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Jan Boon

Relationships and the Course of Social Events During Mineral Exploration

An Applied Sociology Approach

 Springer

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IAPG Foreword

Living sustainably, prosperously and equitably on our crowded planet in the coming decades will depend on mining. However rapidly we increase recycling rates, improve resource efficiency and reduce demand for raw materials through new approaches to product design and use, we will continue to need to mine significant quantities of an ever-increasing range of elements. The mineral needs of the near future will be quite different to those of the recent past, given the urgent need to transition to low-carbon energy systems and to harness new, materially complex technologies to address a nexus of environmental, social and economic challenges, as articulated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Meeting these needs will mean mining in new places and communities—as well as in settings that bear the scars of unethical and unsustainable practices of the past—and will depend on the engagement and support of communities rightly seeking to assert their rights and defend their interests. It is therefore essential, from both a moral and practical standpoint, to mine responsibly, minimizing negative social and environmental impacts, maximizing benefits and legacies to affected communities, and including them as partners in a shared societal enterprise.

Finding and winning resources from the Earth's crust to meet global demand, while also addressing the needs and interests of local communities and protecting ecosystems, undoubtedly requires “research and reflection on the values which underpin appropriate behaviours and practices, wherever human activities interact with the Earth system”—the definition of geoethics offered by the 2016 Cape Town Statement on Geoethics. Furthermore, while the principal focus of geoethics was initially on the activities of professional geoscientists, its practical scope has broadened to encompass a wide range of other human agents. Mining in the twenty-first century exemplifies the entanglement of geoscientists' roles and activities with those of other professionals and multiple overlapping non-specialist groups (including consumers, company employees and local communities), and natural systems—and therefore sits at the forefront of the burgeoning field of geoethics.

It is therefore particularly apposite that the first in this series of *SpringerBriefs in Geoethics* should be on this topic. It is also fitting that it should typify two other current key trends in geoethics. First, it radically crosses disciplinary boundaries and communities of practice. Its author, drawing on his varied and distinguished career in the natural resources sector, views a recognized challenge in that sector—the need to establish and maintain effective relationships with stakeholders and communities—through the novel lens of sociological theory. In doing so, he makes a compelling case for the value of bringing such unfamiliar intellectual tools (applied with appropriate methodological rigour) to bear on familiar problems. Second, the rich insights that he draws from his analysis span theory and practice. They elucidate and enhance the value of the sociological theory of symbolic interactionism in a novel setting, add to the theoretical “toolkit” of geoethics and provide clear, practical lessons for policy-makers, mining companies and local communities, for the benefit of people and planet.

November 2019

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Preface

While most social responsibility codes and guidelines for the mineral exploration and mining industry emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining productive relationships between relevant actors, they do not pay specific attention to the sociological processes that underlie these relationships. I undertook my Ph.D. thesis project to shine light on these processes, and I base this book on my thesis “Corporate Social Responsibility, Relationships and the Course of Events in Mineral Exploration—an Exploratory Study” (Boon, 2015).

This book’s focus on the human side of mineral exploration supports the part of the Cape Town Statement on Geoethics that says, “Geoscientists have specific knowledge and skills, which are required to... support human life and well-being ... and to ensure natural resources are managed and used sustainably. This entails ethical obligations. Therefore, geoscientists must embrace ethical values in order best to serve the public good.” (Cape Town Statement on Geoethics 2016).

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Reference

Boon, J. (2015). *Corporate social responsibility, relationships and the course of events in mineral exploration—An exploratory study* (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis). Carleton University, Ottawa. https://curve.carleton.ca/system/files/etd/6c6598d4-c436-409e-9ba1-40dea2d37d2c/etd_pdf/7b39ca613ff7e7e2df52ed82580e3974/boon-corporatesocialresponsibilityrelationships.pdf.

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I received financial support from Ontario Graduate Scholarships, the University of Ottawa, the Organization of American States (OAS) and a 50/50 shared grant from the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) and MITACS (a federal–provincial granting agency). The Secretaría Nacional de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación del Ecuador (SENESCYT) through its programme “Prometeo—Viejos Sabios” provided financial support for a stay in Ecuador to develop the social responsibility strategy of the Instituto Nacional de Investigación Geológico, Minero y Metalúrgico del Ecuador (INIGEMM), and to conduct the Ecuadorian case studies. INIGEMM provided logistics and staff support.

Dr. Wallace Clement supervised the Ph.D. project at Carleton University together with the members of the internal thesis committee: Dr. Neil Gerlach and Dr. Sefa Hayibor. Lic. Roberto Sarudiansky of the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) in Buenos Aires was co-supervisor for the OAS-funded parts of the study.

In Ecuador, Dominic Channer and María Clara Herdoíza of Kinross/Aurelian Ecuador and their community relations team (Fruta del Norte) and Jorge Barreno and Fernando Carrión of INV Metals and their community relations team (Loma Larga) allowed us to undertake our studies, helped setting up the interviews and provided logistic support. Jéssica Marçayata and Dayana Velasco of the INIGEMM participated in the interviews of the Fruta del Norte study together with me, and Camilo Aguas safely transported us there and back. The Social Responsibility Committee of the INIGEMM helped with development of the questionnaire and gave moral encouragement. Colón Velásquez, the Executive Director of the

INIGEMM, provided me with an office and support, and approved the assignment of personnel and resources to the field studies. I shared an office with Michel Rueda, who helped me in an endless numbers of ways. Ricardo Valdez of the Canadian embassy in Quito provided invaluable assistance in overcoming hurdles in the bureaucratic processes related to my travel to Ecuador, helped me find a replacement when one project fell through and introduced me to many people in the mineral exploration and mining sector of Ecuador.

Juan José Herrera and Felipe Injoque of Volcan Compañía Minera approved the case study of the Palma project, and Luis Rojas travelled with me up and down the Lurín valley to conduct interviews, with Yanina and Luis as our able drivers. Oscar Vásquez, Nuala Lawlor and Ariana Vindrola of the Canadian embassy in Lima were always there when I needed them.

In Argentina, Waldo Pérez of Lithium Americas enthusiastically supported our study of the Cauchari-Olaroz project, and we received field support from Santiago Campellone of Minera Exar and his community relations team Mónica Echenique and Gilda Agostino. Graciela Medardi of the Universidad Nacional de Jujuy helped us identify non-company interviewees and set up the interviews that Bernarda Elizalde and I conducted. Facundo Huidobro of Mansfield Minera introduced me to the members of the Salta Chamber of Mines, and together with Mabel Casimiro, helped me set up and conduct interviews. Ana Garasino of the Canadian embassy helped me in more ways than I can mention here. She helped me gain an understanding of the Argentine context for mineral exploration and mining and gave me access to the mineral exploration and mining community. Pablo Lumerman of Estudios del Valle kindly looked at the flow of the narrative.

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Acronyms

APEOSAE	Asociación de Pequeños Exportadores Agropecuarios Orgánicos del Sur de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana (Association of Small Organic Farming Exporters of Southern Ecuadorian Amazonia)
C.C.	Comunidad Campesina (Peasant Community [legally defined entity])
C.P.	Centro Poblado (Populated settlement [legally defined subset of a C.C.]
CIM	Canadian Institute of Mining
COFENAC	Consejo Cafetalero Nacional (National Coffee Council [Ecuador])
CONAIE	Confederación de Naciones Indígenas del Ecuador (Confederation of Indigenous Nations of Ecuador)
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSV	Creating Shared Value
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (Government of Canada. Now renamed as Global Affairs Canada)
ECUARUNARI	Ecuador Runakunapak Rikcharimuy (Confederation of Kichwa Peoples of Ecuador)
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
ETAPA	Empresa Pública Municipal de Teléfonos, Agua Potable y Alcantarillado (Public Municipal Telephone, Drinking Water and Sewage Systems Company [of the city of Cuenca, Ecuador])
FOA	Federación de Organizaciones Indígenas y Campesinas del Azuay (Federation of Indigenous and Farmer Organizations of Azuay [Ecuador])
GAD	Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado (Autonomous Decentralized Government [Ecuador])

IIMP	Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas del Perú (Peruvian Institute of Mining Engineers)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INIGEMM	Instituto Nacional de Investigación Geológica, Minero y Metalúrgico del Ecuador (National Institute for Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Research of Ecuador)
MITACS	Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (definition appears rarely) (Federal–provincial granting agency in Canada)
NCP	National Contact Point for the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development dispute resolution mechanism
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OGS	Ontario Graduate Scholarships
ONDS	Oficina Nacional de Diálogo y Sostenibilidad (National Dialogue and Sustainability Office [Peru])
PDAC	Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
PDYOTLE	Plan de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial de Los Encuentros (Los Encuentros Development and Land Use Plan [Ecuador])
PRONOEI	Programa No Escolarizado de Educación Inicial (Community-based early education programme [Peru])
SENESCYT	Secretaría Nacional de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación del Ecuador (National Secretariat for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ecuador)
SENPLADES	Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo del Ecuador (National Secretariat for Planning and Development of Ecuador)
UNAGUA	Unión de Sistemas Comunitarios de Agua del Azuay (Union of Community Water Systems of Azuay [Ecuador])
UNSAM	Universidad Nacional de San Martín (National University of San Martín [Argentina])

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