



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

CLAIRE O'MANIQUE

BA (University of Guelph, 2015)

“Degrowth in Canada: Critical perspectives from the ground”

School of Environmental Studies

Monday, June 24, 2019

10:00 A.M.

David Turpin Building

Room B255

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. James Rowe, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Karena Shaw, School of Environmental Studies, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. William Carroll, Department of Sociology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Prof. Conrad Alexandrowicz, Department of Theatre, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

Degrowth is an emerging field of research and a social movement founded on the premise that perpetual economic growth is incompatible with the biophysical limits of our finite planet (D'Alisa, Demaria & Kallis, 2014a; Asara, Otero, Demaria & Corbera, 2015). Despite the important work that degrowth scholars and activists have done to broadcast the fundamental contradiction between endless compound growth and a finite resource base, degrowth remains politically marginal, having received little mainstream attention or policy uptake. This thesis explores why. In particular, I examine barriers to and pathways towards the uptake of degrowth in Canada, a country that disproportionately contributes to climate breakdown. The questions guiding this study are 1) What barriers exist to advancing a degrowth agenda in Canada?; 2) How specifically do those barriers block degrowth from taking hold in contemporary Canadian policy and political discourse?; 3) How (if at all) are Canadian contemporary activists seeking to address these barriers?