

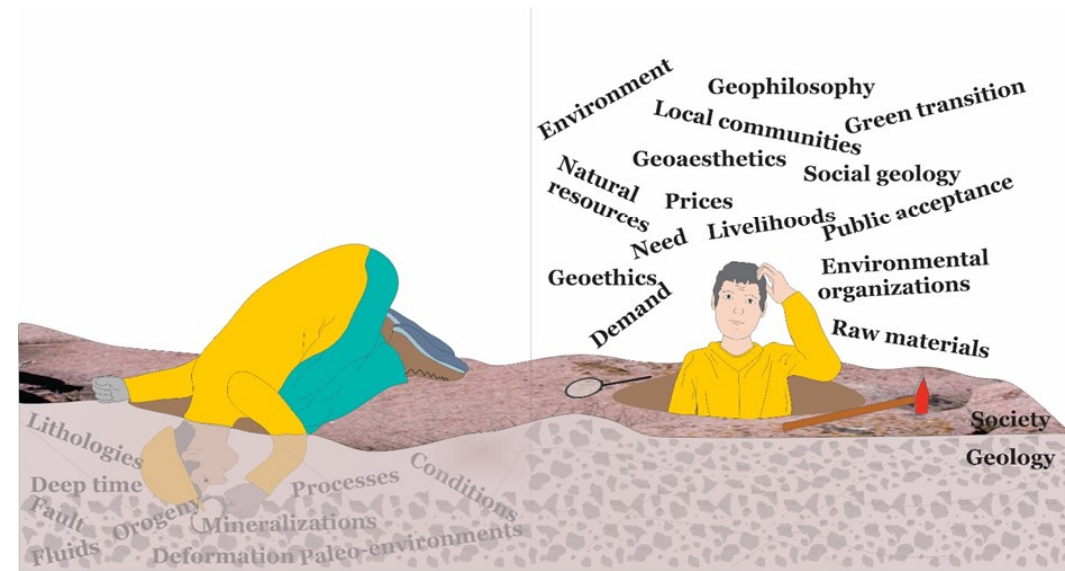
The evolution of the Finnish mining-sceptical movement: A new environmental protest wave in Finland?

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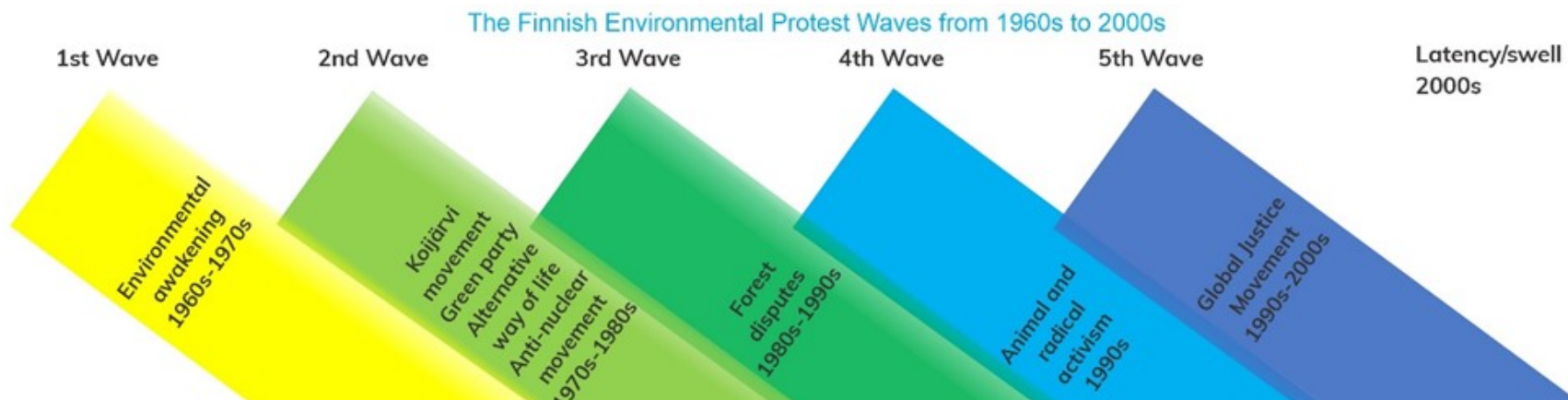
Background and perspective on the subject

- Study and fieldwork in Brazil;
- Interest on social, political, and environmental issues;
- "Expert by experience" in Uranium Debate;
- Stakeholder engagement and its development;
- Work at the GTK;
- EU projects;
- PhD thesis project - Environmental politics, UEF: Social Geology



Protest cycle theory (Tarrow 1994)

- the rapid dissemination of collective action and mobilization,
 - existing SMs create political opportunities for others to act or join in;
 - innovation in the forms of protest;
 - the creation of or a major change in collective action frames, discourses, and frames of meaning;
 - the coexistence of organized and unorganized activists; and
 - increased interaction between the challengers and authorities.
- Finnish environmental protest waves (Rannikko 1994, Konttinen & Peltokoski 2004):
 - widespread mobilization;
 - media attention;
 - politicization of national environmental and natural resources management;
 - debate on environmental justice, decision making, and the relationship between experts and common citizens;
 - anti-authoritarianism;
 - distrust towards authorities and experts;
 - demand for reforms;
 - criticism of modernity; and
 - anti-nuclear attitudes.



Methods:

- Literature review;
- Participatie observation;
- Autoethnography;
- Retrospective and longitudinal study;

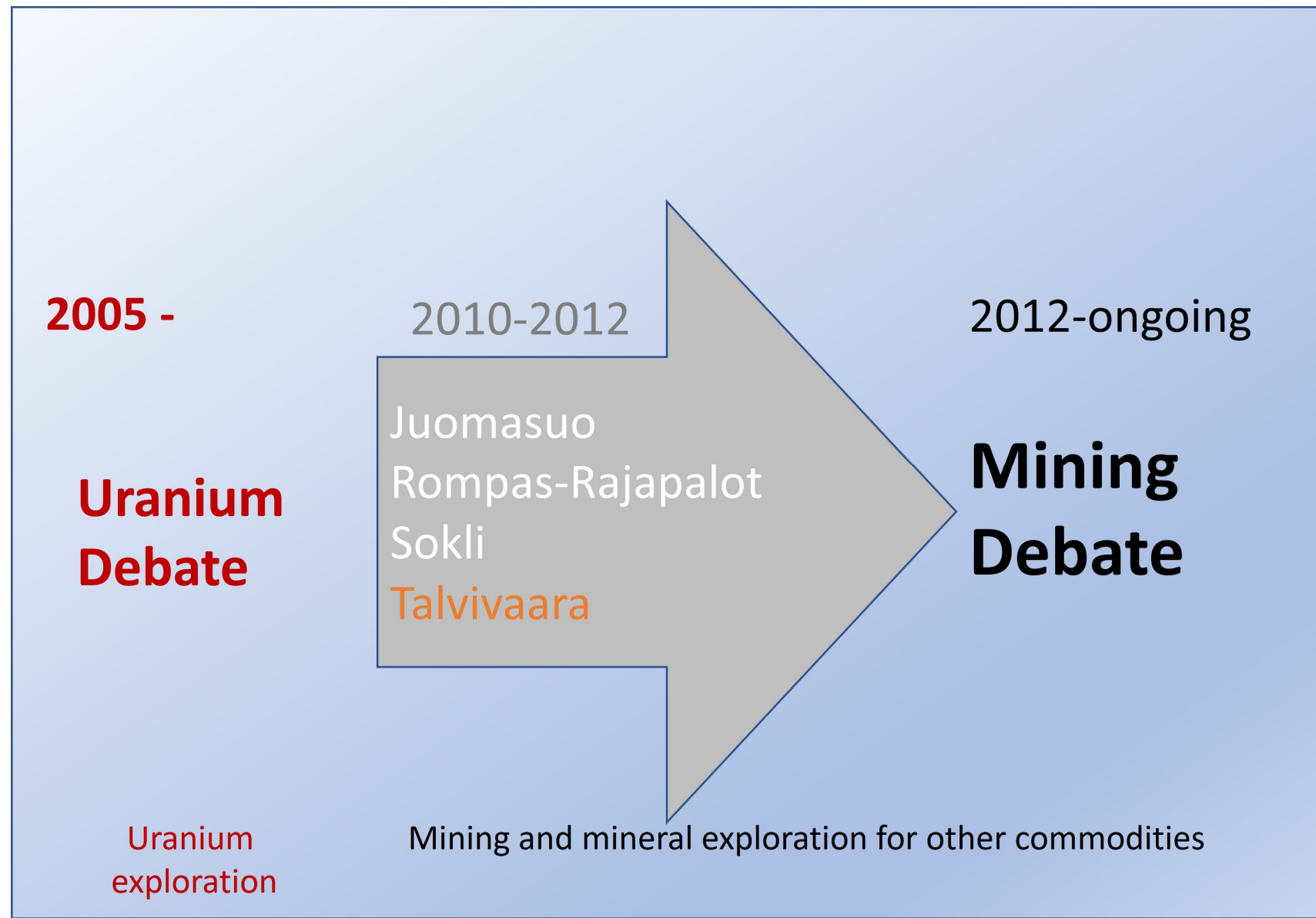
Concepts:

- Mining-sceptical: demand reforms in mineral governance (\neq anti-mining);
- Dispute: demonstrations, public debate, petitions, appeals – low to medium intensity (\neq conflict);

Uranium debate (2005 – ongoing)

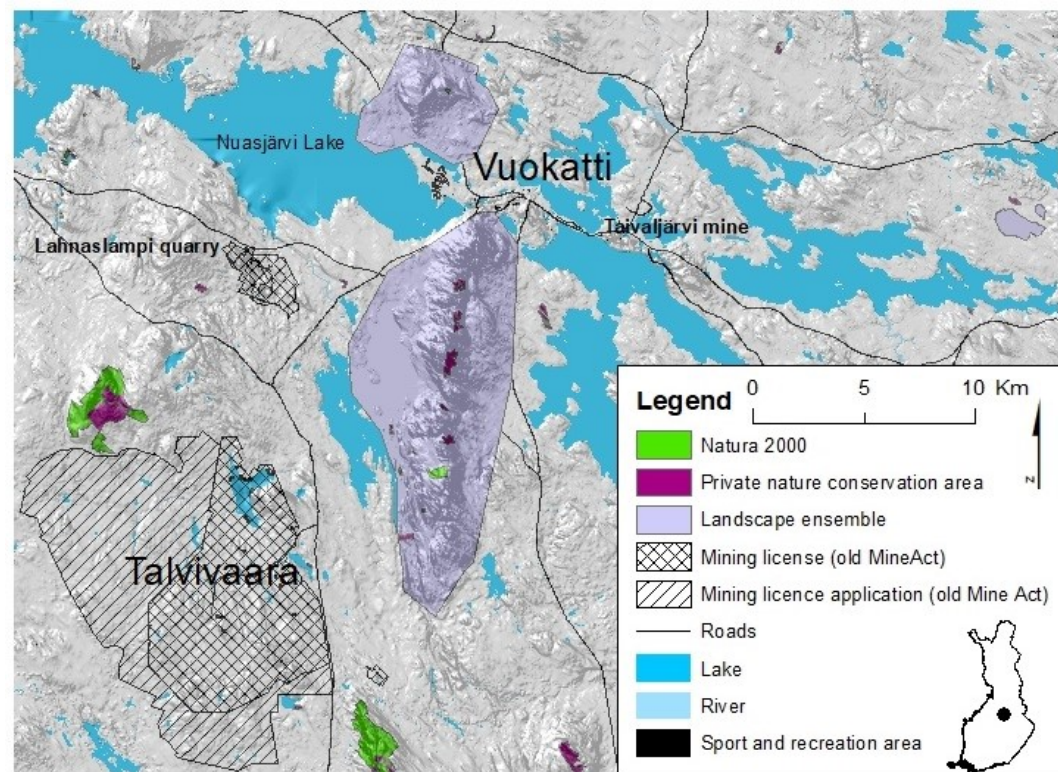
- Climate change debate;
- Uranium exploration;
- Large claim reservation applications;
- Uranium (anti-nuclear attitudes);
- Foreign companies (resource nationalism);
- Local movements in countryside;
- Focus also on mining projects with associated uranium;
- Challenge of authorities and experts;
- Performances and art (innovation in protests);
- Theologists involved;
- Establishment of hearing in permit process;
- Mining act renovation;
- Mineral policy;
- Social science research (MSc thesis)





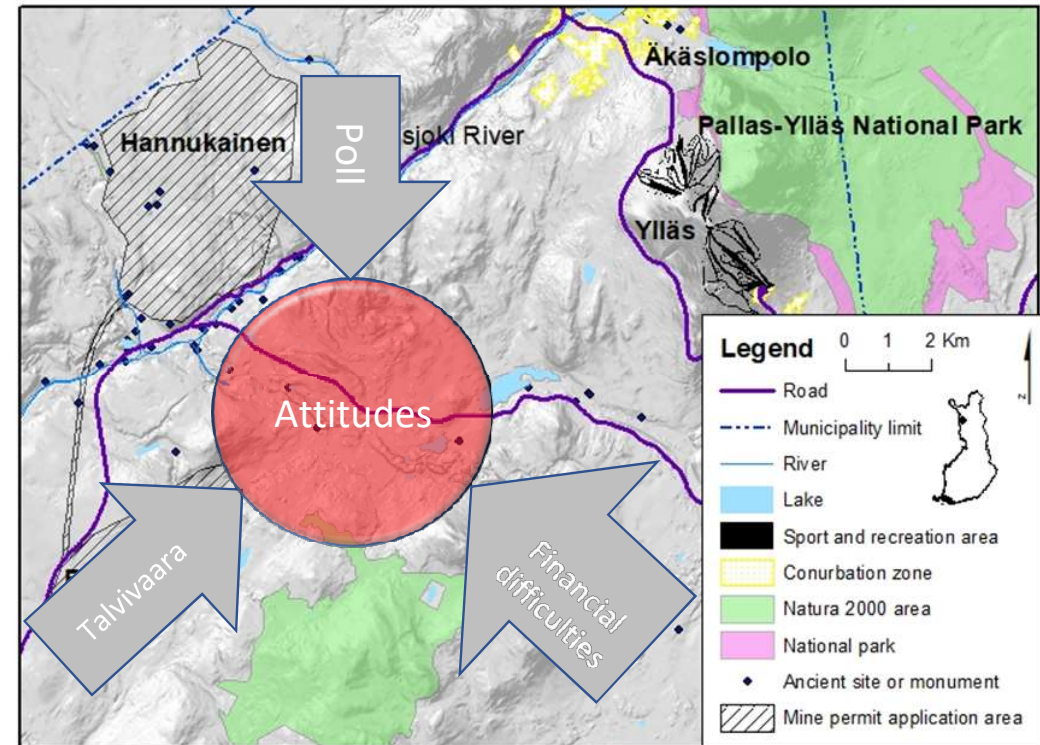
Mining debate (2010 – ongoing)

- Talvivaara associated with uranium;
- Talvivaara's environmental problems;
- Stop Talvivaara movement;
- Gypsum pond leakage 2012 (key event);
- National debate;
- Talvivaara influenced local mining debates;
- Mining-sceptical movements spread;
- Uranium debate merged with mining debate;
- Talvivaara taken over by the state (Terrafame)
- Improvement of environmental and mining authority actions;
- Widespread social science funding and research



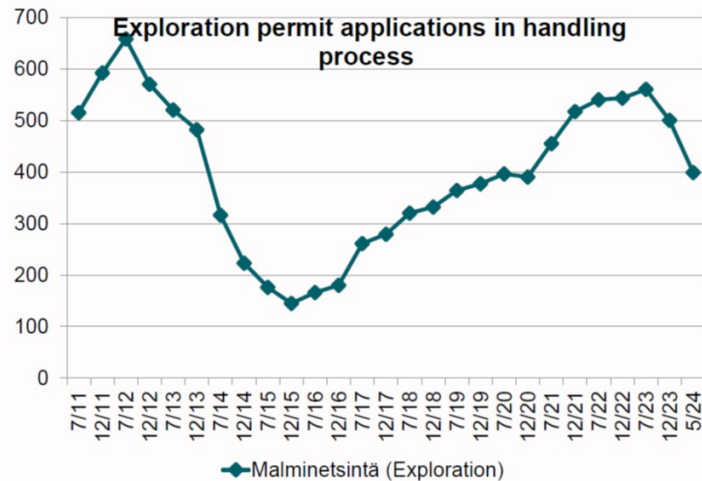
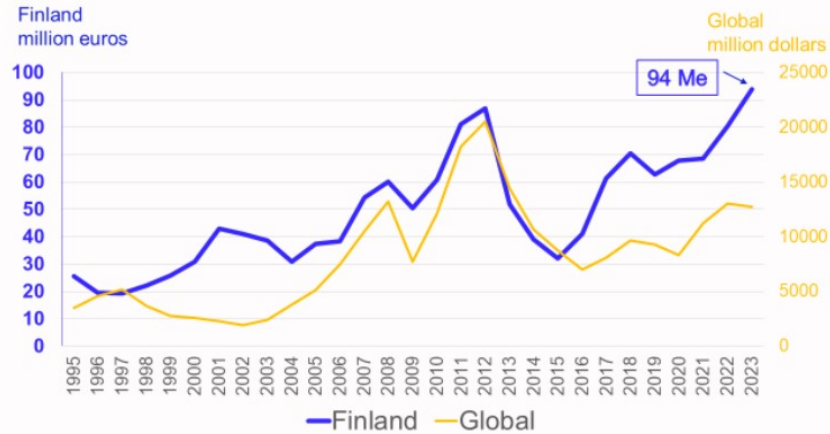
Hannukainen, Kolari

- Fe-Cu-Co-Au, activity until 1980s.
- Safeguarded as mineral deposit in Province land use plan;
- Tourism developed "around" (~10 km).
- Attempt to reopen (Northland, Hannukainen Mining)
- Nature tourism, reindeer herding, protected areas;
- One of the most investigated cases in Finland;
- Talvivaara debate;
- Northland's financial difficulties and backruptcy: weaker stakeholder engagement;
- Dispute started when a poll was made and results presented (2013-2014)
- Local opinion divided;
- Major opposition by tourists, tourist entrepreneurs and cottageowners (NIMLA);
- "Special type of NIMBY" (Brown et al. 2017).



Green energy transition (2016 – ongoing)

tukes Investments in ore prospecting 1995–2023



Mineral exploration investments and applications grew (gold!);

Mineral exploration enters into new areas;

Lake areas with second homes;

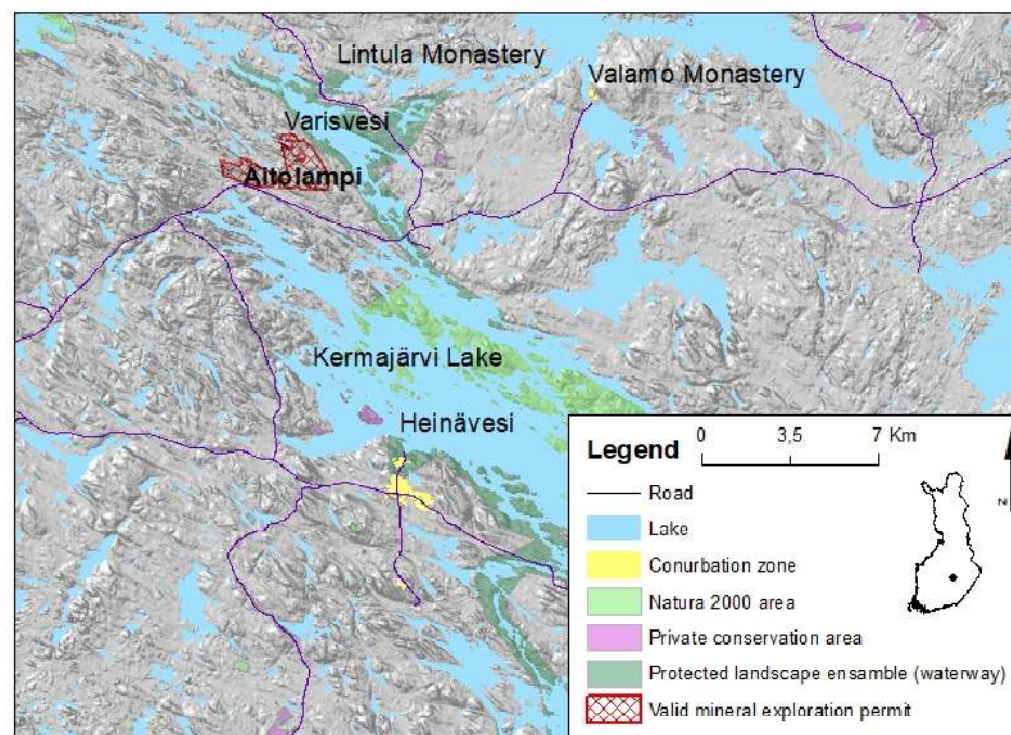
Indigenous Sámi homeland;

CRMA;

Mining-sceptical movements grew and networked

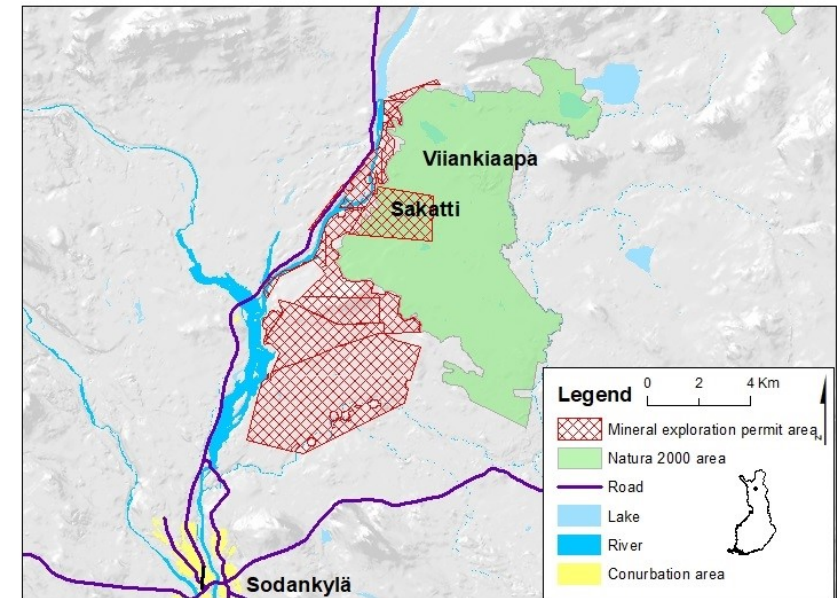
Heinävesi, SE Finland

- Beowulf to Finland with bad reputation in 2016 (Gállok);
- Lake area with holiday homes;
- Summer tourism, cottages, iconic waterway landscape;
- Opposition: summer 2018 (Pro Heinävesi)
- Poor corporate conduct; (stakeholder engagement and communication);
- Monasteries, Finnish Church;
- Politicians and celebrities;
- Move of a FANC representative to the region;
- Conservation area to overlap the property;
- Renovation of the Mining Act;
- Political, reputational and acceptance risks realized;
- NIMLA



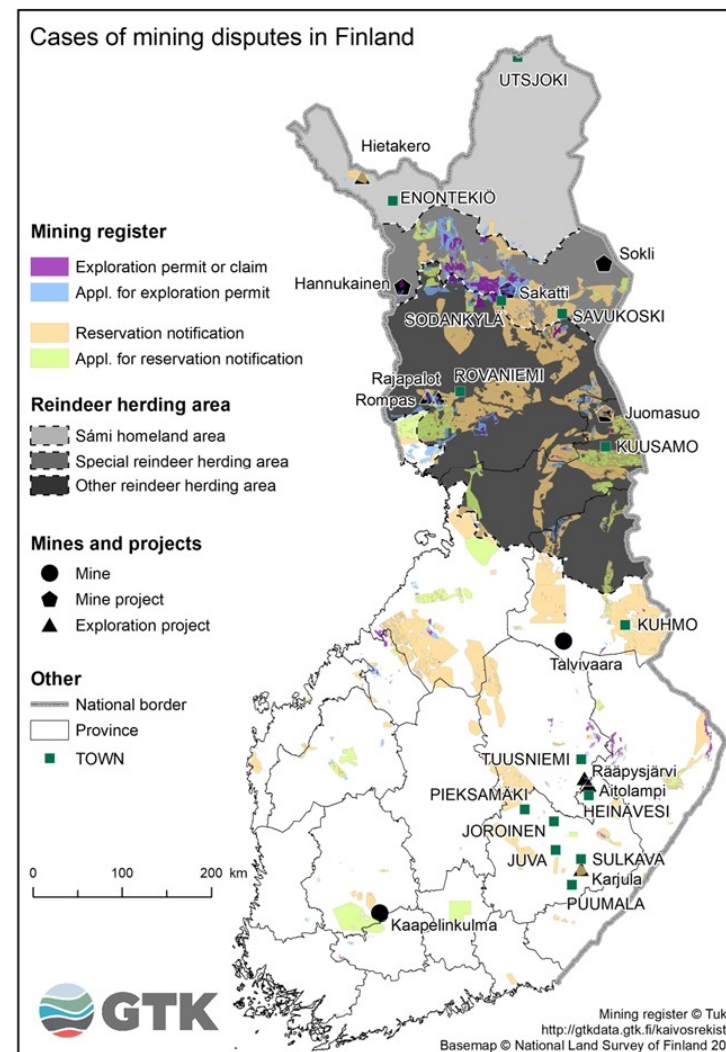
Sakatti, Sodankylä, Lapland

- World class Ni, Cu, Co, Au, PGE deposit
- Found in 2011 (Sakatti Mining/Anglo American);
- Natura 2000, reindeer herding, recreation;
- Local acceptance high;
- Local opposition (reindeer herders, NGO);
- FANC;
- Decision to go underground, compensation
- Requires legislative change;
- **Extinction Rebellion;**
- CRMs, SRM Project?



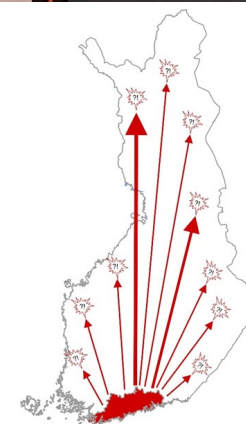
Territories of Contention

- 20 cases, 23% companies involved;
- Northern and southeastern Finland;
- Old cases: mines and mine projects (north).
- New projects: mineral exploration (southeastern)
- Focus on metals;
- Local communities, NGOs, social movements;
- Indigenous Sámi people, tourism, cottage owners (NIMLA)
- Land use (sensitive contexts prone to disputes);
- Mining booms: uranium debate, Green energy transition;
- Critical Raw Materials Act;

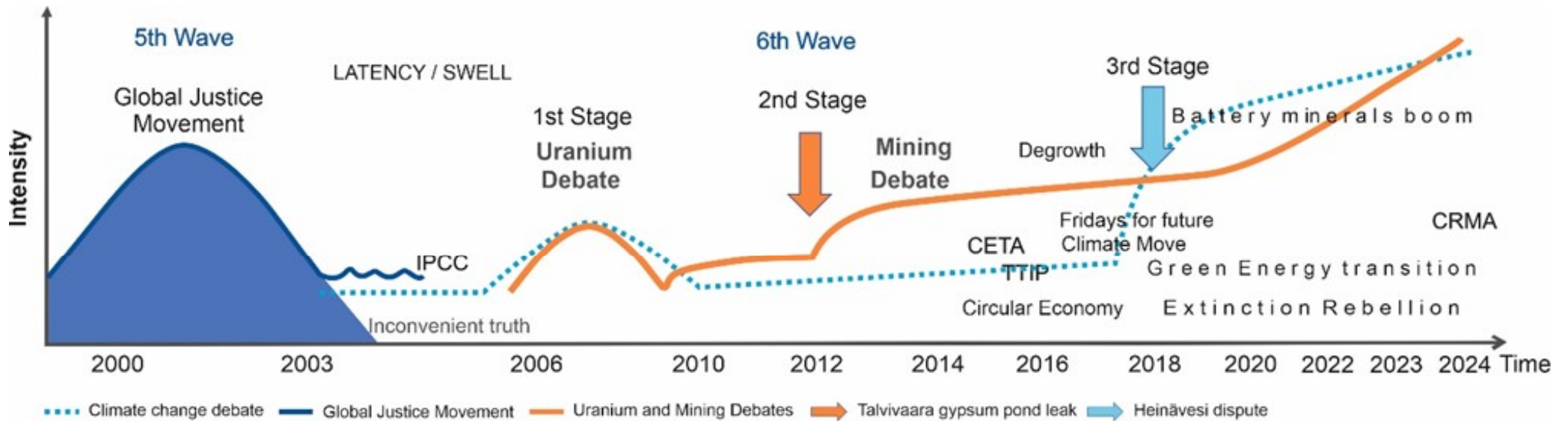


'Not in my leisure area' (NIMLA): trans-local opposition by GTK tourists, cottageowners and tourist entrepreneurs

- Attachment to a place;
- Lakes and forests: almost a sacred meaning for Finns
- Tourism and second home culture have economic importance;
- Nothing can disturb leisure, vacation, recreation;
- Want to determine which livelihoods are allowed;
- No matter for local needs, jobs, taxes, energy, raw materials, climate change;
- Shock of values;
- Middle to upper-middle class;
- Older and elder people (retired);
- Diverse liberal professions;
- Influential;
- Uusimaa province anti-mining attitudes irradiated;
- Impact on local and national public opinion, debate and legislation;
- NIMLA and Green Energy Transition:
 - New activist profile (professors, entrepreneurs and diverse professionals);
 - Counter-experts;



The evolution of Finnish mining-sceptical movement



Actors and evolution of the Finnish mining-sceptical movement

Uranium Debate (2005-present)

FANC
No Uranium Mine in Kuusamo
Lappish against Uranium Mines
No Uranium Mines in North Karelia
Uraaniton.org

Mining Debate (2010-present)

Anti-mining Coalition of the Deatnu Valley
FANC
Friends of the Earth
Kitkan viisaat
North Karelian Degrowth Movement
Not in Kaavi
Pro Kuusamo
Pro Polvijärvi
Pro Ylläs
Save Viiankiaapa
Stop Talvivaara
Rising Tide Network

Green Energy Transition (2016-present)

Extinction Rebellion
FANC
Friends of the Sompio Nature
Heinijärvi Conservation Association
Inari Friends of the Nature
Kitkan viisaat
Koli Landscape Movement
Limit to Mines in Lapland
Pro Heinävesi
Pro Joroinen
Pro Kiiminki
Pro Kuusamo
Pro Osikonmäki
Pro Pieksämäki
Pro Puruvesi
Pro Rautalampi
Pro Ylläs
Rising Tide Network
Saimaa without Mines
Save Kaapelinkulma
Save Viiankiaapa
Tammela Water Protection
Wilderness Sokli

Paradox: support for mining increases!

A new environmental protest wave in Finland?

Protests waves	Uranium debate	Mining debate
Key event	Claim reservation applications	Talvivaara
Contested activity	Uranium exploration	Mining & mineral exploration
New issues and innovations	Resource nationalism, mining governance, theology, performances	Resource nationalism, free trade agreements, social media, Sámi resistance, theology
Collective action	Local environmental activism and demonstrations, FANC	Wide mobilization, demonstrations, petitions, FANC, MiningWatch Finland, Sámi resistance, NIMLA, networked SMS, direct action
Opportunity window	Resource rush, uranium, foreign companies, unpreparedness, latent activism, the outdated Mining Act	Talvivaara, resource nationalism, weak supervision, slow reaction of the authorities
Media attention	Local	Local and national
Anti-nuclear attitudes	X	X
Distrust in authorities	X	X
Challenge of authorities and experts	X	X
Requests for participation in decision making	X	X
Impacts	Mineral governance	Mineral governance

CONCLUSIONS

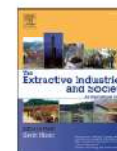
- Resource rush: rebirth of the Finnish mining industry by foreign companies;
- Refreshment of the Finnish environmental movement after years of latency;
- Uranium and mining debates and energy transition;
- Climate change debate;
- Two decades of mining-related debate in Finland;
- Evolution of the Finnish mining-sceptical movement;
- Impacts on natural resource governance;
- Characteristics of previous protest waves;
- 6th Finnish environmental protest wave;
- NIMLA;
- Radicalization?



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

The Extractive Industries and Society

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/exis



Original article

The origin, evolution and impacts of the mining-sceptical movement in Finland

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Finland
Mining
Environmental protest waves
Debate
Uranium

ABSTRACT

The evolution of the Finnish mining sceptical movement (MSM) is described and situated within the context of Finnish environmental protest waves (EPWs). This evolution occurred through the uranium debate (UD; since 2005) and mining debate (MD; 2010–ongoing). These stages are described and compared with the characteristics of the Finnish EPWs. The purpose is to determine whether the evolution of the MSM represents a new EPW in Finland.

Five EPWs are reported to have occurred in Finland. After the end of the last EPW at the beginning of 2000s, the Finnish environmental movement lost its impetus, followed by a swell/latency. However, the climate change debate returned nuclear energy to the agenda. Together with the rebirth of the Finnish mining industry resulting from activities carried out by foreign companies, uranium exploration restarted in Finland in 2005, which raised opposition. The UD revitalised the environmental movement and opened spaces for local resistance in the countryside. Even though uranium exploration ended in Finland, the UD continued as attention shifted towards other projects associated with uranium. The environmental problems of the Talvivaara mine increased opposition and directed the MD towards projects also focused on other commodities. Because of its duration, impacts, and importance, the evolution of the MSM is suggested to form the sixth Finnish EPW.

FOR EARTH AND FOR US

The Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) produces impartial and objective research data and services in support of decision-making in industry, academia, and wider society to accelerate the transition to a sustainable, carbon-neutral world. GTK employs more than 400 experts specializing in the mineral economy, circular economy, solutions related to energy, water and the environment, as well as digital solutions. GTK is a research institution governed by the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy, operating in Finland and globally.

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