



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

YUPEI XIA

BA (Xi'an International Studies University, 2013)

**“An Exploratory Study of Asian Immigrant Youth’s Experiences of Settling into
Canada with the Assistance of Youth Settlement Services”**

School of Child and Youth Care

Monday August 10, 2015

12:00pm

Human and Social Development Building
Room A373

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jessica Ball, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Sandrina de Finney, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

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Dr. Wanda Hurren, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Abstract

Settlement services for immigrants are a relatively new phenomenon in Canada. There is a dearth of research examining the roles of settlement services in the transition process of immigrant youth. Drawn from Bronfenbrenner's (1979) ecological systems theory, this interpretive qualitative study explores the experience of Asian immigrant youth who settled in Canada with the assistance of settlement services for youth. This study, conducted in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, involved immigrant youth from China, Korea, and the Philippines, aged 15-24, who participated in semi-structured, audio taped interviews regarding the roles a local settlement services agency (the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society) played in their transitions to Canada. Data were analyzed using an iterative thematic analysis approach. The findings contribute to our understanding of the ecological context concerning the settlement experience of youth and shed light on challenges and barriers that Asian immigrant youth may experience in smaller, predominantly white, urban centres such as Victoria. The study also yields insight about the impact of settlement services in the acculturative process of Asian immigrant youth. This research addresses the theoretical framework that informs the design of settlement programs and the delivery of programs in practice. The study also generates implications involving settlement services that may be useful for the particular agency and settlement agencies in general. *Keywords:* Asian immigrant youth in Canada, settlement services, cultural adjustments, transition, ecological systems theory.