



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

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BA (Carleton University, 2001)

**“Manufacturing Marginalization: Parenting Services from the Perspective of
Parents with Mental Illness”**

School of Child and Youth Care

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

2:00PM

Human and Social Development Building
Room A373

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jessica Ball, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Gordon Miller, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Catherine Costigan, Department of Psychology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Irina Paci, Department of Chemistry, UVic

Abstract

This exploratory study begins to fill in a large gap in the understanding of how parents with MI access parenting services and how they perceive this process. Constructivist grounded theory by K. Charmaz (2006) was the guiding methodology. The findings point to the strong influence of the service context on the process and outcome of parental engagement with services. Parents identified a fragmented, restrictive and reactive context of parenting services that failed to support them and their families. They described a stigmatizing and disempowering service response. The parents' process of service engagement paralleled a process of marginalization they experienced in society. Government and community services were distinguished by degrees of restriction and approaches to practice. Community services were most commonly viewed as supporting parents and working as allies. The findings underscore the importance of engaging parents with MI as partners in research and development of service policy and practice.