



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

JULIA LACY

BSc (University of Victoria, 1983)
BA (University of Victoria, 2009)

**“Showing Respect: Death Rituals of the Chinese Community in Coastal Urban
British Columbia”**

Department of Anthropology

Wednesday, January 13, 2016
1:30PM
Cornett Building
Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Peter Stephenson, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Lisa Mitchell, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, School of Nursing, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Robert Anthony, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Abstract

Decisions on how to proceed at the death of a loved one can be very hard on those tasked with arranging funeral plans. When the deceased or their family span more than one culture, as frequently occurs in immigrant communities, those who remain may not even know what the culturally appropriate practices are. The difficulty of making decisions and plans without a resource base during times of mourning can increase the emotional burden of those who experience the death of a loved one.

This research gathers information from persons in the culturally diverse Victoria and coastal urban British Columbia's Chinese Canadian community about some of the death rituals practised locally. It also delves into the beliefs about renegotiated relationships with the deceased, other family members, and the community at large. A summary of this research is provided in a brochure intended to assist people who, as was the case for myself, find they need to make final arrangements but who do not have much knowledge of practices in the Chinese Canadian community.