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

of

JESSICA MICHALOFSKY

MFA (University of British Columbia, 2015)
BEd (University of British Columbia, 2006)
BA (University of British Columbia, 2003)

“Beside Her Self: A Coffin Text”

Department of English

Wednesday, June 30, 2021
10:00 A.M.
Conducted Remotely

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Jentery Sayers, Department of English, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Sheila Rabillard, Department of English, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Megan Swift, Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Jennifer Thom, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

I did not purposely set down to write this work but was compelled by a painful sense of what I should not do. What I should not write. To protect the privacy and autonomy of individuals, to avoid creating harm, and to resist, however unsuccessfullly, essentializing either “mothers” or “addiction,” this meta-memoir enacts a radical besideness, where one subject performs the verb of a second subject, where one subject enlist the aid of other subjects. In the aim of both producing and defying narrative structures that seem to fasten a person to their identity, this collaborative, intertextual project attempts to tell a story, both in what is re-told and in what is not-told. It invokes infelicitous performances as a way of talking back while walking forward.