**Publications**


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**Programme**

The Final Oral Examination for the Degree of

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

**Rebecca Hudson Breen**

2006 University of Victoria MA
2001 York University BEd
2001 York University BA

“Meet the ‘Mompreneurs’: How Self-Employed Women with Children Manage Multiple Life Roles”

Wednesday, April 9, 2013
3:00pm
David Turpin Building, room 144

**Supervisory Committee:**

Dr. Susan Tasker, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Bryan Hiebert, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. John Walsh, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)
Dr. Aegean Leung, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic (Outside Member)

**External Examiner:**

Dr. Priya Mani, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba

**Chair of Oral Examination:**

Dr. Jane Ye, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UVic
Abstract

Although there is a strong body of existing research on women’s life-career development and on women’s entrepreneurship, there is a lack of understanding of the experiences of mother entrepreneurs specifically. This dissertation addresses the question *how do self-employed women with children manage their multiple life roles*. Context and the rationale for conducting the proposed study is discussed, followed by a literature review, which begins by describing the key career development terms, offering an overview of career theory with a focus on women’s career development and entrepreneurship, followed by a discussion of modes of inquiry considered appropriate for this study. An outline of the research methodology is presented, with further rationale for a qualitative approach, specifically Grounded Theory. This research includes a description of the basic social problem *Being a Mother Entrepreneur*, as well as proposing a substantive theory to explain how mother entrepreneurs manage their multiple life roles. This process is explained in the core category *Keeping Going*, which is comprised of seven key elements: *feeling supported, making choices, adapting creatively, remembering the push, remembering the pull, envisioning the future*, and *living my values*. Finally, implications for further research, including the extension of the proposed theory to other groups, and implications for counselling practice are discussed. Particularly, this research underscores the importance of understanding the role of values and multiple life roles on the process of career-life development.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

- Dr. R. Vance Peavy Travel Bursary recipient, 2012
- University of Victoria Doctoral Fellowship, 2007-2010
- David Stewart Book Prize for Counselling, 2006

Presentations

- Presenter at CANNEXUS National Career Development Conference, January 2011. “Meet the Mompreneurs: Initial Results of a Grounded Theory Study”
- Co-presenter with Dr. A. Marshall, Dr. B. Shepard, and L. Wilson at Learning and the World We Want Conference, 2004.
- Co-presenter with Dr. B. Shepard NATCON 2004 conference. “Future Bound: A life-career expedition”