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

of

NISHANG LI

BSc (University of Victoria, 2010)

“Rotten Culture: from Japan to China”

Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Friday, April 26, 2019
1:00 P.M.
Clearihue Building
Room C214

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Michael Bodden, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Richard King, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic (Unit Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Melia Belli, Department of Art History and Visual Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Laura Parisi, Department of Gender Studies, UVic

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

A new sub-culture, “Rotten Culture (腐文化)”, evolved from Japanese Boys’ Love (BL) manga, has rapidly spread in China and dramatically influenced many areas of Chinese artistic creation. “Rotten Culture” is an extension of Boys’ Love, which indicates that Boys’ Love elements not only existed in manga, but emerged in anime, movies, TV series, and so on. As a start of an analysis of this phenomenon, this thesis will focus on the core of “Rotten Culture”, Boys’ Love, which exists in Chinese manga and web fiction. The central issues addressed by this thesis are: exploring the circulation of Boys’ Love from Japan to China; examining the aesthetics and themes of some of these works; and analyzing the motivations that explain why such a huge amount of people, both professional and non-professional, have joined in creating Boys’ Love art works.