



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

URSULA ABRAMCZYK

BA (University of Guelph, 2012)

**“Hul’qumi’num Peoples in the Gulf Islands: Re-Storying the Coast
Salish Landscape”**

Department of Anthropology

July 10, 2017

1:00 P.M.

David Turpin Building

A144

Supervisory Committee:

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

Dr. Ann Stahl, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Robin Roth, Department of Geography, University of Guelph

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Nathan Lachowsky, School of Health and Social Policy, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

A negotiated, cooperative co-management arrangement between six Coast Salish First Nations and Parks Canada has created an opportunity for Hul'qumi'num peoples to "re-story" a colonized landscape in the southern Gulf Islands archipelago east of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Collaborative research with the Hul'qumi'num-Gulf Islands National Park Reserve Committee constitutes an effort to shift power by seizing the means of authorship over Coast Salish cultures, languages and history, and has potential to challenge existing and problematic popular and public narratives which do not recognize Hul'qumi'num peoples' lands and land-based connections in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR). I trace the processes of narrative production and examine how power imbues these processes (Trouillot 1995), which leads me to argue that the popular narrative framing of Hul'qumi'num peoples as having "floated by" the southern Gulf Islands, but never "settling" there, emerged largely through colonial processes and Indian land policy which reconfigured Central Coast Salish territorialities. By silencing these colonial processes, the narrative of ephemeral territorial connections was uncritically reproduced and reified by many anthropologists working in the Gulf of Georgia region in the period of cultural entanglements with Europeans. In the twenty-first century, these narratives continue to dominate the public imaginary through their reproduction in GINPR interpretive materials and in the grey literature of commercial archaeologists working in cultural resources management. These narratives are not neutral, but have implications for rights and title recognition and accommodation by the state, perpetuate the territorial dispossession of Hul'qumi'num peoples to the southern Gulf Islands. Hul'qumi'num perspectives help to understand the *silence* in the dominant narratives by elucidating the historic and ongoing significance of specific locales in the southern Gulf Islands for Hul'qumi'num individuals, families and communities, and the transformative processes effecting territorial dispossession in the post-European contact period.