



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

RUSSELL ANDREW DRUMMOND

BBA (University of New Brunswick, 2011)

**“Non-formal Education in a South African Township: A Qualitative
Study of an Overnight Camp Experience”**

Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

Wednesday, November 28th, 2018
12:00 p.m.
MacLaurin Building
Room A341

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Darlene Clover, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of
Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Carolyn Crippen, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Kathy Sanford, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Lynne Young, School of Nursing, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This study explores the impact of an overnight camp experience for impoverished South African youth. I worked as a Youth Development Worker with the Ukulapha Community Outreach Project for six months in 2016. My research looks at one non-formal education program in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa through the lenses of critical theory and critical pedagogy. Emancipatory learning, social justice, and empowerment were the particular themes that framed my research.

I used a qualitative design including an autoethnographic element to conduct my research. The study included six in-person semi-structured interviews with camp participants, one year after the conclusion of the camp. Additionally, four students provided participant journals where they wrote about their experience at the camp. I wove into the study my own participation, observations, journaling, and a blog.

Findings show that the camp provided diverse skills development for personal empowerment, a new possibility to learn with and through nature, leadership development, and important intergenerational learning. Issues of gender were also highly prevalent, however. The five recommendations for future research that come from the study include the need for a more in depth follow up study with the same and more participants, involvement of a South African researcher who can conduct interviews in isi-Zulu, a longer camp, and outreach to different aged youth and youth from other South African provinces.