



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

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BOR/BA (Lakehead University, 2001)

“Čaʔak (Islands): How Place-based Indigenous Perspectives Can Inform National Park Visitor Experience Programming in Nuu-chah-nulth Traditional Territory”

Department of Anthropology

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

3:00PM

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Brian Thom, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Iain McKechnie, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Rosaline Canessa, Department of Geography, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Helga Hallgrimsdottir, Department of Sociology, UVic

Abstract

This research project explores ways in which place-based Indigenous perspectives can inform national park 'visitor experience' planning, management, and information delivery. Engaged in collaborative processes with Tseshaht First Nation, this project explores knowledge of Tseshaht-identified places of cultural significance in Tseshaht traditional territory, discussed in the context of creating a web-based digital map. In attempting to explore Nuu-chah-nulth-informed ways in which to more widely share cultural history and knowledge in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, I learned of the many dynamics that are revealed when the depth of Nuu-chah-nulth connections to place are made visible. This research project examines knowledge, power, and place in the context of Indigenous self-representation. Informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and Indigenous principles of knowledge-sharing, this thesis is an ethnography of knowledge-sharing in modern contexts fraught with issues of state power, commodification, and colonialism.