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Springer Polar Sciences

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The Will to Drill - Mining in Arctic Communities

 Springer

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*The book is dedicated to our two colleagues
Vladimir Didyk and Allan Sande, who were
both enthusiastic participants in the project,
and who both sadly passed away during the
project period.*

Preface

This volume is the main result from the project The Arctic as a Mining Frontier (ARCTICFRONT), financed by the Norwegian Research Council's Miljø 2015 – programme. The project started in 2014, in a period where nations and investors look to the Arctic for resources and prosperity. The high prices on minerals made mining strategies pertinent and prospects for the industry were positive. During the 3-year project period, the prices dropped, but the global attention on the arctic still prevailed. The studies in this book illustrate the complexity and uncertainty Arctic communities face when mining projects are concerned, and thus how demanding it can be to remain focused on securing sustainable development. This anthology is a selection of chapters on social, political and environmental challenges connected to mining in the arctic. The chapters are tied together with an overall introductory chapter and a theoretical chapter, and finally with a summarizing chapter at the end. The main part of the volume is however made up of 'Arctic stories' told by the researchers – based on their fieldwork and analysis of meetings with individuals and communities and their relationship to mining activities. As the Arctic experiences with mining differs, we thus find in this volume stories from communities with long mining traditions, others with hopes of becoming just that, and also communities where concerns about what mining activities could bring overshadows the potential benefits from mining. The chapters all reflect upon too how mining companies, managers and politicians seek – successfully or not – developments that may ensure sustainability.

The purpose of the book is to be both informative, critical and analytical. The book as a whole can be read as one *complex* and multifaceted analysis of the arctic as a mining frontier, or as separate single in-depth case analysis. We also firmly believe the volume will also be suitable as a textbook in social and environmental studies.

The editors wishes to thank the researchers, the informants and other key collaborators, and particularly the mineral cluster Mineralklynge Nord, for their contributions and assistance. The editors wish also to thank Manjusha Nalamolu, Catalina Sava and not least Margaret Deignan at Springer for their relentless sup-

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Bodø, Norway

Bright Dale
Ingrid Bay-Larsen
Berit Skorstad

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