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

of

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“Waste Governance in Vancouver: Binners’ Participation and the Impacts of Grassroots Innovations”

Department of Geography

Friday, August 2, 2019
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B017

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, Department of Geography, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Crystal Tremblay, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, School of Environmental Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Sandra Gibbons, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic

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

Due to the general unawareness of the existence and significance of the informal recycling sector in the global north leading to a great deal of exclusion and stigmatization, this thesis seeks to investigate waste governance in Vancouver and the level of involvement/participation of the informal recycling sector in municipal waste management. It also documents the critical role of grassroots innovations in promoting participatory governance and the challenges faced in the process. Results show that the informal recycling sector (binners) play a significant role in municipal waste management, participation is mainly instrumental and driven by motivation for efficiency, and binners are not involved in the decision-making process which then results in several tensions between binners and related stakeholders. Furthermore, the current level of participation of binners can be linked to the influence of a grassroots innovation called the Binners’ Project, which has at its core, empowerment and capacity building of its members. Challenges faced by this organization as well as binners, in general, are also documented. This thesis concludes with recommendations to promote more participatory waste governance and highlights strategies to ensure the progress of binners grassroots innovation.