



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

**STEPHANIE KEANE**

MA (University of British Columbia, 2001)  
BA Hon (University of British Columbia, 1997)

**“Instant Culture: Narrating Home in British Columbia’s Resource  
Communities”**

Department of English

Thursday, September 8, 2016  
9:00 A.M.  
Clearihue Building  
Room C214

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Misao Dean, Department of English, University of Victoria (Supervisor)  
Dr. Jamie Dopp, Department of English, UVic (Member)  
Dr. John Lutz, Department of History, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Sarah De Leeuw, Northern Medical Program, University of Northern BC

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Julio Navarro, Department of Physics and Astronomy, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

Stories of home do more than contribute to a culture that creates multiple ways of seeing a place: they also claim that the represented people and their shared values belong in place; that is, they claim land. Narrators of post-war B.C. resource communities create narratives that support residents' presence although their employment, which impoverishes First Nations people and destroys ecosystems, runs counter to contemporary national constructions of Canada as a tolerant and environmentalist community. As the first two chapters show, neither narratives of nomadic early workers nor those of contemporary town residents represent values that support contemporary settler communities' claims to be at home, as such stories associate resource work with opportunism, environmental damage, race- and gender-based oppression, and social chaos. Settler residents and the (essentially liberal) values that make them the best people for the land are represented instead through three groups of alternate stories, explored in Chapters 3-5: narratives of homesteading families extending the structure of a "good" colonial project through land development and trade; narratives of contemporary farmers who reject the legacy of the colonial project by participating in a sustainable local economy in harmony with local First Nations and the land; and narratives of direct supernatural connection to place, where the land uses the settler (often an artist or writer) as a medium to guide people to meet its (the land's) needs. All three narratives reproduce the core idea that the best "work" makes the most secure claim to home, leading resource communities to define themselves in defiance of their industries. Authors studied include Jack Hodgins, Anne Cameron, Susan Dobbie, Patrick Lane, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, D.W. Wilson, Harold Rhenisch, M.Wylie Blanchet, Susan Juby, and Howard White.