



# Re-scaling the Rural

Essays on ruralities across disciplines and scales

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- **Re-scaling the Rural** offers students, academics and practitioners alike, a multidisciplinary snapshot of some of the latest and most innovative contemporary design and thinking relating to rural terrains and issues
- **Re-scaling the Rural** draws on material from the international conference of the same name held in Thy, Denmark, the latest in the series of conferences, events and publications initiated by the AlterRurality Network
- **Re-scaling the Rural** offers critical readings of contemporary rurality as seen from different disciplines and in the contexts of different scales in space and time and when rurality is becoming more and more central in the awareness of the Anthropocene crises of pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, wars and rising inequalities

Existing as it does on the brink of being overrun, urbanised or abandoned, rurality is contested. Even in the field of academia, it is often questioned or considered a minor subordinate appendix to urbanity.

Since the ancient Greeks, conceptions of the rural have praised it as an idyllic and tranquil place where humans were closer to nature. Nowadays however, notions of the countryside are more complex, it is also a place in constant flux, a place defined and controlled by the urban. Can rurality continue to depend on the urban? Or will future scenarios recognise it for its potential to live truly 'closer to nature' and as the place to be? What can we learn from current counter-urbanisation movements that have sprung up in the wake of changing geopolitical circumstances as well as geographical and social inequality?

**Re-scaling the Rural** aims to generate a broader understanding of contemporary rurality as it exists in different countries, seen by different disciplines in the context of different scales in space and time. Rurality may become the place that answers to the Anthropocene and its crises of pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, wars and rising inequalities.

The publication combines conceptual and practical explorations, from the outside-in (urban viewpoints) and inside-out (departing from an unknown rurality).

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