



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

EOIN KELLY

BA Honors (University of Toronto, 2016)

**“The Unhoused: Homelessness in Early-Twentieth Century
British Columbia”**

Department of History

Friday, August 24, 2018
10:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B021

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Eric Sager, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Lynne Marks, Department of History, University of Victoria (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Mark Leier, Department of History, Simon Fraser University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Jennifer White, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

North American histories of homelessness have focused upon the specific image of the “tramp.” Exemplified by Charlie Chaplin, Jack London and various popular representations in a variety of media formats, the tramp, hobo or bindlestiff is a classic North American symbol. This “tramp” is often represented as a young, white, heteronormative man, and many histories of homelessness focus upon subjects like him. However, newly accessible police, charity and census materials suggest the earlytwentieth century homeless population in the Pacific Northwest was more racially and sexually diverse than previously thought. Using a Gramscian liberal order framework theory, I argue that the tramp became a North American liberal ideological icon in response to a growing tension between the needs of capital for a free moving body of labourers and the growing panoptic state. By breaking down the tramp mythos and offering a more accurate image of turn of the century homeless people, we can see the ways liberal ideology has been twisted to justify incarceration, harassment and exclusion.