



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

LEI CHAI

BA (University of Winnipeg, 2013)

“Living Apart Together in Canada: A National Portrait”

Department of Sociology

Friday, July 31, 2015

10:00AM

Cornett Building

Room A317

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Zheng Wu, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Barry Edmonston, Department of Sociology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Linda Shi, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Merwan Engineer, Department of Economics, UVic

Abstract

Living apart together (LATs) refers to individuals (couples) who are in intimate relationships and do not share the same household. Over the last two decades, LATs have become a new emerging family form in Western societies. Previous research on LATs is generally limited to small-scale surveys and qualitative studies. There are virtually no national studies on this topic using representative data. In this study, I document the incidence and trends of LATs, and provide a national profile of the individual-level characteristics that are associated with those who live in LAT relationships, as well as examine how people from a LAT union differ from those who are married, cohabiting or single. Data from the Canadian General Social Survey (Cycle 25), conducted by Statistics Canada in 2011 is used. The regression results show that LATs are not an alternative to co-residential relationships nor to singlehood. The rate of LATs is associated with age, presence of children, income, main activity, education, place of residence, religiosity and religious affiliation. The implications of these findings are discussed in the context of future families.