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

SSHRC – Partnership Grant (2016-2022)
Why a(nother) network on mining and Indigenous people?
OBJECTIVES

• Create a knowledge network on the impact of mineral exploration and extraction for 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
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.
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**.

Kanak workers, New Caledonia.
Photo: Christine Demmer
WP4. MINING REGIME AND INDIGENOUS LEGAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

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.
WP5. SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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.
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.