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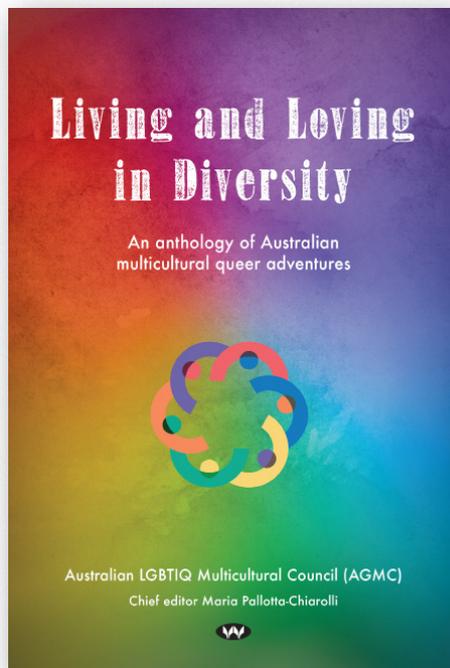
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A CHORUS OF DIVERSE VOICES CELEBRATES
QUEER MULTICULTURAL MULTIFAITH AUSTRALIA

Living and Loving in Diversity

An anthology of Australian multicultural queer adventures

Chief editor **Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli**



Sad and funny, sexy and sensitive, angry and insightful: the deeply personal stories in this book reflect a rainbow of experiences and emotions, as diverse as the storytellers themselves.

Join chief editor Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and the Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council for a journey of discovery through queer multicultural multifaith Australia, with more than sixty voices from across the spectrum of sexualities and genders, families and relationships.

Annette Xiberras, lesbian Wurundjeri Elder with a Maltese father, provides a Welcome to Book and insights into her Indigenous-migrant family. Filmmakers **Tony Ayres** and **Franco Di Chiera** share their experiences telling stories from minority cultures on Australian screens, while **Benjamin Law** talks queer Asian-Australian identity, and making *The Family Law* for SBS. Broadcaster **Faustina Agolley** talks about being 'out' as a woman of colour, and **Anton Enus** tells us about coming out as a 'coloured' gay man in South Africa. Entertainer **Paul Capsis** reflects on doing *Cabaret* in the age of Trump while **Asiel Adan** talks about non-binary gender across the US border in Mexico. Meanwhile, **Christos Tsiolkas** imagines Ari, the protagonist of his iconic novel *Loaded*, now middle-aged, during a weekend of mass violence in distant Paris, while **Patrick Abboud** travels the world so he can come home. **Alyena Mohummadally** searches for reconciliation between her queer and Muslim identities and **Tony Briffa** shares a personal story of growing up with intersex variations and the rigidity of Western medicine.

17 September 2018

Essays/Sexuality

RRP \$34.95

ISBN 9781743055953

EXTRACTS AVAILABLE

Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli (PhD) is an academic, activist and author at Deakin University. Her primary areas of research, writing and activism are the interweavings of cultural, gender, sexual and family diversity. This book has been created by the Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council (AGMC), of which Maria is a founding member.

**Chief editor Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli and select contributors
are available for interview. Details overleaf.**



WHY THIS BOOK IS SO IMPORTANT, RIGHT NOW

In a world where Donald Trump is America's president, global conversations are urgently questioning traditional power structures. In Australia, we're finally realising the need to hear and represent voices (and experiences) from diverse cultures, religious backgrounds, genders and sexualities. Hugely successful books like *The Trauma Cleaner* and *The Hate Race*, television like *The Family Law* and films like *Ali's Wedding* are placing people of colour and LGBTIQ experiences at the forefront. From the stories we tell to the make-up of our parliaments and boardrooms, these conversations are just beginning.

Perfectly timed with the cultural zeitgeist, *Living and Loving in Diversity* tells more than sixty stories of queer, multicultural Australians, in their own voices. An essential insight into what it's like to live outside Australia's white, heteronormative bubble, this is a vital contribution to the national conversation, expertly curated by Deakin University researcher Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, as chief editor from the Australian LGBTIQ Multicultural Council's editorial committee.

CONTRIBUTORS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

- **Patrick Abboud** is an award-winning television presenter, journalist, documentary filmmaker, commentator, emcee and diversity champion. Currently his unique storytelling reaches millions on SBS's *The Feed*.
Last year I went away for a few weekends with my parents and my partner ... And that is mind-blowing. I never thought I'd be going on holidays with my parents and my partner, openly out as a gay Arab.
- **Mama Alto** is a gender transcendent diva, jazz singer, cabaret artiste, and community activist. She is a non-binary trans femme person of colour.
Among queer POC, especially queer trans POC, a high proportion of the community identify as artists and exercise creative abilities or distribute creative output of some kind. I wonder why this is, and my thoughts turn to marginality.
- **Tony Ayres** is an award-winning showrunner, writer and director in television and feature films. He is also one of the founding members of Matchbox Pictures. Projects include *The Family Law*, *Barracuda* and *The Slap*.
My most unequivocal experiences of racism in Australia have been within the male gay scene ... Until fairly recently, gay men (being an oppressed minority) have had something of a 'hall pass' when it comes to the politics of race and desire, but there is a reckoning on its way.
- **Sally Goldner** has 20 years' involvement in Victoria's LGBTIQ communities, including with Transgender Victoria.
For someone born in 1965, like myself, there was no internet, no social media or search engines. If I had sent a telegram to someone somewhere saying 'assigned male at birth stop think I'm female stop', I doubt I would have received a positive response. So I lived the first 29 plus years of my life knowing something but not knowing what to make of it.
- **Benjamin Law** is a journalist, columnist, TV screenwriter and author. His memoir *The Family Law* is now also an AACTA award-winning SBS TV series, which he co-created.
I've been called a disgrace to my race on several occasions. And I think this is one of the difficulties and challenges. I also think it's a conversation that we should embrace. When there is so little representation and so few role models, whether it's in arts or business or the media or whatever, you're really expected to be a role model.
- **Alyena Mohummadally** is a Pakistani-Australian queer Muslim woman who spent many years as a community legal centre lawyer before recently retraining as a primary school teacher.
My faith is important to me. I need to have someone to thank and, just as importantly, someone to yell at when life does not go according to plan. I tell people I've had my tumultuous coming out journey twice: once as queer and once as Muslim.
- **Budi Sudarto** is a Diversity Trainer and Consultant at Ananda Training and Consultancy, specialising in the intersection between culture, religion, and LGBTIQ identity.
As a Muslim, I was led to believe that I could not be gay because it was against my religion ... I remember sneaking to the lounge room late at night when everybody else was asleep and browsing the web, hungry for information. It was through the internet that I had conversations with other gay men around the world about being gay. It was also the first time I had an online conversation with gay men living in Indonesia.
- **Nevo Zisin** is an activist, educator, public speaker and author of *Finding Nevo*, a memoir on gender transition.
Sometimes, being part of both communities at once can feel tense. It doesn't always feel like I truly belong anywhere. My queer family will never understand what it means to be Jewish, and how I connect to my Israeli identity. At the same time, the Jewish community will never fully comprehend my life as a trans, queer, polyamorous person.

Also available for interview: Doron Abramovici, Asiel Adan, Gavriel Ansara, Ayman Barbaresco, Michael Barnett, Roz Bellamy, Paul Capsis, Joseph Chetcuti, Cristian Garzon, Carl Gopalkrishnan, Dino Hodge, Peggy Iu, Azja Kulpinska, Anthony Lekkas, Alan Maurice, Jack Migdalek, Vic Perri, Corey Rabaut, Adam Ridwan, Michael Schembri, Judy Tang, John Tzimas, and members of the AGMC editorial committee.