



Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters  
and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods

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## MINERAL NEWSLETTER

The MinErAL network is well in its second year of activity. Over the course of this past year, we successfully navigated the administrative roadblocks set by finance departments involved in our project's implementation, which enabled us to transfer the amounts needed to initiate research endeavours in Australia, New Caledonia, Sweden as well as Canada.

However, the biggest challenge we encounter is to achieve a more integrated approach, embracing the diverse disciplines included in the Network's projects and to foster more collaborations between the different regions involved. A first step was taken at the ICASS conference in Umea. This event presented an ideal opportunity to develop relationships among our members, which was notably seized by Leah Horowitz who wrote a conjoint paper with partners. This paper has recently been submitted to the *Extractive Industries and Society Journal*.

The next MinErAL workshop will be held May 28-31 in Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, an Innu community located on the north shore of Québec near the city of Sept-Îles. This meeting, once again, presents a great occasion to build and develop relationships through new research and writing projects. A preliminary program will be ready soon.

In the upcoming year, we will continue writing guides for every work package included in the MinErAL Network's outline. These guides are destined to our Network's partners, indigenous communities, as well as the general public. We have started the work on two guides: The first one addresses legal and political mining environments and the recognition of Indigenous rights in the different regions included in our Network's horizon. Sophie Thériault has started working on this guide. The second guide will examine the impacts of different types of extracted minerals and of the different industrial processes used to extract them. Rosa Galvez

will shortly begin to work on this with Martin Grenon and one of her students. Your contribution to these guides would be most welcome! Feel free to contact Sophie Thériault and Rosa Galvez if you wish contributing to their work.



Thierry Rodon

To conclude, we sincerely hope to have to pleasure of seeing you in Uashat mak Mani-Utenam this spring! While funding is unfortunately limited to a few people per region, if you can manage to find the necessary resources, we strongly encourage you to join us! If you can afford the costs of a trip to Québec City, we will gladly cover the expenses related to your trip from Québec City to Uashat. You will not only enjoy the beauty of one of the oldest North American city, but you will also get to meet the wonderful Innu and experience the delights of the local seafood!

## CONNECT WITH US

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## ENRICHING ENCOUNTERS AND PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUES

The Mineral Network met at the Ninth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences: People and Place (ICASS IX) that took place in Umea from June 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2017. Our researchers and partners from Scandinavia, Australia, New Caledonia and Canada presented several papers on various topics, including on the relationship between governance and resource development, indigenous knowledge, environmental remediation, on the economic impacts of mining, the relationships between communities and mining companies as well as issues pertaining to gender. All presentations are available on the MinErAL website.

The Network additionally held its first annual meeting as well as sessions on the team's projects in parallel to the ICASS congress. This offered an opportunity for several researchers and partners to present their work, amongst others: Jeanie Govan (Charles Darwin University), Stephan Schott (Carleton University), Sharon Harwood (James Cook University), Jean-Marc Séguin



(Makivik), Leah Horowitz (the University of Wisconsin-Madison), Christopher Fletcher (Laval University), and Allan Dale (Regional Development Australia).

The next general assembly will be held in the town of Sept-Îles (Québec, Canada) from May 29<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. We are hoping to see you there!

## FEATURED PROJECTS

The MinErAL Network funds several research projects. In this edition of the newsletter, we will present two of these projects: «Comparing Consultation, Consent and Negotiated Agreements in Arctic Extractive Industries» and «Shattering the Myth of the Good Mining Job: Job Desirability for Inuit Workers»

### Featured project: «Shattering the Myth of the Good Mining Job: Job Desirability for Inuit Workers»

Suzanne Mills (McMaster University) and her team are working on a project that both aims describing how Impact and Benefit Agreements and environmental assessments influence Indigenous employment, as well as exploring the quality and the desirability of mining employment for Inuit people. The appealing features of this type of employment notably encompass the working conditions, but also includes the valuation of jobs on mining sites according to the local Inuit culture. Three mines in Nunavik and Nunatsiavut are currently included in this research project: The Raglan mine, owned by Glencore; the Nunavik Nickel mine, owned by Canadian Royalties and the Voisey's Bay mine and mill, owned by Vale.

The research conducted by Suzanne Mills (McMaster University) and her team will be done in parallel with the work of Christine Demmer, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Claire Levacher, France Bailly and Severine Bouard in New Caledonia. An enriching international comparison of their case studies will ensue. Both projects examine mining employment from interconnected two perspectives grounded in the two following questions: 1) How do the relations among unions, companies and Inuit governments as mediated by



Suzanne Mills

Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) influence Inuit employment; and 2) How do Inuit workers and community members experience the effects of mining employment and perceive employment opportunities at the mine?

By investigating job quality and desirability, these research projects directly relate to northern livelihoods. The quality of mining employment influences the wellbeing of Inuit workers and the overall Inuit participation in employment, each of which influence the flow of mining benefits into northern communities.



## Featured project: «Comparing Consultation, Consent and Negotiated Agreements in Arctic Extractive Industries»

Arn Keeling (Memorial University) and his team are currently leading a project which seeks developing a comparative baseline analysis of the consultation and negotiation processes that determine the presence or absence of consent. This project addresses the agreements made between local indigenous actors, the state and industrial companies in three Arctic regions: Nunatsiavut in Newfoundland (Canada); the Kiruna municipality in Norrbotten County (northern Sweden), and Yakutia, otherwise known as Sakha Republic (Russia). Our partners will examine the particular forms of interactions between these actors throughout the negotiations and consent that surround mining operations, especially considering how private companies have become increasingly responsible for the provision of welfare, namely through the use of corporate social responsibility initiatives or impact-benefit agreements.

This interdisciplinary project involves Sophie Thériault (University of Ottawa), Florian Stammler (University of Lapland), Aytalina



Arn Keeling



Remy Rouillard

Ivanova (University of Tromsø) and Rémy Rouillard (postdoctoral student, McGill University), in partnership with The Arctic Research Center at Umeå University (Arcum).

By comparing these three cases, this project will help identify and highlight promising consultation avenues and approaches for extractive operations within regions inhabited by indigenous peoples.

## INTERVIEW

### INTERVIEW WITH CLAIRE LEVACHER, POSTDOCTORAL STUDENT INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT «AT THE HEART OF NICKEL MINING CORPORATIONS IN NEW CALEDONIA: THE LABOR QUESTION»

**The Mineral Network benefits from the contributions of several students. This interview highlights the work of Claire Levacher, a postdoctoral student with whom our partners collaborate.**

#### *How are you involved in the Mineral Network?*

My postdoctoral research project is part of the project led by Christine Demmer and Pierre-Yves Le Meur entitled «At the Heart of Nickel Mining Corporations in New Caledonia: The Labor Question» and offers a comparative perspective between New Caledonia and Canada.

In Canada, as in New Caledonia, mining is an important aspect of economic development. This research project questions the way in which indigenous peoples participate in this economic development. Through a comparative approach focused on two mining projects, located respectively in New Caledonia and Canada, and both operated by Glencore, the main goal is to capture the factors that influence the mining companies' policies on hiring and subcontracting for the exploitation of their mining sites, particularly from the point of view of the recognition of Aboriginal rights and corporate social responsibility policies.

#### *Can you talk about your work's progress?*

As part of my current postdoctoral contract, I am working on the specificities of small and medium nickel extraction companies in New Caledonia. On the one hand, I am interested in the importance given to technical objects, knowledge and know-how in building relationships between these companies. On the other hand, I am interested in how these companies build their relationships to the local context, and whether they make or not these relationships an identity issue both in their mode of management and in the way they communicate on these relations.



Mine Taom, Kaala-Gomen, New Caledonia

#### *What kind of benefits will this project bring?*

In my opinion, the main interest of the project I am proposing relates to the comparative aspects and the possibility of being able to communicate during the survey and the feedback on the results of this research to stakeholders, mining companies as well as local populations directly or indirectly involved in mining projects. The project can also contribute locally to a better formalization of the mining operator's monitoring tools of the social and economic changes that the Kanak communities living near the northern mining project are going through.

**Thank you Claire and have a successful continuation in your work!**



Claire Levacher



Mine Vulcain,  
Tontouta, New  
Caledonia



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PARTNERS

### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AND TORRES STRAIT (RDA FNQ&TS)

Regional Development Australia Far North Queensland and Torres Strait (RDA FNQ&TS) is a community-based initiative that brings together all levels of government to support the growth and development of our unique northern region. RDA FNQ&TS builds partnerships between governments, regional development organisations, local businesses, community groups, Indigenous communities and key regional stakeholders to provide strategic and targeted responses to social, economic and environmental issues affecting regional Australia.

Within the MinErAL network, the organization is involved in the project «Northern Communities, Provincial Governments, and Negotiating the Mining Life Cycle – Cases from Australia, Canada and Sweden». This project aims to analyze how relationships between communities and mining companies evolved throughout the life cycle of a project and what are the mechanisms that are available to communities to ensure that their needs and interests continue to be taken into account.



## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS FROM THE MINERAL NETWORK RESEARCHERS

Considering the numerous researchers involved in our network, this list of selected publications is merely an overview of the multiple research interests and regions covered by our members. A particular focus has been made on the publications that resulted from collaborations among the researchers of our network. Please keep us updated on your latest works and publications, so we can present them in our newsletter's next issue. These will additionally be included on our website. Enjoy!

**Avango, Dag.** (2017). "Remains of industry in the polar regions: histories, processes, heritage". *Entreprises et Histoire*, 87 (2): 133-149.

**Carson, Dean B.,** Peter Sköld, Doris A. Carson, & Lena Maria Nilsson. (2016). "The local demography of resource economies: long-term implications of natural resource industries for demographic development in sparsely populated areas". In *Settlements at the Edge: Remote Human Settlements in Developed Nations*, Editors: Andrew Taylor, Dean B Carson; Prescott Ensign, Lee Huskey, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Gertrude Saxinger, pp. 357-378. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

**Filer Colin, Pierre-Yves Le Meur.** (2017). "Local-level politics and large-scale mines". In *Local-level politics and large-scale mines: Between New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea*, Editors: Filer Colin, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, pp. 1-59. Canberra: ANU Press.

**Hansen, Anne Merrild.** (2017). "Arcticness Insights". In *Arcticness: Power and Voice from the North*, Editor: Ilan Kelman, pp. 51-58. London: UCL Press.

**Harwood Sharon, Ed Wensing and Prescott C. Ensign.** (2016). "Place based planning in remote regions: Cape York Peninsula, Australia and Nunavut, Canada". In *Settlements at the Edge: Remote Human Settlements in Developed Nations*, Editors: Andrew Taylor, Dean B Carson; Prescott Ensign, Lee Huskey, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Gertrude Saxinger, pp. 124-150. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

**Horowitz, Leah S.** (2017). "'It shocks me, the place of women': intersectionality and mining companies' retrogradation of indigenous women in New Caledonia", *A Journal of Feminist Geography*, 24(10): 1419-1440.

**Keeling, Arn and John Sandlos.** (2017). "Ghost Towns and Zombie Mines: The Historical Dimensions of Mine Abandonment, Reclamation, and Redevelopment in the Canadian North". In *Ice Blink: Navigating Northern Environmental History*. Editors: Stephen Bocking and Brad Martin, pp. 377-420. Calgary: University of Calgary Press.

**Papillon, Martin, and Thierry Rodon.** 2017. "Proponent-Indigenous Agreements and the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in Canada." *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 62 (January): 216-224.

**Rodon, Thierry.** 2018. "Institutional Development and Resource Development: the Case of Canada's Indigenous Peoples." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 39 (1). Routledge: 119-136.



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