



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
(Educational Leadership and Policy)

CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON GRATHAM

B. Sc. University of British Columbia, 1989
M. Sc. University of British Columbia, 1991

Monday, November 30, 2015, 9:00 am
Room 200, Graduate Student Centre
Latecomers will not be admitted

**“Symphonie Praxis: A Suite Exploring Faculty Experiences and
Policy Frames Surrounding Digital Technologies in BCs Post-
secondary Education System”**

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Chair:

Dr. Luanne Freund (Library, Archival, and Information Studies)

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Michelle Stack, Research Supervisor (Educational Studies)

Dr. Deirdre Kelly (Educational Studies)

Dr. Andre Mazawi (Educational Studies)

University Examiners:

Dr. Susan Georfsky (Curriculum Studies)

Dr. Alison Taylor (Educational Studies)

External Examiner:

Dr. Jane Gaskell

Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education

University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

ABSTRACT

This study explores faculty members' lived experiences with digital technologies in their teaching practice at BCU, and it investigates these individual experiences within overlapping and interrelated contexts at the global, provincial, and institutional scales.

The study was inspired by the researcher's practice in educational technology leadership at BCU, and those experiences, along with the researcher's perspective as geographer, are seen throughout the study.

The research is informed by critical theory of technology to situate the different perspectives used to frame technologies. It draws upon research on globalization to analyze provincial and institutional policy documents. It also draws upon Bourdieu's ideas on capital to understand power and influence shifts: particularly within the institution and how participants' capital shifts over time.

The study illustrates the complex and sometimes contradictory ways that faculty members see their relationship with digital technologies in their practice, and it highlights how government priorities can become institutional policy and ultimately manifest in faculty members experiences.

The study shows how the role of the instructor and the field of higher education are changing and it situates increasingly ubiquitous digital technologies in the change. It illustrates how participants attribute tensions in their practice to different logics between themselves and BCU administrators. And it shows how participants take on the responsibility themselves of increasing their use of digital technologies, even when they don't believe more technology use will help their practice.

This research contributes to the ongoing discussions regarding higher education policy and the roles for digital technologies within that field.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Place of Birth: Quebec, Canada

Academic Studies: B. Sc. University of British Columbia, 1989
M. Sc. University of British Columbia, 1991

GRADUATE STUDIES

Field of Study: Educational Leadership

Courses

EDST601 Doctoral Seminar I
EDST602 Doctoral Seminar II
EDST596 Ethics in Educational Leadership
EDST508A Research I
EDST508B Research II
EDST577 Context of Educational Policy
LLED656D Developments in Access to Knowledge
EDST582 Organizations in the Educational Context
CMNS857 Philosophy and Sociology of Technology
(SFU)

Instructors

Dr. D. Coulter
Drs. D. Fisher & A Mazawi
Drs. T. Sork & D. Vokey
Dr. A. Mazawi
Drs. D. Kelly & M. Stack
Drs. D. Kelly & M. Stack
Dr. J. Willinsky
Dr. A. Mazawi
Dr. A. Feenberg

PRESENTATIONS

2012 Educational Leadership Institute: How do faculty see the role of educational technologies
2009 OpenEd: Open CourseWare – Experiences in a BC University
2008 BCETUC: Cultivating a Culture of Creativity – Open Educational Resources
2002 UNESCO Open Educational Resources Panel
2001 Connections: Conference co-chair
1998 TeleLearning: Innovations in Educational Technologies