



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Against Discovery: a manifesto for the ordinary and mundane; Or, learning the ways of the ancestors by walking the paths of mountain goats.



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Monday, October 2nd, 2017

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Clerihue Building: A202

Discovery is intimately entwined in the ideals of our age. It is simultaneously ideology of the day and hoped for outcome. Discovery, however, is not innocent. It is fully implicated in the violent disruption of Indigenous peoples lives, homes, histories, and futures. Discovery is what propelled the disruptive transformation of pre-capitalist Europe, propelled the predatory expansion out of Europe, and today fuels marginalization, displacement, and increasing social inequality. Research that ignores the fundamental anti-social aspects of the Discovery Paradigm remains part of the problem no matter how collaborative, engaging, or community driven. Today's presentation is a manifesto against discovery and an argument for the ordinary and the mundane. This is accomplished through a reflection on relearning the ways of the łagyiyet (ancestors) through following the paths of mati (mountain goats). You will learn about the slow pace of non-discovery as you are introduced to the trails and waterways of Laxyuup Gitxaala (Gitxaala's National Territory), the primary location of this project. While our formal project is to understand Gitxaala chains of production from the alpine to seacoast, our fundamental objective is to listen for, feel, sense, and observe the ways of the łagyiyet through embodied movement, practice, and deliberative action. We are in essence making ordinary what k'amksiwah (settler) researchers so often try to exoticize.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

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