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Journeys of staying rural

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Propositions

Accompanying the dissertation

Journeys of Staying Rural

by

Henk Hofstede

1. In contrary to previous studies, staying rural is not a passive phenomenon. Instead, most rural young adults who expect to stay actively make sense of their rural identity in the future (this dissertation).
2. Rural young adults ascribe more importance to the community and the rural landscape than to facilities, employment and housing when considering to stay in their rural home area (this dissertation).
3. When rural young adults grow older, they seem to give less importance to their actual social network and instead seem to give more value to a more abstract rural community (this dissertation).
4. (Sub-)conscious preferences for the rural can be triggered, transformed or interrupted by unexpected life events, such as issues around mental health, and deliberate decisions, such as temporal moves to urban areas (this dissertation).
5. Staying rural processes of rural young adults often show alternating conscious and sub-conscious phases in residential decision-making, in which young adults experience developments in identity formation and life course events (this dissertation).
6. Rural young adults can selectively use aspects of rural life in order to justify staying in their rural home area, residing temporally in urban areas, or moving out to another rural area (this dissertation).
7. The song “De overkant” reminds us that connections to other areas, including urban areas, can both support and hinder rural young adults in making sense of their rural appreciation.
8. Making the youth aware that staying rural processes are diverse, fluid and spatial, starts with a good geography teacher.
9. D'r is een tied van kommen en d'r is een tied van gaon, moar de tieden da'j jonge leu ziet prakazeren over hun woontoekomst bûnt kort en beperkt. Dus regionale overheden: wes doarbie!
10. De jeugdopleiding vormt de toekomst voor De Superboeren.

