer Science, UVic

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

Victorians frequently conflated body and text by using terms of medical diagnosis to talk about literature and, in turn, literary terms to talk about the body. In light of this conflation, this dissertation focuses on the intersection between narrative form and disability in nineteenth-century fiction and interrogates how the shape of Victorian fiction both informed and reflected the era’s developing notions of disability. Examining this intersection of body and text in several genres and across seven decades, from Frederic Shoberl’s 1832 English translation of Victor Hugo’s *Notre-Dame de Paris* to Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Adventure of the Crooked Man” (1893) from the Sherlock Holmes series, I show how the structural forms of these works reveal that disability’s conceptualization during the Victorian era was frequently dialogic, incongruously understood as both deviant and commonplace. My research thus contributes to our understanding of disability’s complex development as a concept, one that did not immediately or irrevocably marginalize people, but rather struggled to negotiate the limits, capabilities, and meanings of bodies in a rapidly changing culture.