



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

ZOË YUNKER

BA (University of Victoria, 2016)

“Dispossession politics: Mapping the contours of reconciliatory colonialism in Canada through industry-funded think tanks”

Department of Sociology

Monday, April 29, 2019

3:00 P.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. William Carroll, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Peyman Vahabzadeh, Department of Sociology, UVic (Member)

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

External Examiner:

Dr. Valerie Napoleon, Faculty of Law, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Brian McKercher, Department of History, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

Amidst recent mobilizations of Indigenous land-based resistance and the hypocrisy inherent in the state's implementation of UNDRIP they render visible, resource-extractive corporate capital is uniquely invested in the state's continued ability to dispossess land from Indigenous peoples. This paper suggests that growing emphasis on Indigenous-state relations within industry-funded think tanks offers corporate capital an unprecedented avenue to participate in the evolution of federal policy discourse on state-Indigenous reconciliation. It draws on a content analysis of policy materials from four of these institutions ranging from far-right groups such as the Fraser Institute to the more moderate Institute on Governance, contextualizing findings in recent and substantive shifts in federal policy development in this area. Findings suggest that the groups' relative diversity is underscored by common discursive themes infused by neoliberal governing rationalities that invoke a diffuse, flexible and agile policy landscape that erases the question of land—and Indigenous jurisdiction over land—which many Indigenous peoples identify as critical to meaningful reconciliation efforts.