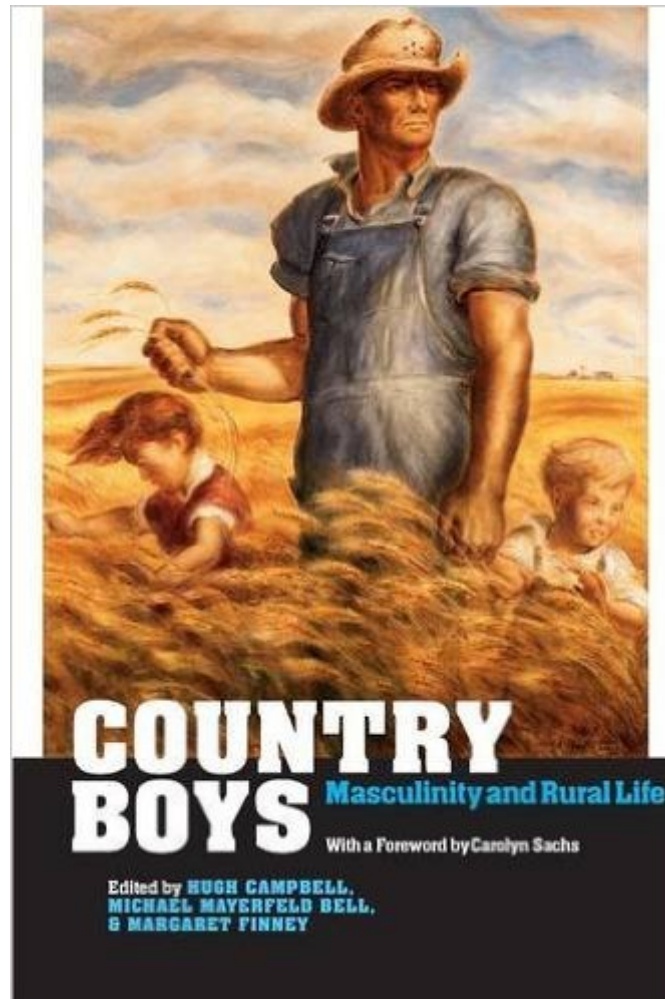


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Country Boys: Masculinity And Rural Life (Rural Studies)



Synopsis

Rural masculinity is hardly a typical topic for a book. There is something unexpected, faintly disturbing, even humorous about investigating that which has long been seen and yet so often overlooked. But the ways in which we think about and socially organize masculinity are of great significance in the lives of both men and women. In *Country Boys* we also see that masculinity is no less significant in rural life than in urban life. The essays in this volume offer much-needed insight into the myths and stereotypes as well as the reality of the lives of rural men. Interdisciplinary in scope, the contributions investigate what it means to be a farming man, a logging man, or a boy growing up in a country town and how this impacts both men and women in city and country. Chapters cover not only the United States but also Europe, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, giving the book an unusually broad scope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's no such thing as too much men's studies: this privileged group needs to see itself and not think of itself as universal or de-sexed. Also, men's studies fulfills the most when it covers the intersectionality of masculinity and other areas. Books have been produced about older men, black men, bisexual men, rich men, poor men, and finally this book publishes work on rural men. Like much men's studies, the contributors are both male and female. Though this book includes photographs of men of color and non-Christian men, not one article spoke of rural men of color. There are articles that speak of racist, and religiously intolerant rural men, but that did not suffice in

terms of diversity. Because many men of color and immigrant men work on farms, this is a sore absence. I applaud the editors for including articles about the UK, New Zealand, Sweden, and the US. However, this book only mentions rural men in industrialized countries. What about the countless rural men in developing nations? The status of the US is intriguing here. Only a few chapters cover this nation and they are placed somewhere in the middle of the book. Did the contributors need to cover Americans in order to get published or did they want to prove that the US is just one country of many that has rural men? R. Connell is the godfather of men's studies. Having him contribute a chapter somewhat blesses the text. Cornel West once did that in the book about Black men in academia. Now that I think of it, Patti LaBelle blessed the young songstresses who remade "Lady Marmalade." Still, I didn't think Connell's entry was strong. It just proved that he can write on history, rather than just sociology. I wasn't wowed by this book, but I truly appreciate its addition to the genre.

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