

Mining Activities, Health and Well-being in Indigenous Communities

*MinErAL Network 3rd Annual Meeting, Cairns, Australia
June 13, 2019*

Melody Lynch

Project Coordinator & PhD Student
McGill University

Ella Myette

MA Student
McGill University

Prof. Mylène Riva

Canada Research Chair in Housing,
Community and Health
McGill University



MinErAL
Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters
and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods

Research Team

- 👤 **Prof. Mylène Riva**, Canada Research Chair in Housing, Community, and Health, McGill University
- 👤 **Prof. Christopher Fletcher**, Professor, Université Laval
- 👤 **Prof. Sharon Harwood**, Senior Lecturer, James Cook University
- 👤 **Prof. Dean Carson**, Professor, Charles Darwin University, Australia & Umea University
- 👤 **Julie Fortin**, Postdoctoral Researcher, McGill University
- 👤 **Melody Lynch**, PhD Student & Project Coordinator, Department of Geography, McGill University
- 👤 **Ella Myette**, MA Student, Department of Geography, McGill University

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Project Overview

- Mining and other extractive industries can have significant implications for health and well-being
 - Physical, social, cultural, economic, environmental
 - Direct, indirect
- Impact assessment processes have emerged:
 - Environmental (EIA)
 - Social (SIA)
 - Health (HIA)



Photos: Canadian Government Environmental Assessment Agency

Project Aim

To assess the range of potential impacts of mining activities on local social-ecological systems, health, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and the potential afforded by Health Impact Assessment to assist communities, organizations, and mining companies in anticipating and mitigating such impacts.





1

Project Objectives

What are the pathways through which mining development influences Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being?

2

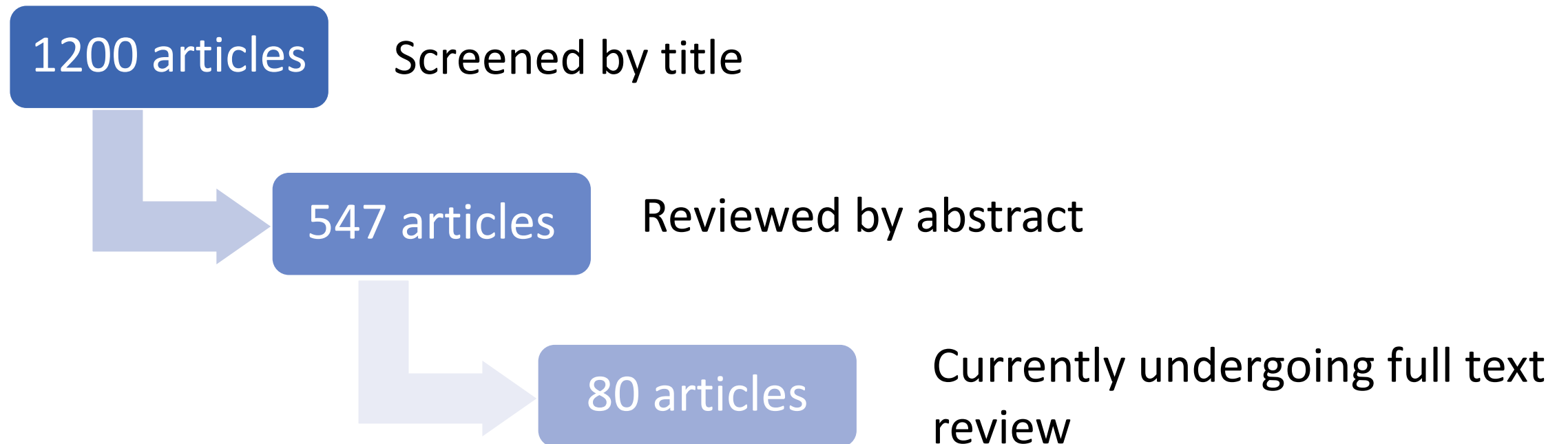
How are Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being meanings, experiences, priorities, and concerns represented and included in EIA, SIA and HIA?

3

How have HIA been, and how can they be implemented in, and by, Indigenous communities, organizations, and/or mining companies to assess the well-being impacts of mining projects on Indigenous lands? What are the best practices of HIA to support community mobilization and influence decision-making?

Scoping review of the scientific literature

- *Research question: what are the political, social, economic and cultural pathways through which mining development influences Indigenous Peoples' and communities' health and well-being?*



Social-ecological determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being



Proximal: child development, housing, employment, income and social status, education and literacy, food security, culture, gender.

Intermediate: health care, social supports, education, and justice systems, labour market.

Distal: Historical, political, economic, and social foundations, including Indigenous worldviews, spirituality, and self-determination.

And we need to consider...



Temporality: the impacts of mining development extend from exploration to decommissioning of the mine.



Geography: the impacts vary depending on the area, the context, and the community in which it occurs.



Differential impacts: varying effects based on gender and age

Next steps and current takeaways



Incorporating other ideas from a non-Indigenous context to fill in our understandings

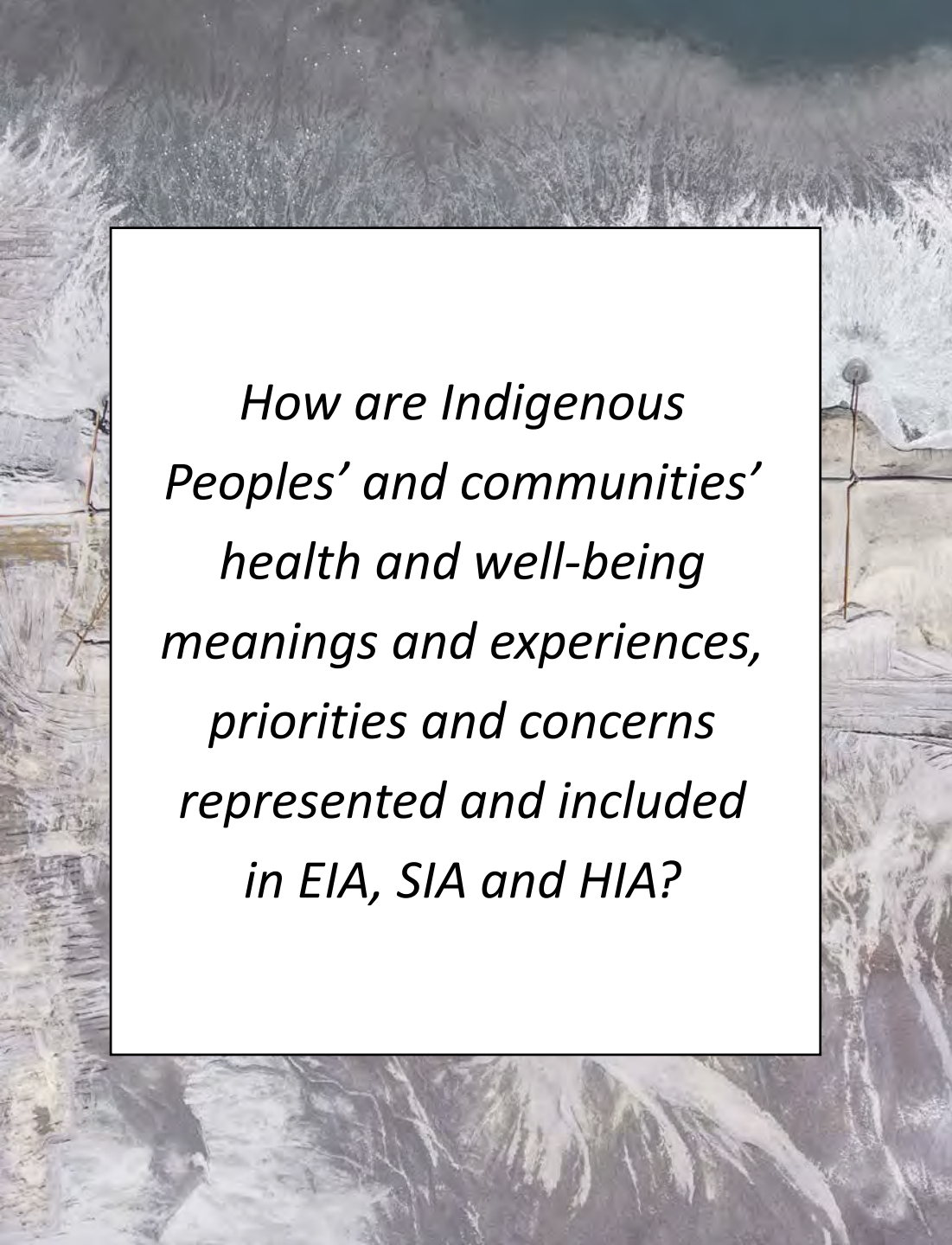


Continuing full text analysis



Snowball searching

1. Mechanisms particularly affect Indigenous Peoples because they target the specific determinants of health for Indigenous communities
2. Many of these mechanisms may not be currently included in Western assessments of the impacts of mining projects

An aerial photograph of a river with a dam in the background. The river flows through a landscape with some vegetation and a road. The sky is overcast.

How are Indigenous Peoples' and communities' health and well-being meanings and experiences, priorities and concerns represented and included in EIA, SIA and HIA?

Masters Project Proposal

- Critical discourse analysis of EIA, SIA, and HIA reports and public hearings for mining projects on Indigenous lands in Canada.
- Additionally, looking to do interviews with community leaders to assess the degree to which people *understand* their interests to be represented, as well as assess barriers to participation.



PhD Project Proposal

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