



University  
of Victoria

# GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### Not Built to Last: Military Occupation and Ruination under Settler Colonialism

**Joey Weiss**

**Assistant Professor, Wesleyan  
University**



Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Online – via Zoom

(zoom meeting link on the website)

[www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/research/colloquium/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/research/colloquium/index.php)

**Article to read before the talk (mandatory for ANTH grad students) at the link above.**

This paper explores the afterlife of a military base on the islands of Haida Gwaii, unceded territory of the Indigenous Haida Nation. Canadian Forces Station Masset was officially decommissioned in 1997 and its buildings abandoned by Canada's Armed Forces. The understanding of both Haida and their settler neighbors was thus that the army was gone, leaving only ruins and ambivalent affects in its wake. However, the military had not actually left; rather, they remained in concealment, continuing to monitor the territory they had occupied. What is at work in this strange juxtaposition of absence and presence, I argue, is the deliberate production of a paradox, a constitutive contradiction that serves to reinforce the structures of settler domination even as it mitigates the visible presence of the forces of occupation. The affects of ruination engendered by the military's departure, I contend, form part of these processes of settler concealment and deception.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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