



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

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

of

MAIRI I. RICHTER

BA (Thompson River University, 2016)

“Using the Concept of Play to Broaden the Reach of Cultural Theory”

Department of English

Thursday, April 18, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Clearihue Building

Room C316

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Jentery Sayers, Department of English, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Emile Fromet de Rosnay, Department of French, UVic (Outside Member)

Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Prof. David Leach, Department of Writing, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Tim Hopper, School of Exercise, Science, Physical & Health Education, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to explore methods of learning and teaching cultural theory that differs from the traditional classroom based methods. Using Jacques Derrida's "Structure, Sign and Play," I designed and created a videogame prototype that engages Derrida's ideas in an interesting and accessible way. This thesis explores how the concept of play can be applied to theory, and how the use of play can allow a deeper and more thorough understanding of theory. These methods were born from a criticism of the elitism witnessed in both contemporary society and academia, as well as a desire to make theory, especially cultural theory, accessible to a wider audience.