



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

SHANA HALL

BA (University of Victoria, 2007)

**“Clients Perspectives of Managed Alcohol Programs in the First Six
Months and Their Relational Shifts”**

Social Dimensions of Health

Thursday, January 31, 2019
10:00 A.M.

Technology Enterprise Facility
Room 220

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Bernadette Pauly, School of Nursing, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Timothy Stockwell, Department of Psychology, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Bruce Wallace, School of Social Work, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Yang Shi, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

Background: The prevalence of alcohol dependence, defined as being physically and psychologically dependent on alcohol, among homeless people is 8% – 58% compared to 4% – 16% of alcohol dependence prevalence in the general population. Homelessness also contributes to alcohol dependence and alcohol dependence is more difficult to treat and manage when combined with homelessness and alcohol related harms. Alcohol harm reduction strategies for those with severe alcohol dependence and experiencing homelessness are gaining traction. There are 22 Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) in several cities across Canada. MAPs can reduce harms for people with severe alcohol dependence who live with high-risk acute, chronic, and social harms. In this research, I report on MAP participants' views in the first six months of being in a MAP to provide insights into implementation of MAPs.

Research Question: My central research question is: What are MAP participants' perspectives of MAP during the early period of transition into MAP? With an objective to understand implementation from participants' perspectives, I specifically ask: How are MAP participants situated in the world, what are their experiences, and what are the relational shifts that occur during early transition into MAP?

Theoretical Perspective and Methodology: In my research, I use interpretative description informed by constructivism. I drew on relational theory to interpret my findings. The use of interpretive description, informed by constructivism and relational theory, brought forth greater insight into MAP participants' views of and subsequent shifts in their relationships with the environment, alcohol, themselves and others before and during MAP.

Results/Findings: Participants perspectives focused on four key findings: 1) participants' shifting perspectives of non-beverage alcohol when beverage alcohol was available in MAP, 2) participants' motivation to change and insights into their own drinking, 3) reasons for drinking outside of MAP and, 4) relational insights and shifts in their connections with others.

Conclusions: For individuals experiencing homelessness and severe alcohol dependence and its inherent associated harms, MAPs help to support relational shifts that support safer drinking patterns and/or meaningfully interrupt cycles of uncontrolled drinking as well as help to re-establish new relationships with alcohol, themselves, family and friends.