

## SUMMARY

### What are the Issues to be Addressed in the Debate on FIFO in Australia?

#### A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of the Newspaper Representation

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What has been argued in relation to FIFO (fly-in/ fly-out: a form of long-distance commuting in the mining industry) since the recent mining boom in Australia? What has been overlooked in the discussion? The argument itself is in the secondary analysis stage following the proliferation of research and discussion on FIFO. With a particular focus on FIFO operation to the Pilbara region (Western Australia), this study contributes to the research on FIFO-related phenomena and the mining industry through quantitative and qualitative analysis. The paper examines the preceding discussion in newspapers (*The West Australian*, *The Australian*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald*) by using Python.

The findings of this paper are as follows. First, the discussion in the newspaper started active since 2010 and peaked in 2012, and FIFO itself became accepted realities for Australian residents afterwards. Previous scholarly articles cover FIFO-related issues in more depth and width. The descriptions in the newspapers share similar characteristics shown in the current streams of scholarly articles.

Second, it is possible to find some trends in the argument of FIFO in the newspaper. When the problems in family and individual are discussed, the causes of such problems are overlooked. The newspaper articles on FIFO pay scant attentions to foreign workers, in spite that the mining activities are supported by Asian influences. The previous discussion has been Eurocentric and has largely focused on corporate behaviour, government policies, family issues, and workers' behavioural characteristics.

Third, socio-economic development in north Australia, including Pilbara, shows that Australia, China, Japan and other Asian countries have mutually contributed to the development in this region historically; and thus, researchers need to consider such transnational connections in their analysis. Further analysis on FIFO-related phenomena and the mining industry requires considerations to the presence of non-European influences, such as investment and migrant workers from Asia. There also should be more focus on environmental issues as mining is not pollution free. Inclusion of the issues on Asia and of non-European perspectives will enrich the upcoming discussion on FIFO and mining industry.