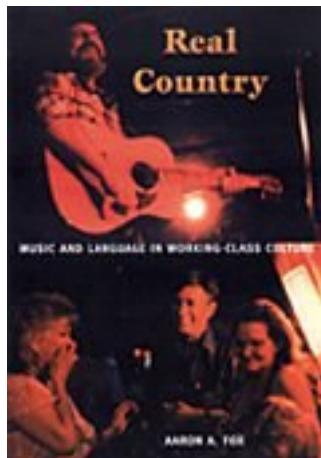


Real Country



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In Lockhart, Texas, a rural working-class town just south of Austin, country music is a way of life. Conversation slips easily into song, and the songs are full of conversation. Anthropologist and musician Aaron A. Fox spent years in Lockhart making research notes, music, and friends. In "Real Country", he provides an intimate, in-depth ethnography of the community and the role of music within it. Showing that country music is deeply embedded in working-class culture, Fox argues that it is the cultural and intellectual property of working-class people, not of the Nashville-based music industry or the stars whose lives figure so prominently in popular and scholarly writing about the genre. Having spent hundreds of hours observing and participating in talk and music-making in beer joints, garage jam sessions, and trailer homes, Fox renders in vivid detail everyday life in Lockhart, and particularly in the honky-tonk - the ice cold beer, battered guitars by the bar, and local musical legends including Randy Meyer and Larry 'Hoppy' Hopkins. Throughout, Fox focuses on the human voice. His detailed analyses of conversations, interviews, songs, and vocal techniques show how feeling and experience are expressed, how local understandings of place, memory, musical aesthetics, working-class social history, race, and gender are shared. In "Real Country",

between exhausting shifts at the plant or nursing home or construction site, people talk and sing, reaching beyond the world as it is to an idealized past, to a time before NAFTA and the threatening sprawl of metropolitan Austin, to a time before country music went the way of televised specials and fm radio stations.

作者介绍:

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标签

语言学

人类学

乡村音乐

音乐学

文化研究

文化

评论

On those who "talk about song and sing about talk". 重读Aaron Fox的《Real Country》: 从语言学, 民族音乐学, 和人文人类学等分析角度同时出发, 这是一本关于美国乡村音乐文化的好书, 但故事的主角并不是音乐本身, 而是美国蓝领工人, 那些会"说话", 歌唱, 和生活的艺术家们。

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书评

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