

Ina Bergmann / Stefan Hippler (eds.)

# Cultures of Solitude

Loneliness – Limitation – Liberation



Ina Bergmann / Stefan Hippler (eds.)

## Cultures of Solitude

This collection of essays comprises cultural analyses of practices of eremitism and reclusiveness in the USA, which are inseparably linked to the American ideals of individualism and freedom. Covering a time frame from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century, the essays study cultural products such as novels, poems, plays, songs, paintings, television shows, films, and social media, which represent the costs and benefits of deliberate withdrawal and involuntary isolation from society. Thus, this book offers valuable contributions to contemporary cultural discourses on privacy, surveillance, new

technology, pathology, anti-consumerism, simplification, and environmentalism. Solitaries can be read as trailblazers for an alternative future or as symptoms of a pathological society.

### The Editors

Ina Bergmann is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Würzburg, Germany.

Stefan Hippler is Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Würzburg, Germany.

## Cultures of Solitude



Ina Bergmann/Stefan Hippler (eds.)

# Cultures of Solitude

Loneliness – Limitation – Liberation



**PETER LANG**

**Bibliographic Information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek**

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available in the internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Names: Bergmann, Ina editor. | Hippler, Stefan, 1960- editor.

Title: Cultures of solitude : loneliness, limitation, liberation / Ina Bergmann, Stefan Hippler (eds.).

Description: Frankfurt am Main ; New York : Peter Lang, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017000780 | ISBN 9783631679074

Subjects: LCSH: American literature—History and criticism. |

Solitude in literature—United States. | Solitude in popular culture—United States.

Classification: LCC PS169.S58 C85 2017 | DDC 810.9/353—dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017000780>

Printed with the kind assistance of  
Siblings Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation for the Humanities.

Cover Image: Alois Bergmann-Franken, *Der alte Loy [Old Man Loy]*,  
ca. 1925, oil on canvas, 50 cm x 35 cm, private collection, photo: Birgit Wörz.

ISBN 978-3-631-67907-4 (Print)  
E-ISBN 978-3-653-07105-4 (E-PDF)  
E-ISBN 978-3-631-70815-6 (EPUB)  
E-ISBN 978-3-631-70816-3 (MOBI)  
DOI 10.3726/978-3-653-07105-4

PETER LANG  




Open Access: This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial NoDerivatives 4.0 unported license. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

© Ina Bergmann/Stefan Hippler, 2017

Peter Lang GmbH  
Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften  
Berlin

Peter Lang – Berlin · Bern · Bruxelles · New York ·  
Oxford · Warszawa · Wien

This publication has been peer reviewed.

[www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com)