



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

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MEd (University of British Columbia, 2007)
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**“The Development of Addiction-Prone Personality Traits and Substance Use
Behaviours in Biological and Adoptive Families”**

School of Child and Youth Care

Wednesday, August 31, 2016
10:00AM

Human and Social Development Building
Room A373

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Gordon Barnes, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Douglas Magnuson, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Member)
Dr. Scott Hofer, Department of Psychology, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Caroline Davis, School of Kinesiology & Health Science, York University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Daniela Constantinescu, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UVic

Abstract

Substance use behaviours have been viewed as the end products of a combination of multiple influences. Numerous multi-systemic theories of substance use behaviour have been proposed. In this project, an effort was made to control for limitations and problems that have often beset previous studies. The overall objective of the current project was to test the ability of one multi-systemic theory to explain, within a family socialization framework, the development of substance use patterns in youth and young adults from a psychosocial perspective. The central hypothesis of this project was that family socialization factors (contextual factors) affect and predict the development of an offspring's personality (an individual factor) and substance use behaviour. The behavioural genetic approach (i.e., the adoption design) was utilized to examine the genetic and environmental impacts on associations between factors.

This project used secondary data analyses of general population data on aspects of the family environment, personality, and substance use patterns. Data were collected on fathers, mothers, and offspring from 405 families (328 biological and 77 adoptive) at two points in time. The development of personality and substance use behaviours over time, and associations with family socialization factors, were examined through three subprojects. Subproject 1 focused on the associations between offspring's perspectives of fathers' and mothers' parental socialization and offspring's polysubstance use. Subproject 2 investigated the development of addiction-prone personality characteristics and the predictive effects of family socialization and demographic variables on these characteristics. Subproject 3 explored the subscales of the Addiction-Prone Personality scale: Impulsivity/recklessness, Sensation seeking, Negative view of self, and Social deviance proneness. I investigated the descriptive characteristics of each subscale, and changes in subscale scores over time. In this project, I also examined trans-generational associations on these subscales, and potential relationships between personality subscales and choice of substance.

The results of this project suggest that family socialization affects both substance use behaviour and personality development over time. Nurturing family socialization is negatively associated with the development of addiction-prone personality characteristics. It is also negatively associated with the development of substance use behaviours. These results are consistent with the family socialization framework. The findings supporting the family socialization framework are very encouraging for the field of child, youth, and family-related practice. Some of the limitations of the current project, implications of the findings, and future research directions are discussed.