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Out in the Antipodes concerns gay and lesbian issues in Australia and New Zealand – two countries, the editors argue, that differ significantly in ways that have influenced the shape and scope of gay and lesbian psychology.

The book begins with a chapter by Gary Rogers and Adrian Booth that offers a genealogy of homosexuality and in particular critiques the vexed nature/nurture debate about the causes of homosexuality, preferring instead the approach of Foucault, who reportedly said 'On this question, I have absolutely nothing to say.' The shameful history of aversion therapy is briefly documented, and Rogers and Booth make it clear that psychology has both oppressed and assisted same-sex attracted people – not infrequently at the same point in time.

David Semp outlines the role of queer staff working within the public mental health system in New Zealand. Through interview analysis, he identifies potential structural changes that would improve service provision, particularly for MSM clients. Graeme Kane provides an interesting case study of a therapist 'coming out' to a client. He reminds us of the challenges inherent in working with clients from one's own community, not least the possibility of social networks interacting. This theme is further developed by Booth and Rogers, who consider the essential components of a gay-affirming psychological practice, and bring to a close the first part of the book.

Part Two concerns families and parenting. Daryl Higgins writes of the experiences of same-sex attracted men who are, or once were, married. He identifies a number of reasons for marriage, including social expectancy and denial or avoidance of homosexuality. Unsurprisingly, but important to record, the desire for children and family life was strong amongst these men. Paul van Reyk documents the baby boom in gay and lesbian communities. He quotes Stacey: 'gay men... occupy an outpost frontier of what I term the postmodern family condition' (p.154). He writes, in part, from personal experience, having fathered six children through donating from 1983 to 2001. He raises significant issues, particularly in regard to artificial insemination. Dom Violi offers the perspective of gay non-resident fathers who face discrimination, disempowerment and marginalisation, both from family, service providers and the legal system. Sadly, the perspective of lesbian parenting is absent in this section and yet we know many lesbians are mothers and lesbian-led families are increasingly common.

Part Three concerns the body and health. It begins with an analysis of data from the Women's Health Australia Study. This is a longitudinal study involving three cohorts of women. Every three years, participants complete a postal questionnaire. Lynne Hillier, Richard de Visser, Anne Kavanagh and Ruth McNair have analysed the youngest of the three cohorts; they present unequivocal evidence that non-heterosexual women report significantly higher levels of consumption of all types of drugs from cigarettes and alcohol, to marijuana and ecstasy, barbiturates and heroin. The strength of these data is that they have been drawn from a population-based cohort and the authors strive to contextualise the findings with regard to health promotion and recommended health interventions.

Jeffery Adams, Virginia Braun and Timothy McCreanor provide an analysis of a series of policy documents produced in the United States and Australia that relate to gay men's health.

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They show that medical practitioners are identified as central, both for effective clinical relationships and as pivotal in creating supportive social and health environments. Jennifer Boldero examines the experience of gay Asian Australians who, it has been suggested, are at increased risk of HIV and other STIs. She reports on a series of studies conducted in Melbourne with a sample of around one hundred gay Asian Australians. She suggests this group may have significant and particular issues in negotiating safe sex in the context of the normative attitudes of their 'home countries' attitudes towards homosexuality.

Part Four covers 'challenging identities' and begins with the theories of Vivienne Cass who has identified six stages of identity formation. She argues that she addresses a process of interaction, not a set of stagnant categories. She points to the dilemmas that can face mental health practitioners who may find their clients resistant to constructionist accounts of homosexuality, preferring instead to continue with their essentialist beliefs of the fixed nature of sexual orientation. Heidi Jansen considers narratives of that powerful experience 'coming out'. She tests some of Cass' theoretical insights against narratives from 44 self-identified same-sex attracted women. In sharp contrast to 'coming out' accounts, Jane Power and Barry Fallon examine gay clergy whose sexuality is most often hidden or undisclosed; they show how widely varied are the estimates of prevalence of gay people in the clergy, and suggest that fifty per cent seems to be the consensus. They examine the inappropriate assumptions of links between homosexuality and child sexual abuse and consider the psychological implications of homosexuality for priests – a good read with many challenging statistics and ideas.

The final section of this diverse and exciting book concerns the politics of gay and lesbian psychology. Sara MacBride-Stewart provocatively challenges the use (and non-use) of dental dams for safe sex among same-sex attracted women. She shows that dental dams are often the subject of jokes, are rarely considered necessary, and she reminds us of the risks of considering lesbian sex simply as oral sex. Valerie Harwood and Mary Lou Rasmussen point out that the notions of sexuality and gender frequently go unexamined in psychological discourses and that disrupting ideas that homosexual and heterosexuals are fundamentally different is a difficult and challenging task. Finally, Damien and Lauren Riggs examine the politics of identification in a conversational format through experiences of

being 'outed' in a counselling and service setting. They comment engagingly on silences and on what is not said; for instance 'some of my friends are gay' implicitly indicates that the speaker is not.

Throughout this book the personal is political and psychological. The authors often include themselves in their chapter(s) and the biographical details at the back of the book include aspects of their lives as well as their academic qualifications. *Out in the Antipodes* is at times frustrating – complex issues, of necessity, are condensed into a few pages, not always totally successfully and there is a tendency to engage with mainstream psychology only at some distance. These quibbles apart, this is an engaging and thought-provoking book that should be required reading for all trainee psychologists, mental health and medical practitioners and, especially, those of us who live and work in this 'opposite and contrary' part of the world.

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