

Comprehensive Exams Workshop

October 28, 2016 / 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. / Burnaby conference room – 8652

For Ph.D. students in our program, the comprehensive exams represent one-third of the requirements for the degree (in addition to coursework and the dissertation). According to the School of Communication's Handbook, "'comprehensive' means a test of competence over a range of epistemological and methodological approaches within the study of communication," and that the exams "have been intended to prepare doctoral students for developing fields of competence in teaching and research, as well as to orient the dissertation itself" (p. 23). So how does one go about approaching these written and oral tasks and move from Ph.D. student to Ph.D. candidate? This workshop, divided into several short talks and a general Q&A section, is meant to address this exact question—with snacks provided. (Organized and composed by L. Dugan Nichols and Sylvia Blake).

Program schedule:

2:00 – 2:20:

A professor's perspective

Kirsten McAllister

Graduate Program Chair

2:20 – 3:00:

Short talks from Ph.D. candidates

(Titles of their comps fields included)

Sylvia Blake (Global media and communication policy – Broadcasting diversity in Canada) on **pre-writing and anticipating questions**

Duncan Low (Canadian cultural tourism history – An economic appraisal of the arts and their place within Canadian government policy during the period 1941-2010) on **the comps process**

Bob Neubauer (Ideology, hegemony, and the organized right – Gateway to crisis: Environment and economy in the Northern Gateway conflict) on **balancing work and life, and managing the week you write**

L. Dugan Nichols (Spatiality, Marxist theory, and the development of capitalism – Resistance, race, and class under capitalism) on **selecting your fields and sources for your fields**

Jennesia Pedri (Histories of childhood in relation to the media – Play and learning) on **note-taking and making connections between texts**

Graeme Webb (Technologies and society – The public) on **tips for the oral defense**

3:00 – 3:10:

Break

3:10 – 4:00:

Open Q&A and general discussion