Knowledge Network on Mining Encounters and Indigenous Sustainable Livelihoods: Cross-Perspectives from the Circumpolar North and Melanesia/Australia

SSHRC – Partnership Grant (2016-2022)
OBJECTIVES

• Create a knowledge network on the impact of mineral exploration and extraction on Indigenous sustainable livelihoods;

• Develop comparative analysis on the impacts of mining activities on the recognition of Indigenous rights and indigenous self-government;

• Training (indigenous) students and postdocs

But also

• Sharing knowledge and experiences amongst Indigenous People and other partners
THE NETWORK

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In this work package, the Network will identify gaps in knowledge.

The team will also compare the different legal and political environments of mining.

Dean Carson and Elena Nuikina examining mining heritage in Burra, South Australia on the country of the Ngadjuri people.
WP2. THE INTERRELATIONS OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL, WELL-BEING AND NATURAL IMPACTS

This package’s focus is on the social, cultural, well-being and environmental impacts of extractive industries, the ways they are interrelated, how they affect community well-being and influence Indigenous sustainable livelihoods.

Inukjuak, Nunavik, Québec
Photo: Thierry Rodon
In this package, the Network will map the challenges and successes of Indigenous employment in the mining sector and document the ways to develop best practices.

Nickel Mine, New Caledonia.
Photo: Christine Demmer
The Network will look at the different legal and political environments in the circumpolar regions as well as in Oceania and how they impact and are being impacted by resource developments.
This work package will address the “resource curse” and the key factors to maximise positive and lessen negative impacts of resource development for Indigenous communities.
WP6. GLOCAL ENCOUNTERS

The Network will study the challenges encountered by communities when negotiating IBAs with transnational mining organizations. It also studies the role of transnational Indigenous organizations in mediating these ‘glocal’ encounters and their ability to mitigate power imbalances.

Ship being loaded at Rio Tinto Weipa operations with bauxite stockpiles
Photo: Rio Tinto
• 1) The different legal and political environments for mining and for recognition of Indigenous rights
• 2) The impacts of resource development on the social environment, health and well-being
• 3) The different types of extractive and refining mining processes and their impacts on natural capital
• 4) The best practices in indigenous training, employment and retention
• 5) Best practice on FPIC and social acceptability
• 6) The impact of resource revenue systems on community development
• 7) How to cope with fly-in fly-out
Some examples of Research Projects

2017 to 2019
FLY-IN FLY-OUT: IMPACTS ON WOMEN AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES
The work shift system called “fly-in, fly-out” (FIFO) brings important impacts on women and Indigenous employment, work-family balance and indigenous and non-indigenous communities’ vitality. In...

2017 to 2019
NORTHERN COMMUNITIES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND NEGOTIATING THE MINING LIFE CYCLE – CASES FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND SWEDEN
In the sparsely populated northern areas of Australia, Sweden, and Canada, the physical distance between Indigenous communities, governments and companies makes it difficult to adapt mining...

2017 to 2019
COMPARING CONSULTATION, CONSENT AND NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS IN ARCTIC EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
This project aims to carry out a comparative baseline analysis of the theory and practice of consultation, negotiation of consent (or the absence thereof) and agreements between local/Indigenous...

2017 to 2019
NORTHERN VOICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DATABASE
Created by Christopher Fletcher, professor at Université Laval, this database identifies the different concerns voiced by citizens during the public hearings of about 15 development projects...

2017 to 2019
SHATTERING THE MYTH OF THE GOOD MINING JOB: JOB DESIRABILITY FOR INUIT WORKERS
Proponents of resource development often cite wage employment as a key benefit that Indigenous communities will receive from participating in resource development based on the assumption that...

2017 to 2019
AT THE HEART OF NICKEL MINING CORPORATIONS IN NEW CALEDONIA: THE LABOR QUESTION
Studies on nickel mining in New Caledonia have mostly focused on how mining activities have been translated into a political issue, Kanak mobilizations to regain control over mining sites and...
Mapping FIFO
Interactive map on the interrelationships between mines, caribou, land management and subsistence economy
Recent Activities

• May 2019: PhD School with REXSAC: Mining town in transitions, Labrador City (Labrador) and Schefferville and Fermont (QC)
Activities to come

• June 2019: MinErAL annual meeting, Cairns, Australia

• October 2020: International Conference on Mining co-organized by REXSAC, Uarctic Extractive Industries Thematic Network, AMÉDÉÉ, ArcticFrost and MinErAL