

Rotational shift work in the Yukon Territory – 'Multilocality': the '(re)making' a resource frontier and processes of 're-centering' a remote periphery

Projekt: „LACE - Labour Mobility and Community Participation in the Extractive Industry – Yukon“

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Canadian – Austrian Project



Anthropology

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Research Programm: ReSDA: Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic

REGION: Mayo (First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun)

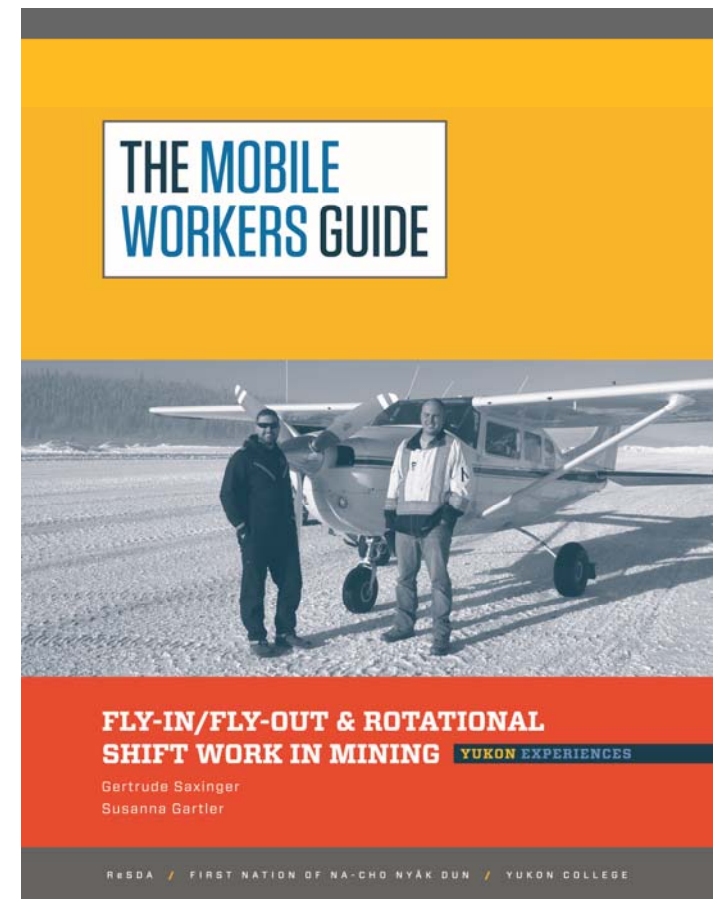
PARTNER & Community Based Research Method

- First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
- Yukon College
- Lakehead Universtiy/Thunderbay Ontario
- University of Vienna/ Austria



„The Mobile Workers Guide“

- This **“Mobile Workers Guide – Fly-in/Fly-out and Rotational Shift Work in Mining. Yukon Experiences”** presents a wide range of insights into a work life that is characterised by mobility, living in camps and being on scheduled times away from home.
- In it, experienced workers — men and women alike — from a variety of professions in the exploration and mining sector provide insight for those who are new to this industry.
- They share stories, experiences, strategies for coping with potential difficulties and tips for how to benefit from this traveling lifestyle.
- The sections of the guide introduce the readers to topics, such as, coping with boom and bust cycles, specifics of mining communities, First Nation employment, women in mining, family life and private relationships, income management and career development.



„Multilocality“

- Mobility
- Stasis
- Time

- Material Locale

- Multiple meanings and practices between and within different and overlapping population groups

- Political economy of various scales



From Center to Resource Periphery

Population Movements for mining → emerging resource frontier
End of 19th century start of mining and settler colonialism in the Yukon

Re-making the resource frontier
→ continuities: late 20th century – FIFO and long distance commuting

Re-centering the locale / the land
→ First Nations' self determination, fate control, IBAs,
New economic pathways, etc

Simultaneous process and no
dichotomy → First Nations participate in
mining under new conditions of „re-centering“

Conditions:
Unequal power relations between First Nations,
state, companies



Taking part in the Resource Industry: history

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in Mayo, Central Yukon

Silver mining from 1910s onwards

„Shovel jobs“, timber, loading steam boats

Intermarriages

Today many First Nation miners –
offspring from settlers



First Nation workers in mining: today

Training

Benefit sharing agreements →
Employment opportunities

No sustainable jobs →
uncertainties

Long term vision →
„we still want to mine in 100 years „
„No short term revenues“

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun people think
of an intergenerational resource use



FIFO miners (from the [urban] south)

„ Fortune „ „ adventure „
professiona self-realisation

„Topophila“

Interaction in camps →
distance & proximity

Mobilty & Stasis →
rootedness in the resource
frontier



Negotiating mining & subsistence

First Nation workforce

Investment of salaries into hunting, fishing.....

„mining done in the right way“

Environmental effects

Claim for a just cooperation



Re-centering the periphery

Planning of alternative sectors, visions
Tourism, Agriculture

Cultural revitalisation and fate control

Consulation/Free Prior Informed Consent
and benefit sharing agreements



Concluding Remarks

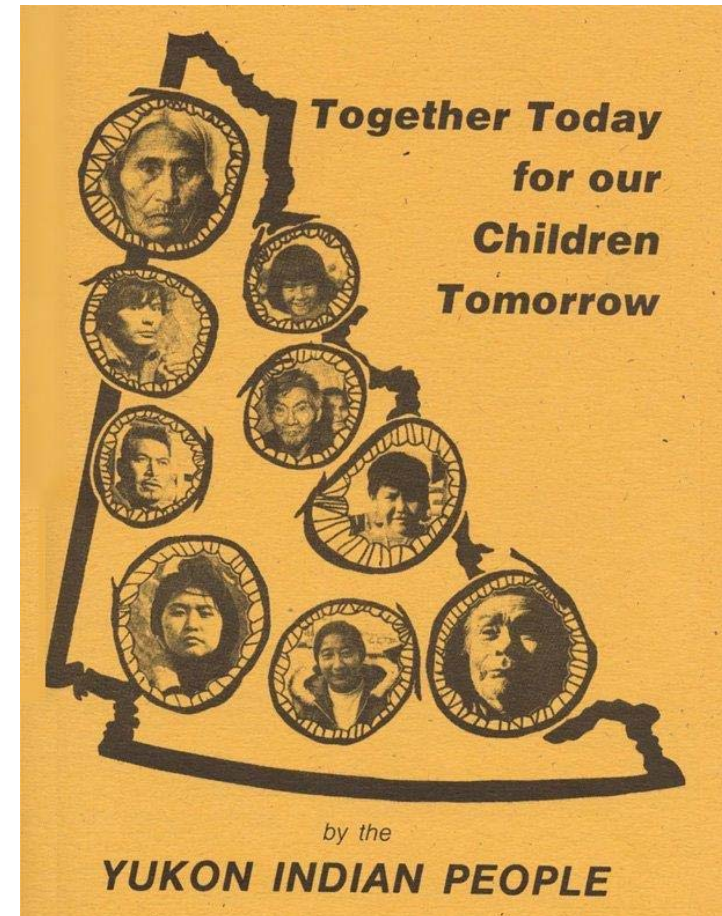
Negotiating the meanings of and practises in a material locale
→ Yukon

Fair partnerships not for granted & political will

FIFOs: often only stereotyped locale (the „resource periphery“)
& lack of knowledge about local culture (the „center“)

Overlaps of „resource frontier“ and „center“

Political economy



Thank you for your attention!

- Big THANKS to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and all the people from Mayo for their hospitality and willingness to share their knowledge with the team of the „LACE“ project and for the fruitful research collaboration.

• **Mussi Cho!**