ABSTRACT

Session Title: Mining, environment and society in the Kimberley and Canning Basin, Australia: Implementation of organic thinking to organize a development that increases the resilience of communities living on their territory.

Session chair(s): Not Known

Biography of Author – Speaker 1: Philippe Vaillant, ENSAIS Architect, Doctor of Geography, Associate Researcher at the Laboratory of Geography Loterr Nancy2, EA 1135, University of Lorraine, France (http://cerpa-geographie.univ-nancy2.fr/node/242), post-doctoral project integrated into the 2013-2018 research program. Lecturer at University of Poitiers, France, ISOCARP Representative at UNESCO, and a member of Africa FORUM 2014 on the theme of water.

Dr Anne Poelina – Speaker 2: Peter Cullen Fellow is an Indigenous Australian her wide experience from working in Indigenous health, education, language and community cultural development for over 30 years has developed a deep understanding of issues impacting on Indigenous Australians. Dr Poelina has studied the historical colonial context of development in the West Kimberley and how that impacts on contemporary Indigenous participation in decision making, governance, land and water reform. Her work highlights Indigenous knowledge relating to water sustainability and wildfire mitigation and other key environmental/land management issues.

Ian Perdrisat – Speaker 3: Ian Perdrisat is an Indigenous Australian from Sydney. Following graduation as a physical education/science teacher, he became actively involved in Aboriginal education. Ian has been a Senior Lecturer responsible for Aboriginal programs at the University of Western Sydney, Edith Cowan University, Perth and Southern Cross University, Lismore. Ian has a Master’s Degree in Education, Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a Master of Arts in Indigenous Social Policy. His previous experience includes working for Aboriginal community and government agencies and private consultancies in the fields of health, community empowerment, disability services, education and cultural mapping for over twenty years around Australia particularly focusing on the West Kimberley region. Ian is currently completing his doctoral studies.

Type: Dialog session (one hour)

Theme: Knowledges

We must hold this land all together for all of us
(Paddy Roe, Nyikina Elder and Senior Lawman)

The “drops of experience”, also termed “actual entities” are “the final real things of which the world is made up” (PR 27). “Like the atoms of Democritus they are microcosmic entities, aggregate of which, termed societies or nexus, form the macrocosmic entities of our everyday experience –tree, houses, people. But whereas the atoms of Democritus are inert, imperishable, material stuff, Whitehead’s actual entities are vital, transient “drops of experience, complex and interdependent” (PR 28).” Donald W. Sherburne (1965, ref. 02)

The Kimberley region of Western Australia is one of the last pristine wilderness environments in the world. It is rich with ancient living Aboriginal culture and it is subject to strong mining and gas pressure. The study is conducted in collaboration with Nyikina people, the Traditional Owners of the Fitzroy River and the International Water Centre in Brisbane (IWC) with the
support of the Association “Men, Women in the City” and the Laboratory of the University of Nancy-Lorraine 2, France, to progress further understanding of the role of culture and indigenous science in development choices. Dialogic (Freire, AIATSIS) and organic (Whitehead) methods are used to explore ethical implications in regards to water resource issues that can be mobilized (UNESCO) for industrial needs as well as for plant, animal and human societies. With sustainable development in mind, this issue requires consideration of the three induced axes of governance (sovereignty), science (re-enchanted), and land management and care.

This research approach explores the multiple links between resilience thinking and development issues regarding enabling human societies to manage water, minerals, plants and animals to ensure the resilience of their territory. The "drop of experience" model contributes to building knowledge about resilience in the dimension of the philosophical, scientific, cultural and spiritual, in a resolutely transcultural approach to generate knowledge around the nexus of Traditional Indigenous knowledge and Western science.

**Topics:** Aboriginal Peoples (UN), governance, the study of mining and gas impacts, Social Impact Assessment (SIA), science, water integrated management (UNESCO WWDR4 Europe DCE 2000 IWC) the science of space planning, organic way of thinking, collective action, participation, planning, engineering resilience (evaluation), sense of place, local knowledge, sustainable development, socio-ecological system, cosmology, win-win.

**Description of the problem:** Despite the attractive presentations on the mining companies’ websites, mining leads to the loss of connection to the land and of social, cultural and economic ties for indigenous peoples. Moreover pollution generates public health problems. Calculating, assessing and the management of water as a resource inevitably raises questions of governance, the implementation of science for impact studies, and the practical development of every unique space (eg Nyikina country). This issue concerns all potential or current operating sites in the world where indigenous peoples live.

**Method:** Methodology of Sustainable Development, to value what already exists, and to weave together induced notions of governance (sovereignty), science (re-enchanted) and land management and care (Aboriginal spirituality). This weaving is enlightened by Whitehead’s organic approach and his definition of "drops of experience." The five year project will commence with a field study in the Kimberley from February to April 2014.

**Main results:** Proposal for a planning methodology that connects governance, science of impact studies (water) and the culture of the territory (Aboriginal spirituality).

**Scope:** This method concerns any region in the world where mining operations are implanted. It is useful to articulate the conflicting interests of industrialists, the population, indigenous peoples and ecosystems in a dialogic organizational relationship and a "win-win" logic.