



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

MATTHEW STUCKENBERG

BA (University of Victoria, 2014)

**“Phoenix From the Ashes or the Goose is Cooked:
Critical Reflections on Liberal Democracies and the Neoliberal International
Economy”**

Department of Political Science

Wednesday, August 19, 2015
10:00AM
David Turpin Building
Room A357

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Claire Cutler, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Andrew Wender, Department of Political Science, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Andrew Newcombe, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Penny Bryden, Department of History, UVic

Abstract

Liberalism can be generally characterized as a political ideology that assumes the rational, self-interested nature of human beings. However, two distinct strands of liberal theory have evolved from this shared construction of the human agent, namely state-oriented and market-oriented liberalism. It will be shown that state-oriented liberalism provides the theoretical core of liberal democratic states, whereas market-oriented liberalism provides the theoretical core for the globalized market economy. This thesis will uncover a profound tension through a discussion of the new constitutional effects of the investor-state regime. Furthermore, this thesis will show that the recent changes of the investor-state regime have failed to resolve the theoretical tension between liberal democracies and the investor-state regime. And finally, this thesis argues that the only way to resolve the tension between the two strands of liberalism is to incorporate liberal democratic principles into the investor-state regime.