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

of

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BA (University of Victoria, 2010)

“Dismantling Dependency, Disarming a Boom: Petro-Politics and the Staples State in an Era of Climate Crisis”

Department of Political Science

Friday, April 24, 2015
10:00 A.M.
David Turpin Building
Room A357

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. James Lawson, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. James Rowe, Department of Environmental Studies, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. William Carroll, Department of Sociology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Andrew Weaver, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, UVic

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

This thesis has two central objectives. First, drawing on both the insights contained in the staples approach and the frames and narratives mobilized by contemporary political actors, it attempts to provide insight into the political-economic drivers underpinning the large and growing political influence of the Canadian oil sands. Second, it assesses the effects of this influence on Canadian society and the Canadian state. This influence is observable materially, as with the federal government’s oil sands-oriented policy changes and mobilization of the state security apparatus in its defense, and in less concrete ways, as with the rise of discourses conflating national interest with continued oil sands expansion. This thesis concludes that the effects of this influence have been negative and profound, and in an era of climate crisis, alternatives to Canada’s dominant political economic trends must be urgently sought.