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

of

ROBERT SCOTT

BS (Westminster College, 2011)

“Fiery Climates: A Story of Wildland Firefighters”

Department of Sociology

August 24, 2017
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B019

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Steve Garlick, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Kevin Walby, Department of Sociology, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood, Department of Geography, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Tatiana Gounko, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic

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

This thesis provides an interpretation about how wildland firefighters can experience risk by relations of trust. The author shows that the risk taking and wildland firefighting literatures inadequately account for how trust underpins self-construction processes among people who participate in risky activities. To supplement the literatures within these terms, the author uses interview data and personal stories about managing wildland fire to propose a general trajectory of being and becoming a wildland firefighter that details the significance of trust in self-construction processes. The author argues that in the process of being and becoming a wildland firefighter, risk is sometimes increased, decreased, concealed, revealed, and anticipatorily transformed through trust. The author provides a framework for viewing risk that can be used to understand danger to the self.