

Governing oil or Governed by oil?

Discourses of oil in Newfoundland & Labrador politics

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Introduction

This research project analyzes the role of oil in Newfoundland and Labrador political discourse. Utilizing qualitative research methods and existing literature, I aim to investigate how oil is conceptualized in Newfoundland politics.

Methods

Data collection

Collected *Hansards* - official transcripts of legislative proceedings - from the Newfoundland provincial legislature
Collected media - *Telegram* newspaper articles relating to oil in Newfoundland

Literature Review

Gathered existing literature from Google Scholar relating to oil and politics in Newfoundland
Gained an understanding of notable scholars in Newfoundland history, politics, and petro-politics

Qualitative Coding

Used Nvivo - a qualitative coding software - and the *inductive strategy* for coding
Read debates in *Hansards* from 2005 to 2012 surrounding oil and coded them by themes to form an analysis

Coding Findings



Fish and oil

A contention between fish and oil as a resource - Newfoundland has a longstanding fishing industry



Prosperity, oil, and luck

Views the province's prosperity from oil as due to "luck" - different to Alberta which credits its oil wealth to "hard work"
(Kuteleva & Leifso, 2020)



Hope in oil

The oil industry and oil in general is a source of hope in Newfoundland politics
(Hamilton & Seyfrit, 1994)



Resource Nationalism

Protective over oil - standing up to oil companies or the federal government is a popular sentiment
(Collins & Reid, 2015)

Moving Forward

Newfoundland contrasts other energy-producing provinces in terms of geography and production style. This creates opportunities for comparative studies, adding to existing literature on energy, oil, and politics in Canada.



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