



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

MAYA COWAN

BA (University of Victoria, 2017)

“The Salt Spring Dollar: Money For People, Against the Market”

Department of Anthropology

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Daromir Rudnyckj, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Brian Thom, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

Dr. Emile Fromet de Rosnay, Department of French, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, School of Environmental Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Richard van Oort, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

The Salt Spring dollar is a community currency based on Salt Spring Island, a Gulf Islands community located in the Salish Sea between Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. Currency use in 2018, nearly two decades after its release in 2001, has declined but remains a powerful statement against globalised capitalism and environmental degradation, as well as a way of re-embedding social concerns and relations in the use of money. This thesis is a case study of an alternative currency, in comparison to other alternative currencies, as well as a social movement that has declined in since its inception. The Salt Spring dollar demonstrates that the exchange of money is not merely an economic act, but is imbued with social and political intention.