



Blue Box Seminar Series

Department of Geography

PRESENTS:

Friday, March 31st, 2023

3-4pm Remote

Join us: <https://mun.webex.com/mun/j.php?MTID=m3e37b21a21cccb80d72ed613eb13bd62>

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PhD Exit Seminar, MUN Geography



Reclamation in Northern Canada: Confronting, Caring for and Living with the Legacies of Extractive Industries

The Faro Mine was developed illegally on Ross River Kaska Dena territory, without any treaty negotiation, in the 1960s. Since then, Ross River community members have continually resisted socio-economic marginalization, extractive violence and land dispossession related to Faro. This community-based PhD research, grounded in questions raised by Ross River Elders, is part of a community strategy to share their story of the Faro Mine. Weaving together Elders' stories, interviews, and archival materials, we present Ross River members' resistance and memories of Faro, focusing on the key mechanisms that governments and companies used, and continue to use, to dispossess Kaska Land. We then analyze how reclamation is defined and regulated within Western science frameworks, including interviews with project employees, regulators, and scientists and a comprehensive review of public registry documentation. Finally, we imagine reclamation alternatives grounded in Kaska knowledge, language, ethics, and legal structures. These imaginings come to life through a collaboratively written reflection on two years of work with Kaska Elders and youth on a community-based revegetation strategy for the Faro Mine. This research confronts the settler colonial roots of extractivism, reclamation and environment regulation and asks what it means for Northern Indigenous communities to *live with* post-industrial landscapes. We illuminate inequitable processes of mine waste production and show how industry and settler governments purport to 'care for' these sites but make alternative methods of care invisible. We push beyond 'boom and bust' narratives, which render abandonment inevitable and absolve industry of responsibility, and ask how reclamation processes need to change to confront settler colonial histories and centre Indigenous futures.