Notice of the Final Oral Examination for the Degree of Master of Arts of JAMES MCKEE
BEd (University of Victoria, 2012)

“The Radical Liberal Interculturalism Triad: Toward Retrieving Liberalism From White Domination”

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:00AM
MacLaurin Building Room A341

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Abstract

Issues relating to diversity and pluralism permeate both social and political discourses in Canada. Of particular interest to this thesis are those issues raised when the demands of ethno-cultural diversity fail to converge with prescriptive objectives to promote said diversity within a democratic liberal state. In this way, this thesis scrutinizes the prescriptive intentions of Canadian multiculturalism and the ways in which it functions to conceal and protect White-European cultural and political dominance in Canadian society. So proposed, this thesis argues for a robust reorientation of liberalism through the normative starting point of non-ideal theory. Likewise, I will show that a radical liberal interculturalism triad, consisting of interculturalism, asymmetrical reciprocity and rectificatory justice can upend the misleading framework of mainstream liberal social contract theory. Hence, I move away from ideal theory's tendency to exclude, or at least marginalize, the actual state of affairs, by (1) subverting the taken-for-granted neutrality of the liberal individual; (2) jettisoning the misrepresented truths of ideal theory; (3) exposing the hegemonic practices of multiculturalism; and (4) illustrating the racial foundations of mainstream liberalism. In sum, this thesis claims that the radically liberal interculturalism triad offers a viable path toward dislodging the sites of White cultural and epistemological domination that lies just beneath the misleading facade of Canada’s official multiculturalism.