Chris Kinman travelled the world to bring together an assemblage of thinkers to reflect on the influence of Lynn Hoffman. The film is a wild tapestry of colour, weaving together the voices and creations of many great people with powerful and timely images and ideas — all bringing to life the vision of this amazing woman! I found this film remarkable.

Jeff Borden
Punk Rock Musician, Addictions Specialist
Vancouver, BC

All Manner of Poetic Disobedience is a film about the limits of language, and the unfolding of rebellion and poetry in the family therapy / mental health field. A provocative reflection on how relationships become invisible whenever language acts as a tool for reification and control. But also, a powerful approach towards the art of conversation, connection, and an invitation to the rediscovery of unlisted languages.

Alejandra Proaño
Family Therapist; Poet
Quito, Ecuador; Vancouver, BC

November 7, 2014
3:00—5:00pm
Room 350
Free of cost
Registration limited to 50
RSVP to Amy Huang
ahuang@cityu.edu

A documentary film, made by Christopher Kinman that highlights the provocative and game-changing thinking and practice of family therapy pioneer, Lynn Hoffman. With wit and humor Lynn invites us away from the individualisms of modern life toward a world radically embedded in complex webs of relationship. In Lynn's vision the hierarchies and authorities of our current age are like the emperor with no clothes, they are unable to convince us any more of their abilities to control the intricacies of life and somehow hold this world together. Instead, with Lynn, we find ourselves thrown into a rhizome world, a place where prophets and forecasters dare not enter, a world where not-knowing is the norm, where relationships truly matter, where changes happen with lightning speed, where hope and humor are never far from reach — a place brimming with all manner of poetic disobedience.

Lynn Hoffman is one of the true pioneers in the family therapy field. In her various books she documented the rise of family therapy as it emerged from the influence of Gregory Bateson (whose work she admires to this day) into a unique field of practice. She followed its various twists and turns as it migrated through various parts of the world. In her later years, she moved into a vision of life and practice which isn't about therapy anymore. She proposes a different kind of work that, using the language of the late Norwegian psychiatrist, Tom Anderson, is about “the art of creating social bonds,” or as sociologist, John Shotter described it, “the art of withness.”

Christopher Kinman is a family and community therapist working from the lower mainland of British Columbia. He has, for years, been experimenting with communal forms of practice that bring to life the various gifts that circulate within our relational worlds. Chris has, for over twenty years, been a close friend of Lynn Hoffman. In 2012 he completed this documentary film about her life and influence. Chris is also a professor at City University of Seattle in Canada, in the Master of Counselling program.

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