Attitudes towards the mining industry are as diverse and contradicting as the demographic and geographical setting in which the field occurs.

Economists, fly-in-fly-out workers (FIFOs) and a huge cross-section of the economy see the industry as a source of development, which brings job prospects and prosperity to the community.

However, there is a different side to the story. Some see the benefits solely in the hands of those within the industry, with little trickling down locally; they question the mining's long-term ecological sustainability.

Many Aboriginal people oppose employment with the mines altogether and regard the industry as antithetical to Aboriginal idea of custodianship of land and water.

The project team, an anthropologist, filmmaker and engineering educator conducted an ethnographic study of the key stakeholders affected by mining in WA.

The interviews were composed of open-ended questions, intended to prompt wide-ranging responses to the basic question: how has mining affected your life and your community?

The end goal is a documentary aimed at engineering students that highlights the social aspects of mining in WA.

The documentary would allow students to critically reflect on alternatives for their profession and to take a stance at whether mining is a form of materialised ideology or an inevitable practice.

Notes for participants

Please register your attendance by email to fase-ecm@uwa.edu.au by 20 September 2013.

Please note that seminar is not catered.