



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

NARDA NELSON

BA (Hons) (University of Victoria, 2008)

**“Common Worlding Pedagogies: Cultivating the ‘Arts of Awareness’
with Tracking, Compost, and Death”**

School of Child and Youth Care

Tuesday, April 10th, 2018
3:00 p.m.
Clearihue Building
Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Affrica Taylor, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Astrida Neimanis, Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Jamie Lawson, Department of Political Science, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This thesis foregrounds moments from an early childhood centre's multispecies inquiry to grapple with the question of what pedagogies and practice might need to look and feel like to create the conditions for new ways of thinking and doing with other species in troubling times. Drawing on a post-foundational feminist conceptual framework, it takes an interdisciplinary approach to challenging dominant narratives of young children's more-than-human relations in a rapidly changing world. To do this, I first explore tracking-walking common worlding methods as holding possibility for cultivating the arts of awareness in early learning settings to challenge humancentric frameworks for understanding our place in the world. In the second chapter, I reconfigure care as a multispecies achievement, juxtaposing worm-compost bin inquiry moments with the material consequences out-of-sight-out-of-mind approaches to caring for our untenable food waste in contemporary Canadian society. In the final chapter, I share moments from an early childhood centre's unexpected with a dying rat to rethink children's relations with death in an age of accelerated mass extinctions. What does it mean to care with a creature few want to claim, but with whom are deeply connected in unsettling ways?