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

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MSc (University of Allameh Tabatabai, 2014)
BSc (University of Guilan, 2011)

“Investigating the Intersection of Urban Agriculture and Urban Planning Concerning Urban Governance and Elements in Victoria, Canada”

Department of Geography

Tuesday, April 14, 2020
10:00 A.M.
Conducted Remotely

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, Department of Geography, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Denise Cloutier, Department of Geography, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Elizabeth Vibert, Department of History, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Laurence Coogan, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, UVic

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

The world is home to predominantly urbanized populations that continue to grow. In an increasingly urbanized world, cities suffer from various challenges, including urban poverty and food insecurity, which result in unsustainability, health concerns, and crime increase. Many reasons affect urban poverty, including controversial government policies, an imbalance between existing resources and demands, and inefficient urban management and planning. Integrating urban agriculture (UA) into development policies can alleviate urban poverty and food insecurity in cities. Therefore, a line of research seems necessary to gain a better understanding of various ways to boost food production and improve sustainability in cities. To this end, the present study attempts to investigate the role of urban planning and governance in community gardens in Victoria to examine how urban planning and governance can support food production. A qualitative research method with semi-structured interviews and community mapping workshops were used within three groups of governmental, non-governmental, and residential in Victoria, Canada. Eighteen participants were interviewed, and eight participants took part in workshops held in James Bay and Fernwood neighbourhoods. The three proposed research questions in this study were analyzed by thematic analysis on NVivo 10 software. The findings revealed that nine themes should be considered to improve food production in Victoria. The themes include improving UA economic efficiency, increasing awareness, gaining community satisfaction, effective landuse policies, productive partnership, improving the long bureaucratic procedure, offering grants, providing resources and facilities for gardeners, and changes in existing zoning bylaws. In addition, the findings of the workshops show that the City of Victoria plays the most crucial role in UA projects. It was depicted that the compost education center, residents, and community centres should create an active partnership with the City towards improving community gardens.