



# Critical Justice:

## Interrogating Canada's Critical Mineral Policy Regime for a Just Energy Transition

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# Acknowledgement & Positionality

This research was conducted on the unceded traditional territories of the səliiwətaɬ, kʷikʷəłəm, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and xʷməθkʷəyəm Nations.





# Outline

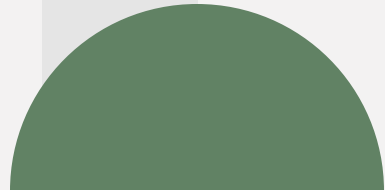
01 Context

02 Framework  
Development

03 Framework

04 Next Steps

05 Conclusion



# Background

- Addressing climate change requires a transition from fossil fuel-based energy to renewable and low-carbon energy.
- Meeting the Paris Agreement's climate goals "would mean a quadrupling of mineral requirements for clean energy technologies by 2040" (IEA, 2022).
- Countries are racing to secure or expand domestic supply where possible, often relying on fast-tracking projects to hasten mineral extraction.
- Increased pressure for extraction is causing concern among Indigenous Peoples who experience the consequences of extraction disproportionately.

(Carr-Wilson et al., 2024; Matanzima, 2024; Whyte, 2023)







# Primary Research Question

What does Indigenous environmental justice look like in the context of critical mineral development in Canada?



# Secondary Research Question

(Framework Development)

How does our current energy transition impact Indigenous Peoples in settler-colonial contexts?



# Framework Development

- **Systematic literature review of 3 literature bodies:**
  - **Just energy transitions (140 articles)**
  - **Critical minerals (41 articles)**
  - **Indigenous environmental justice (42 articles)**
- **Conducted thematic coding in NVivo**
  - **3 rounds of coding to capture themes**
  - **155 codes in total**





# Thematic Analysis

- **Determined higher level themes for each literature body**
  - **E.g., themes in critical mineral literature included economics, effects of critical mineral extraction, fast-tracking, etc.**
- **Identified gaps where relevant**
  - **E.g., critical mineral literature had geographic gaps**
- **Analyzed connections and overlap among literature bodies**

# Framework

Concepts (4)

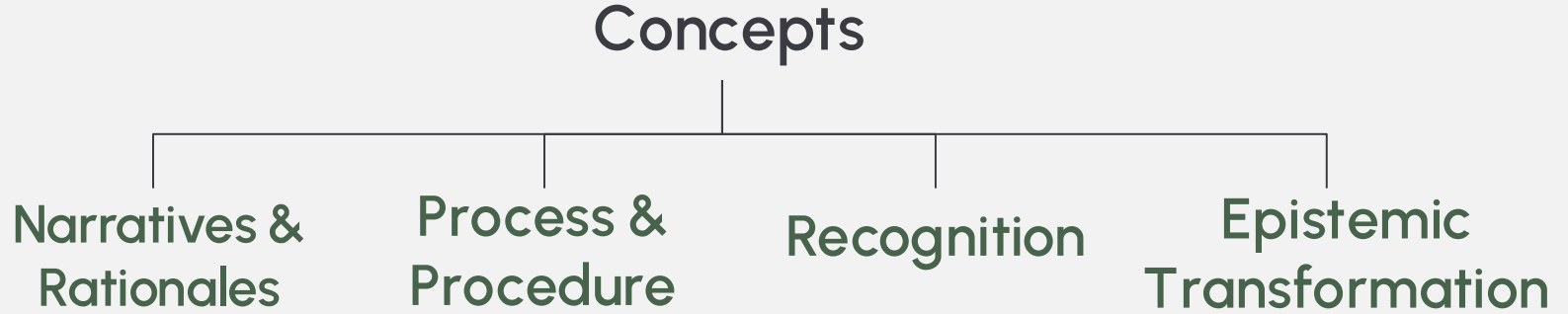


Sub-concepts (12)



Indicators (28)

# Framework



# Framework

## Concepts

**Narratives &  
Rationales**

Process &  
Procedure

Recognition

Epistemic  
Transformation

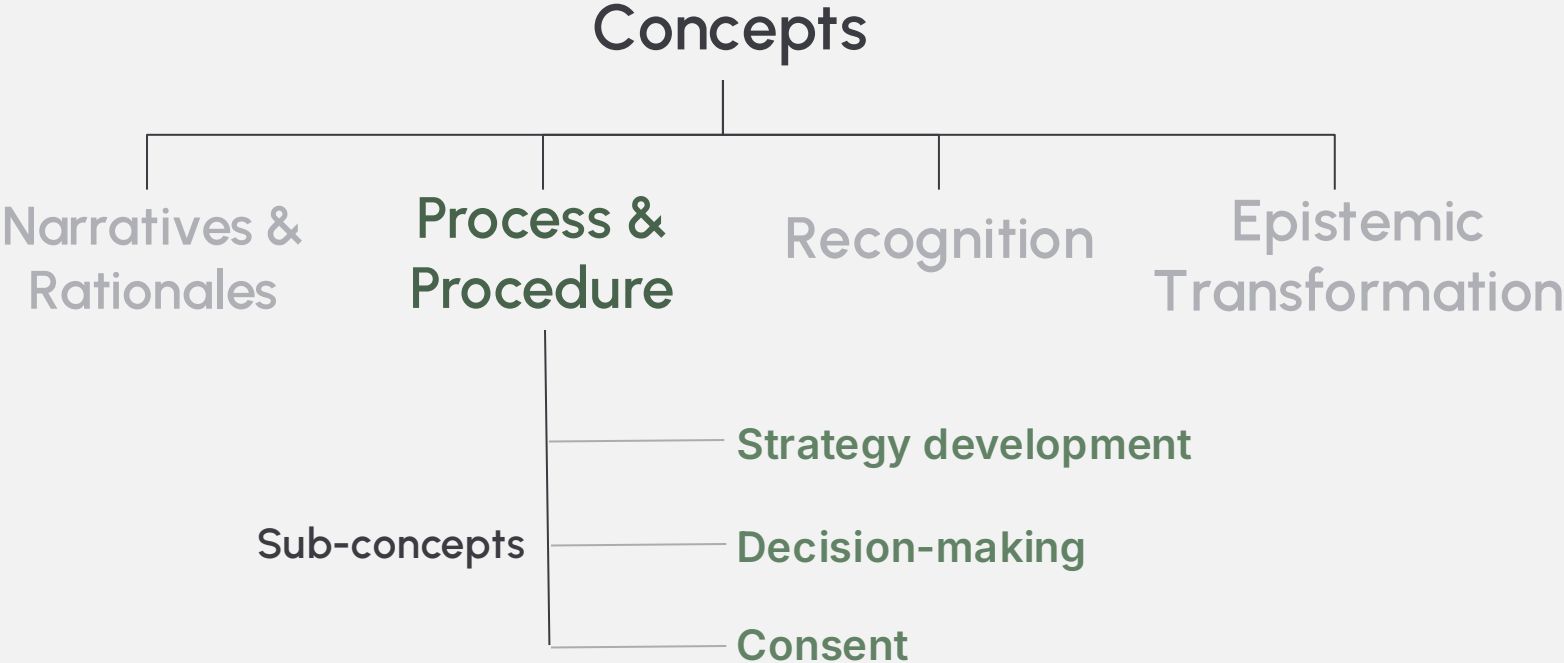
Sub-concepts

Extraction

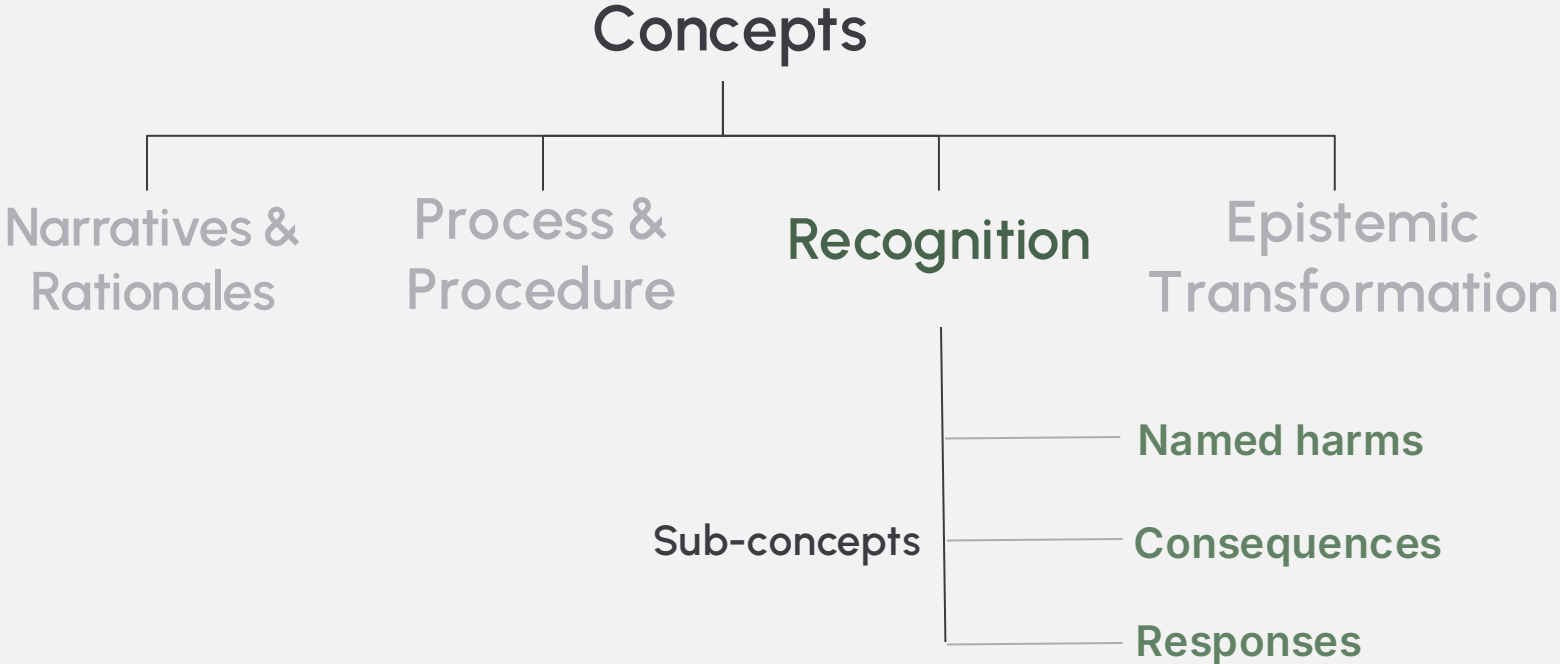
Policy narratives

Economic narratives

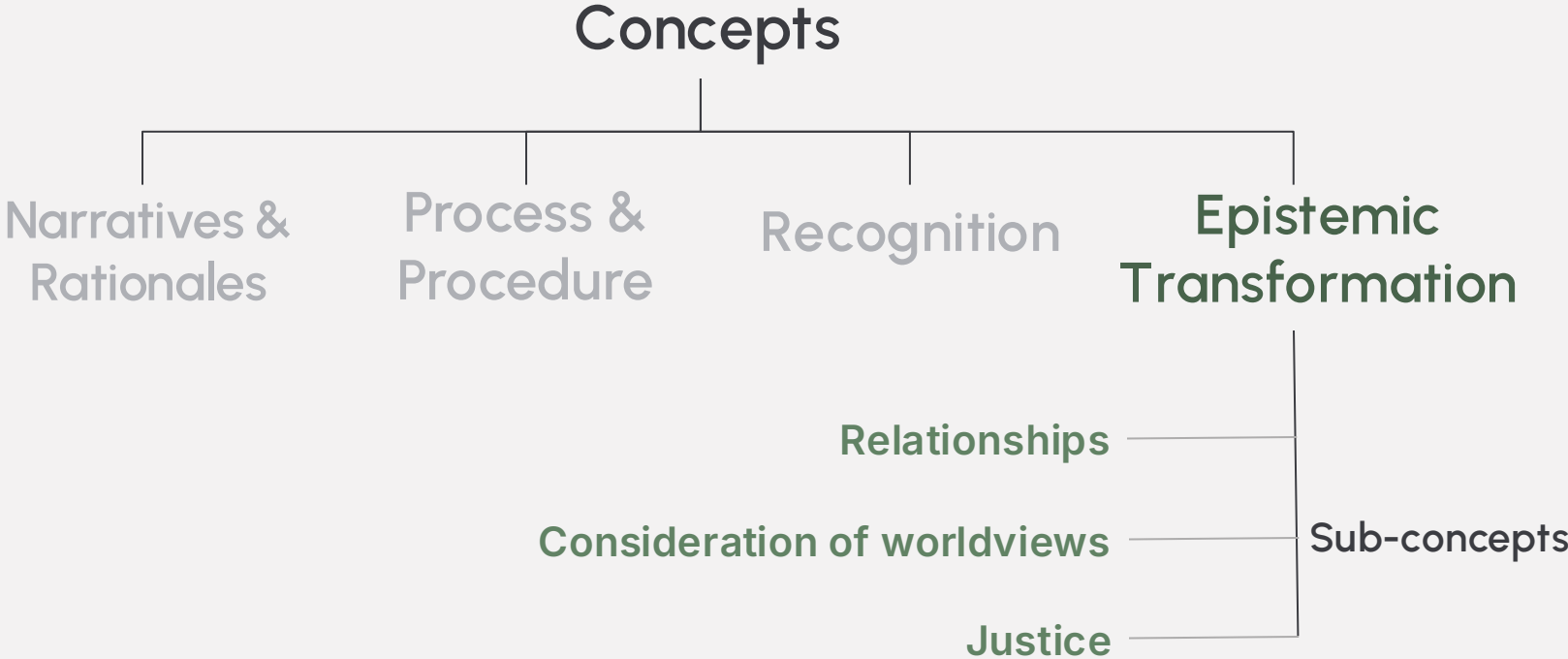
# Framework



# Framework



# Framework





# Secondary Research Question

(Policy Analysis)

**How is justice considered in Canadian critical mineral strategies?**



## The Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy

**FROM EXPLORATION TO RECYCLING:**  
Powering the Green and Digital Economy for  
Canada and the World

Canada

# Next Steps

## Policy analysis

- 1 federal strategy
- 9 provincial strategies
- 1 territorial strategy

## Journal article & policy brief

- Submission of 2 academic articles for publication
- Creation of policy brief and blog post for SPI/EEPRN

# Conclusion

- **Need to focus on justice in energy transition and critical mineral development policy**
- **Critical mineral extraction must not perpetuate the systems that have historically allowed injustices to occur.**
- **A just energy transition will only be achievable if other understandings of the world are accepted.**

(Ansloos & Beaulne-Stuebing, 2024; Kelly et al., 2024; McGregor, 2018)

# Thank you!

*Thank you to the Smart Prosperity Institute and the EEPN  
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