



EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: A CHANGING DYNAMIC?

BY PROFESSOR CIARAN O'FAIRCHEALLAIGH

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Indigenous peoples and other rural or remote populations often bear the social and environmental cost of extractive industries while obtaining little of the wealth they generate. Recent developments in national and international recognition of Indigenous rights offer the prospect that for Indigenous peoples at least their former economic and social marginalisation may be reduced. A case study of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development in the Kimberley region of Western Australia shows that these changes are indeed creating opportunities to shape the local impacts of extractive industries. It also illustrates that effective political mobilization by Indigenous peoples is essential if they are to grasp these opportunities, especially as growing pressures to expand extractive industries across the globe increase demands for access to Indigenous lands. Recent Indigenous experience holds implications for theory on the regional political economy of extractive industries and lessons for other rural and remote populations.

CIARAN O'FAIRCHEALLAIGH is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Griffith University, Brisbane. He has published numerous articles and books in the fields of public policy, resource economics and resources policy, negotiation, and impact assessment. For over 20 years he has worked with indigenous organizations in Australia and Canada on social impact assessments and on negotiation of agreements with resource development companies. He is currently managing indigenous impact assessments being conducted in relation to gas development in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, and advising the Autonomous Bougainville Government on options in relation to the possible reopening of the Bougainville copper mine.

**Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh is being hosted by the
Centre for Health & Society, School of Population Health
at The University of Melbourne.**

DATE:

Monday 24 September 2012

TIME:

5.30pm for 6pm

VENUE:

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*Refreshments provided
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