



Troubled Fields: Men, Emotions, and the Crisis in American Farming

Eric Ramirez-Ferrero

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In Oklahoma in the 1980s and 1990s, suicide—not accident as previously assumed—was the leading cause of agricultural fatalities among farmers. Men were five times more likely to die by suicide than by accident. What was causing these men—but not women—to want to kill themselves? Ramírez-Ferrero suggests that the root causes lie not in purely economic or personal factors but rather in the processes of modernization. He shows how cultural and social changes have a dramatic effect on men's identities as providers, stewards, and community members. Using emotions and gender as modes of analysis, he locates these men's stories in the wider context of American history, agricultural economics and politics, capitalism, and Christianity.



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