The Final Oral Examination for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY Nursing

Wanda Martin
MN University of Manitoba 2004
BSN University of Victoria 2001

“Food Gone Foul? Food Safety and Security Tensions”

Friday, February 7, 2014
1:00 PM
Human & Social Development building, room A451

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Marjorie MacDonald, School of Nursing, UVic (Supervisor)
Dr. Bernie Pauly, School of Nursing, UVic (Unit Member)
Dr. Aleck Ostry, Department of Geography, UVic (Non-Unit Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Hannah Wittman, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Carolyn Crippen, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic
Abstract

The purpose of this research is to examine how professionals and civil society members engage in food security activities that include food safety precautions and how they work across differences to support a safe and accessible food supply. The objectives are: (a) to explore tensions between those working in community food security and food safety (regulatory authority) and the source of tension; (b) to explore how people experiencing these tensions can improve the way they work together; and (c) to explore potential opportunities for enhancing health equity through food security and food safety programs. Using a case study design, I employ methods of concept mapping and situational analysis, with a complexity science framework. In this work, I have illustrated the complex motives behind food safety regulations and examined the neo-liberal agenda favouring market forces over health equity. I have argued that while there is concern for protecting the public’s health, food safety regulations are not set with a primary focus on protecting people from unsafe food, but are a vehicle for providing confidence in the market and among international trading partners, at the cost of health and welfare of small-scale producers in rural and remote communities. I suggest change not only in how we view and understand personal motives or worldviews of food and market forces, but also a shift on a larger scale, to change structural conditions to promote health and to encourage a moral obligation to reduce health inequities.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2013  Nominated for Senior Women’s Academic Administrators of Canada – Graduate Student Award of Merit
2012  University of Victoria Graduate Award
2009  Canadian Institute for Health Research Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Award
Presentations


Paper Presented to the Canadian Public Health Association, Montreal, PQ.


**Publications**


