

Negotiating the Rules of the Game: The Influence of Indigenous People on Mining Development in Quebec and New Caledonia

Sabrina Bourgeois PhD student in Political Science, Laval University (Qc, CA)

Third Annual Meeting, MinErAL Network June 13, 2019

Presentation Plan

- Negotiating Mining Development in Diverse Legal and Political Frameworks
- 2. Quebec and New Caledonia: An Unexpected Comparison?
- 3. Negotiating Mining Development in Diverse Legal and Political Frameworks
- 4. Thesis Objectives and Research Questions
- 5. Progress of the Thesis Research

United Nations Permanent Forum

Colonial legacies define the terms in which political and social mobilizations can be expressed (Alfred 2009).

- Various modalities of self-determination articulated through various international instruments
- Many types of relationships between states and Indigenous people (Rodon 2019)
- E.g. Recognition as independent people / Recognition as Indigenous people



These claims are not necessarily exclusive (Gagné and Salaün 2013; Gagné 2016).

Conflicting or difficult to apply in certain regions or legal/political contexts (Gagné and Salaün 2013; Gagné 2016).

We are beginning to understand how people are mobilizing existing tools to improve their power relations (Le Meur et Mennesson 2012; Papillon et Rodon 2019).

Quebec and New Caledonia: An Unexpected Comparison?

Despite different trajectories and places where decolonization occurred, the implementation of self-determination and the recognition of an Indigenous people are connected (Manga 2014)

Two regions characterized by:

- Mining development legacy
- Visible (colonial) and invisible (indigenous) borders
- "Indigenous management" by the state
- Specific rights claimed, recognized in various ways/ Power Imbalance
- Proximity between communities and mining sites/ perception of impacts



Québec (Canada)	New Caledonia (France)
~ 1% / total population	~ 39% / total population
Reconciliation	Negotiated decolonization
Principle of self-government	Principle of shared sovereignty
Difficult negotiations and implementation of Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements	Unequal representation of Kanak people in political institutions between provinces (majority/minority)

Mining Development

- Conflict over land use which can facilitate negotiations (Rodon 2018)
- ➤ Potential leverage for greater autonomy and/or «nation-building» (Le Meur and all 2013)



Québec

Glencore

New Caledonia

Cree nation	Naskapi nation	Innu nation
Territory of Eeyou Istchee	Territory of Nuchimiyusc hiiy	Territory of Nitassinan
James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act (1975)	Northeastern Quebec Agreement (1978)	3 territorial negotiation tables since 1979
↓ Goldcorp	↓ TATA	↓ Steel

North Province	South Province
Majority /population	Minority/population
Independence rhetoric in favour of mining development	Aboriginal claims against mining development

Exploration Companies

Current state of knowledge (2014): Geologic mapping Legend Year of publication Hother 1980 1980-1999 1900-000-199 1900-1999 1900-000-199 1900-199

Mining Projects

Case-by-case approach (Della Porta et Keating 2008)/

Multiple Case Study (Yin 2014)

4 mining projects:

- DSO by TATA Steel (Quebec/Innu and Naskapis)
- Eleonor by Goldcorp (Quebec/Cree)
- Exploration «Forgotten Coast » (South Province/Kanak)
- Koniambo by Glencore (North Province/Kanak)







Thesis Objectives and Research Questions

In reviewing the literature on Indigenous-led engagements with mining (...), several gaps quickly become evident (Horowitz and all 2018)

Objectives:

- 1) Analyze how the legal framework and sociopolitical context of mining activities influence the behaviour of mining development participants, especially Indigenous people and mining companies
- 2) Gain a better understanding of the relationship between Indigenous peoples' demands/strategies and their influence on decision-making in various legal and political frameworks
- 3) Identify factors that promote or limit the strategic positioning of Indigenous people

Thesis Objectives and Research Questions

Research Questions:

What types of relationships appear between Indigenous peoples and mining companies in the legal and political frameworks analyzed?

- Do the negotiations surrounding mining development differ according to the type of specific rights claimed and/or recognized?
- In what ways do Indigenous peoples interact with existing or potential tools, mobilize them or not, produce them or bypass them?

Progress of the Project

Years	Structure of Program/Thesis	
2017-2018	Course Requirements	\checkmark
2018-2019	• Comprehensive examinations (part 1)	\checkmark
2019-2020	 Comprehensive examinations (part 2) Research and ethical certification (Laval University) Interviews (QC/NC) Analysis and interpretation of the result 	ts
2020-2021	 Interview/Analysis and interpretation of the results (continuation) Primary results transfer activities Dissertation defense (spring 2021) 	f

Merci!

Thank You!