



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

KAITLYN FRASER

BA (University of Manitoba, 2014)

**“Eating for Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability: Attempting to Live
Food Sovereignty”**

Department of Sociology

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

11:30AM

Cornett Building

Room A317

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Martha McMahon, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. William Carroll, Department of Sociology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Margo Matwychuk, Department of Anthropology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Scott Woodcock, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Abstract

Using personal narratives, this thesis theorizes the lived experiences of attempting to align one's consumption choices with the principles of food sovereignty in a place like Victoria, BC. First, to provide a detailed summary of the problem, a thematic analysis is used to identify and describe the tensions that arise throughout this journey. Second, drawing on institutional ethnography (IE), this thesis explores the various ruling relations that coordinate the (mis)understanding of the political potential of food sovereignty. By critically and reflexively analyzing my personal experience of engaging with food sovereignty I will suggest how others who are entering the study of alternative food initiatives can be more effective in their engagement with such movements. Furthermore, I suggest potential ways for those who have a relatively good understanding of alternative food movements to engage more effectively with others who share an interest in these initiatives, but who perhaps lack the accessibility to academic literature and/or the knowledge of how to participate politically in such initiatives. When we are able to see our shared interests and political connections, we are able to build political alliances. This then creates the potential for transformational change in the current industrial food system to one that is socially just and environmentally sustainable.