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

of

AUDREY TUNG

BSc (University of British Columbia, 2017)

“Let Them Eat Kale: Food Insecurity Discourses in Richmond, BC”

Department of Geography

Wednesday, December 18, 2019
11:45 A.M.
David Turpin Building
Room B215

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Denise Cloutier, Department of Geography, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood, Department of Geography, UVic (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Graham Riches, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Bruce Ravelli, Department of Sociology, UVic

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

Household food insecurity is a persistent yet hidden problem in wealthy nations such as Canada, where it has in part been perpetuated through discourses and practices at the local scale. Drawing upon archival materials, participant observation of local food programs, and semi-structured interviews with food program clients and community facilitators, this study analyzes the ways in which household food insecurity has been framed within the context of Richmond, British Columbia. The study’s findings suggest that discourses organized around the production and (re)distribution of food, rather than income inequality, have misdirected household food insecurity reduction activities away from the central issue of poverty. The present study therefore helps to draw attention to overlooked income-based frameworks, especially approaches that highlight the importance of political economy. It reinforces the inextricable link between health outcomes and the inequitable distribution of economic resources and political power – things that have become lost or concealed in various discourses on household food insecurity.