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

of

CAN ZHAO

MA (SciencesPo, 2013)
BA (Zhejiang University, 2011)
BMgmt (Zhejiang University, 2011)

“Redefining Critical Industry: A Comparative Study of Inward FDI Restrictions in China and the United States”

Department of Political Science

Friday, July 17, 2015
2:00PM
David Turpin Building
Room A357

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Guoguang Wu, Department of Political Science, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Scott Watson, Department of Political Science, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Victor Ramraj, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Annalee Lepp, Department of Women’s Studies, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

International political economy scholarship largely focuses on the motivations and determinants of FDI flows and their effects on economic wellbeing, stability and peace. A largely overlooked question, however, is the restrictions of inward FDI. Existing attempts in this field uniformly regarded national security and economic security as justifications of FDI restriction. This is an oversight because of the broad and overlapping conceptualization agenda of national security and economic security.

I study the phenomenon of FDI restriction by examining the concept “critical industry”. By investigating eight restricted FDI transactions occurred in China and the United States between 2005 and 2012, and analyzing FDI restriction institutions and practices in both countries. This study argues that a protection of critical industry is the key driver of inward FDI restriction and security of critical industry could be understood as the security of an individual industry, of defense-sensitive industries, of critical infrastructures, and of regime-security sensitive industries.