



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

JESSICA SINGH

BA with Distinction (University of Victoria, 2014)

**“Syrian Refugees in Canada? Interpretation and Judgement in the
Political Production of Security Threats”**

Department of Political Science

August 17, 2017

1:00 P.M.

David Turpin Building

Room A318

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Simon Glezos, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Andrew Wender, Department of Political Science, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood, Department of Geography, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Daniel Smith, Department of Geography, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

What are we to understand by the term 'security' in international relations? This thesis explores the theoretical foundations of security risks and threats in modern politics. Taking Thomas Hobbes and Michel Foucault as the paradigmatic theorists of modern political power, this thesis explains security as an inherently contingent and contextual phenomenon, intertwined and embedded in socio-historical discourses. Each of the three chapters explain how security manifests and operates as a type of discourse (discursive formation) under sovereignty, working to achieve particular social, political, and epistemological ends. The practical focus of this project is a case study analysis of the Canadian Liberal Government's #WelcomeRefugees project, a government assisted resettlement project for displaced victims of the Syrian civil war. Drawing on the example of the case study, this thesis investigates the underlying political, historical, and theoretical conditions which mobilize and inform modern political regimes of security and risk management.