



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

**SAMUEL BIAGIONI**

BA (Simon Fraser University, 2014)

**“Homemade *Italianità*:  
Italian Foodways in Postwar Vancouver”**

Department of History

Monday, August 15, 2016

9:30 A.M.

University Centre

Room A207a

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Lynne Marks, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Marlene Epp, History, Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Waterloo

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Deborah Begoray, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

Following the Second World War, Vancouver saw an influx of Italian immigration. Many Italians found their way to Vancouver through informal social networks established by earlier migrants. Once there, Italians turned to those networks to find work, housing, and familiarity. Italians also continued to produce and consume foods in Vancouver in similar ways to Italy. By looking at Vancouver Italian foodways, this thesis seeks to understand how food contributed to Italian Canadian Identity. Postwar Italian immigrants brought established cuisines with them to Vancouver. They then actively sought to maintain those food customs. Nevertheless, in order to continue living in Vancouver, Italians adapted their livelihoods, familial gender divisions, and the ways they acquired foods. They cooperated with immigrants from other regions of Italy, and accepted foods with *Italianità* (Italianess) when they could not acquire foods from their hometowns. The result was a complicated identity that included social interactions between Italians, as well as a combination of Italian and Canadian foods.