



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

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

of

LOGAN MACNAIR

BA (Thompson Rivers University, 2011)

“Mourning 2.0: Experiences of Death, Bereavement and Memorialization on
Facebook”

Department of Sociology

Wednesday April 22, 2015

1:00 P.M.

Cornett Building

Room A317

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Steve Garlick, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Sean Heir, Department of Sociology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Danu Stinson, Department of Psychology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Fayez Gebali, Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering, UVic

Abstract

The ways in which death, bereavement, and memorialization are expressed and experienced have begun to take on historically unique forms due largely to the widespread permeation of the Internet and social media within Western culture. Mourning and the memorialization of the deceased are increasingly being expressed in an online capacity through the mediums of social networking websites such as Facebook. This study endeavors to uncover the ways in which newly emergent, technologically mediated forms of bereavement and memorialization occur, how these online practices differentiate from conventional offline grieving procedures, and in what ways they impact the cultural visibility of death in society. A mixed-method research design incorporating both a content analysis of existing Facebook memorial pages as well as interviews with those who have engaged with them was conducted in order to elucidate the various ways in which the relatively new phenomena of online mourning and memorialization occur on Facebook.