

*Public Acceptance of Mining:
Comparing factors for acceptance in
contested and non-contested projects*

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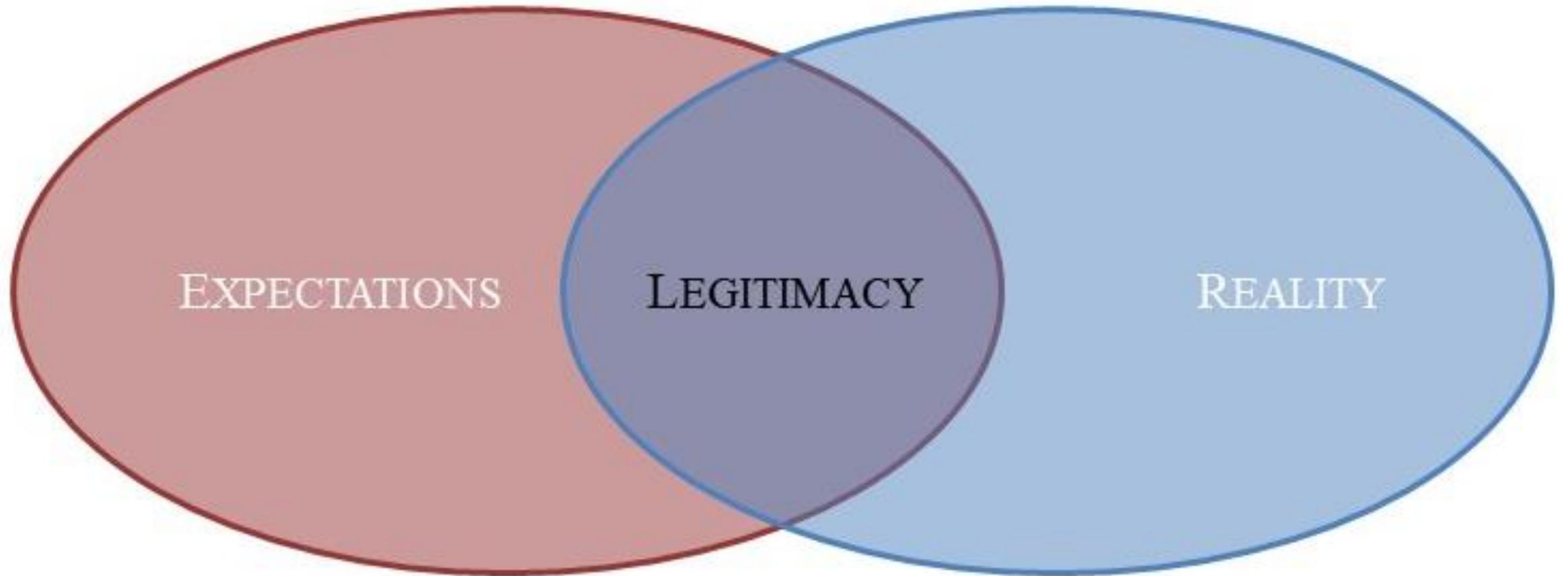
Key Questions

- What are the key factors related to different attitudes towards mining?
- How does trust in government relate to mine development?

Legitimacy and Public Attitudes

- Legitimacy allows governments to operate more effectively – lower political and economic cost in decision making
- Government needs to continue to know the ‘pulse’ of the population if it wants to stay in power, attitudes continually change
- Natural resource development is typically of interest for government, but the voting population can determine under what circumstances

Legitimacy and Public Attitudes



Mining and Public Acceptance

- Mining raises different dilemmas and conflicting interests
- How is sustainable development defined, understood, and carried out in a community?
- Goal for government to earn and maintain public trust – mine development conforms to expectations
 - Mining companies also responsible (Social License to Operate)
- Where does indigenous livelihood and culture fit into the issue of sustainability?

Community Development Factors

	Factor 1 Sustainable Development	Factor 2 Increased Business and Growth
Sustainable use of nature	.805	
Business development in harmony with the environment	.742	
Sustainable hunting, fishing, trapping	.551	
Conservation of Aboriginal culture	.540	
Population growth		.778
More employment and economic growth		.724
Thriving and diverse business environment		.610

Opposing Views of Sustainability

- Supports the traditional sustainable development conflict of environment versus economy
 - True in both high-conflict and low-conflict cases
- But nuance between these Swedish and Canadian cases, more emphasis on economic development in harmony with nature in Sweden but more emphasis on conservation of indigenous culture (likely due to larger population).
- Emphasizes the importance of outcomes for sustainable development, different values on outcome create polarization
- Matches previous interview work in Sweden that place greater importance on outcomes
- Do other moderating factors exist?

Community Development Factors

	Northern Saskatchewan		Norrbotten and Västerbotten Counties	
	Model A	Model B	Model C	Model D
Female	-0.726***	-0.713***	-0.534***	-0.320***
	0.138	0.135	0.109	0.085
Age	-0.001	-0.001	-0.005	-0.008**
	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.003
Level of education	-0.126	-0.018	-0.601***	-0.380***
	0.122	0.123	0.083	0.066
Indigenous identity	-1.13***	-0.693***	-1.46***	-0.247
	0.157	0.162	0.148	0.118
Trust		0.108***		0.032
		0.030		0.020

Community Development Factors

Confidence in your Provincial/County Government		0.306***		0.756***
		0.069		0.047
Confidence in your Federal/National Government		0.013		0.045
		0.069		0.044
Sustainable Development Index		-0.260***		-0.842***
		0.071		0.045
Increased Business and Growth Index		0.353***		0.669***
		0.068		0.044
Constant	6.781***	4.10***	6.78***	4.22***
R² (adj.)	0.115***	0.233***	0.105***	0.501***
n	695	613	1581	1482

Predicting Mining Support

- Demographics only models say very little, some weak findings that women and those who self-identify as indigenous are less likely to accept mine development
- Using the predictor variables produced stronger models, the strong and weak predictors worked as intended
- The most interesting finding is the trust, confidence in national-level government has little significance, but confidence in the lower level of government could be seen as a predictor

All Politics is Local?

- Local government has a more active role in the permitting process in both cases, but arguably also has a strong role in ensuring the benefits are delivered (economic growth, employment, etc.)
- Where does consultation, deliberation, and negotiation fit?
- In highly polarized and contested projects, do community engagement efforts work? Are world-class SLO activities enough to overcome wide value differences on sustainability?