PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Leadership Studies)

Lisa Mortimore

2004 University of Victoria M.A.
1993 Simon Fraser University B.A.

“Embodied Ways of Knowing: Women’s Eco-Activism”

May 31st, 2013
10:30 am
MacLaurin Building, Room A326

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Darlene E. Clover, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Supervisor)
Dr. Catherine McGregor, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)
Dr. Budd Hall, School of Public Administration, UVic (Outside Member)
Dr. Leslie Brown, School of Social Work, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Leona English, Department of Adult Education, St. Francis Xavier University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, School of Public Administration, UVic
Abstract

Traditional knowledges and ways of living in harmony with the Earth and among species have been disregarded, discarded, and destroyed as industrialisation, capitalism, and globalisation have pervaded, all maintained in part by the Cartesian split which dissociates body from mind, heaven from Earth, nature from culture. These hegemonic layers of control have served to bind the fate of the Earth’s ecosystems, including human life, to the global capital economy which thrives on growth and development at any and all costs.

This research brought an embodied, feminist lens to the stories of eco-activism and inquired as to the role of embodied ways of knowing and their role in eco-activism and the toll of activism upon women eco-activist bodies. This research inquiry was undertaken to find new understandings and knowledge to add to the limited literature on embodiment, embodied ways of knowing, and women eco-activism. Furthermore, this research sought to identify and articulate the ways in which activism practice can be more sustainable for activists and intended to add to the growing awareness body/mind connection and unity consciousness for activists, educators, and others interested in finding ways to live with, rather than on, the Earth.

The key findings of this research indicate that embodied knowledges counter fragmented ways of living, foster sustainable practices, and offer guidance and direction to live more harmoniously with, and on, the Earth and to practice activism. It also expands our understanding of women’s embodied ways of knowing and illuminates our understandings of how bodies can guide and show alternate ways of living, and practising activism, that are sustainable. This inquiry further
added to the growing awareness of body/mind connection and unity consciousness with a focus on activists, educators, and others interested in finding ways to live with, rather than on, the Earth.

**Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships**

2003  Don Knowles Memorial Scholarship, UVic

**Presentations**


**Publications**