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

of

JANET LEE TRAINOR

BA (University of Victoria, 2008)


Department of History

Wednesday, August 19, 2015
10:00 A.M.
University Centre Building
Room 207A

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Lynne Marks, Department of History, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Annaleep Lepp, Department of Women’s Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Margaret Little, Department of Gender and Political Studies, Queen’s University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Lloyd Howard, Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies, UVic

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

Based on first-person interviews and lesbian archival documents, this thesis explores the stories of eleven white, middle-class, self-identified lesbians who were born between 1949 and 1960 and who come of age beginning in the 1970s. It traces their life trajectories and examines such themes as the coming out process as it related to family, religion, and other life events; the cultural and political environment that influenced them; their involvement in various forms of lesbian feminist political activism; their varied professional contributions, and their reflections on the future of “the lesbian” as an embodied gendered, sexual, and political identity. In documenting their narratives, my aim is to add their voices and their experiences of struggle, survival, and accomplishment to the Canadian historical canon.