Disputing minds & hearts
Activism over mineral extraction in Brazil

Science & Activism Seminar, 30.01.2019 Joensuu
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Mineral reserves in Brazil

- Mineral industries represents 23% of the exports (MME, 2015).
- Employed 175 thousand people directly and 2.2 million indirectly (IBRAM, 2013).
- In 2014, 12,215 exploration permits and 15,512 search requests were issued. The mining concession raised 47.5% from 2013 to 2014 (MME, 2015).
- Pará and Minas Gerais have 86.5% of the overall mineral production in Brazil (DNPM, 2018).

98.6% of the traded national production
Activists in Brazil are fighting against social and environmental injustice

- Mining conflicts (before, during and after exploration)
- Mining disasters, impacts and incidents
- Different local and national perspectives/world views
Data collection

- Interviews with the steering committee (national coalition against mining)
- Participant observation (academics and activists meetings and events)
- Document analysis
Timeline of recent events

- **Mining Code framework**
  - May 2013
  - Fragmented into several pieces and 3 sets of them approved in July 2017

- **Fundão dam burst**
  - Nov 2015
  - Brumadinho disaster (Jan 2019)

- **Changes in the National politics**
  - Aug 2017
  - Bolsonaro as new President of Brazil (Jan 2019)
Multilevel action of anti-mining activism
Relevance of different partners

- Grassroots element and network component (elite group)
- Diversity fueling solidarity and potentially harming already established consensus at the same time
Relevance of activism

Altering dynamics of politics → putting pressure on Gov authorities and corporate executives

- Lobbying during the Mining Code framework process
  - Finding politicians as allies
  - Follow activities
  - Trying to influence from inside and out
- Fundão dam’s aftermath
  - International articulation
  - Reports and publication practices
  - Media influencing
  - Name and shame, ad busting, barricade and blockade practices
Disputing minds & hearts

Capacity building
Political training
Fight for rights and desired futures

Corporate discourse

Anti-mining discourse

Minimize and avoid conflicts
Protect reputation and investor’s interests
Final Remarks

More regulation for the industry; more Env&SOC safeguards

More debate and knowledge about mining consequences

Policy Level

Project Level

National Debate

Preventing some projects from start; negotiating benefits/rights during licence/operation phases
Thank you!