Dear Michael

Please find attached my submission to the special edition of the *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*.

The title of my submission is: ‘No one cares in the city’: How young people’s perceptions of the country and the city shape their educational decision making.

The key findings/contributions of this paper include:

* A sense of ambiguity in relation to both the city and the country underpinned the participants’ educational choices.
* Negotiating this ambiguity increased the sense of risk in the young people’s lives and led to some individuals choosing ‘not to make a choice’ to minimise risks to the self.
* In combination with a fear of the city, a rural habitus characterized by close-knit social relations, deeply embedded experiences in the local environment and an emphasis on a physical form of masculinity was a key factor shaping the participants’ choices.
* Whilst a sense of ambivalence permeated the lives of all the participants, the decision to leave school early was especially associated with local networks and knowledges as well as a physical form of masculinity.
* These findings contribute to the emerging literature on young rural people’s educational choices in rural areas.

Below I suggest four potential reviewers for the paper. I propose four because there may be a conflict of interest in relation to Professor Michael Corbett, the editor of this special edition of *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*:

1. Dr. Ani Wierenga

Senior Research Fellow, Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne.

Email: wierenga@unimelb.edu.au

Phone: 8344 9639

1. Professor Michael Corbett

Professor of Rural and Regional Education, Faculty of Education, University of Tasmania.

Email: michael.corbett@utas.edu.au

Phone: +61 03 6324 3241

1. Dr. Hernan Cuervo

Senior Research Fellow at the Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne.

Email: hicuervo@unimelb.edu.au

Phone: 83449533

1. Professor Julie McCleod

Professor in Curriculum, Equity and Social Change, Melbourne Graduate School of Education. University of Melbourne

Phone: 61 3 8344 3455

Email:  j.mcleod@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any enquiries in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Merete Schmidt

Lecturer in Sociology

School of Social Sciences

University of Tasmania

Cradle Coast Campus

16-20 Mooreville Road

Burnie Tasmania 7320

Phone: 64304949 / 0438072613

Email: Merete.Schmidt@utas.edu.au