



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**RITA LIVSHITS**

BA (Haifa University, 2012)

**“Does Ishiguro Dream of Electric Sheep?  
Androids as a Distinctive Emergent Phenomenon in Japan”**

Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Monday, August 29, 2016

10:00 A.M.

David Turpin Building

Room A136

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. M. Cody Poulton, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Leslie Butt, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Arthur Kroker, Department of Political Science, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Darlene Clover, Department of Education Psychology & Leadership Studies, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

The Japanese robotics industry stands out in both its scale and its diversity of innovations. No other country has put so much effort in research and development of humanoid robots. This phenomenon has been widely discussed in academic scholarship, and cultural, religious and socio-economic influences are widely cited as contributing factors to the shaping of robotics in Japan. This work is focused on a specific and relatively new product of this industry: the robot in human image, the android. The main feature that separates androids from humanoid robots is external appearance, a design aspect that has no operational function. This work attempt to offer a holistic theory for the existence of an entire field of study dedicated to creating robots that look just like humans.