Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science
of
JEOLLE TAOS TAKNINT
BA (Macalester College, 2010)

“Predicting Relations between Discrimination and Identity among Chinese Canadian Immigrants: A Lifespan Approach”

Department of Psychology

Tuesday August 11, 2015
10:00am
Cornett Building
Room A228

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Catherine Costigan, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Marion Ehrenberg, Department of Psychology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Natalee Popadiuk, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Julian Lum, Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology, UVic

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

Using a multiple social identities framework, this thesis investigates the relations between ethnic identity, national identity, and discrimination among a sample of 181 Chinese immigrant families to Canada. While a large body of research has investigated the relations between ethnic identity and discrimination among ethnic minority young adults, relatively less is known about the role of national identity and how discrimination and identity are related among immigrant populations and in other developmental periods. This study used a sample of immigrant adults and their adolescent children to investigate these relations during the developmental periods of adolescence and middle adulthood. Results indicate that ethnic and national identities are generally positive associated. However high levels of discrimination were found to dampen this positive relation, indicating that discrimination thwarts bicultural identity attainment. Unique patterns for adolescents and immigrant adult males emerged suggesting that both developmental considerations and sex differences are key in understanding the relations between social identities and discrimination among immigrant individuals. Clinical and policy implications are discussed.