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Journal of Rural Studies

Volume 11, Issue 2, April 1995, Pages 113-122

Article

Queer country: Rural lesbian and gay lives

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0743-0167\(95\)00013-D](https://doi.org/10.1016/0743-0167(95)00013-D)

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Abstract

Studies of rural life and lifestyles have yet to seriously address issues of sexuality. This paper outlines some of the experiences of lesbians and gay men who live in the countryside. It begins by tracing the history of the relationship between homosexuality and rurality in fiction and film, paying particular attention to the role of rural utopias in the lesbian and gay imagination. The paper then goes on to consider the structural difficulties experienced by those gay men and women who are born and raised in rural areas, and the lifestyles of those who choose to move to country locations in an attempt to create alternative communes. The paper ends with discussion of the ethics researching "rural others".



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