



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**POONAM (PAM) DHERI**

BSc (University of Victoria, 2014)

**“Health Care in a Multicultural Canada: the Ethics of Informed Consent and the  
Duty to Warn of Hereditary Risk”**

Interdisciplinary Studies

Thursday, July 21, 2016

10:00AM

David Turpin Building

Room A137

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge, Department of Philosophy, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Laura Arbour, Division of Medical Sciences, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Fern Brunger, Community Health & Humanities, Memorial University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Cecilia Benoit, Department of Sociology, UVic

## **Abstract**

Different people can have different cultural interpretations of the person—atomic versus embedded—and these may affect health care decision-making. This study examines both the ethics of variations in personhood as well as their implications for the doctrine of informed consent and the duty to warn of genetic disease risk. It argues that variations in personhood are consistent with the ethics of the Principle of Autonomy and the Canadian stand on informed consent, though autonomy and consent play out differently in practice on the two models. Also as a result of different interpretations of the person, the duty to warn of hereditary risk is found to be relevant to the atomic conception but unnecessary among embedded individuals.