

I am large, I contain
multitudes (of cultures)

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I contain multitudes

- Walt Whitman, 1855
- Poem: Song of Myself
- Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.) Sec 51

Replace with

- Aboriginal
- Torres Strait Islander
- Asian
- African
- Unemployed
- Islander
- Drug user
- Single mother
- Refugee
- Mentally ill
- Sex worker
- Women/ Men
- Pensioner
- Unemployed
- +++++

So culture

- Can be defined as a set of behavioural norms, meanings, and values or **reference points** utilised by members of a particular society to construct their unique view of the world
- Create and be certain of identity
- Variables include language, traditions, values, religious beliefs, moral thoughts and practices, gender and sexual orientation, and socio-economic status
- Culture impregnates everything

Traditional cultural view





Actual Culture



Some of my cultural multitudes

Remote rural	Male	Racist	European
Gay	Rural	49	University
Caucasian	Nurse	Coastal	Western liberal
Step parent	80's kid	LTR	



SOME

We all contain multitudes

- Developed from inculcation (original culture)
- School, families, current political environments, media, social class, gender expectations + more
- Explaining inculcated culture is difficult
- What is your families culture?
- Your countries culture? “a fair go”
- Your work culture?
- We are all products of various cultures
- Differ by location, time, place and space

We all contain multitudes

- There is variation between cultures
- There is variation within cultures
- Major influences on a cultures sexual attitudes & behaviours include
- Socioeconomic status
- Levels of education
- Religion
- Ethnicity &/or nationality
- Gender



You are all:

- Racist
- Homophobic
- Religiophobic
- Biphobic
- Transphobic
- You got all the messages as well

Attribution Theory

- We can explain anything
- We have strong need to understand/explain
- AT theory is how we explain all behaviour
- Each attribution effects the next

Attribution Theory

- Others: personality/ characteristics/internal disposition
- Ours: external/ situational/ not intentional
- Makes sense of our world
- Explanation of events
- This happens with all “others”
- “Other” races, sexuality, families, religions, cities

Effects of attribution

- Anger
- Dismissal
- Judgement
- Stress
- Closure
- Loss

When do you attribute

- All events/behaviours
 - Particularly unexpected
- or
- Events that undermine control

Changing attribution

- You won't change automatic thought (those things that echo in your head from long ago)
- BUT can be aware we are doing it
- Make decisions not to allow impact on actions

My work

- HIV mental health
- Exposure to a variety of cultures, groups, practices and strategies of living
- High levels of substance use and MI
- Mostly male
- Both HIV + and at risk
- High proportion of CALD people
- Informs this presentation

Sexual minority (SM) Muslims

- Turkey, Middle East, Bangladesh, Indonesia
- Various relationship status'
- Students, residents, citizens
- Identities emerge over time, exposure
- Closeted religion, ethnicity and sexual activity
- Concept of orientation and identity rejected
- Sexuality is a choice linked to hedonism (similar to some relig. views)

Syrian origin 35yrs

- Recent dx of HIV, late presenter
- Financial support for family
- Successful business
- Separated life (family/personal)
- No relationships, “can’t risk it”
- Struggled between family/religion/sexuality
- Used family comments as self image

Family dinner

- Post Lindt Café siege
- Were discussing on the possible impact on Muslims in Aust
- Spoke about victims
- “don’t worry he was only a poofter”
- He was shattered
- “I will kill myself before any shame is put on my family”

South Asian (students)

- High HIV risk
- Orientation can be a motivator for migration
- Our sexuality terms don't exist
- A “gay” is receptive partner
- Wide variety of ‘caste’
- Greater opportunities for sexual expression
- Avoid discrimination and prejudice experienced in their home countries

Indian male 22yrs

- Student visa, Aust 2yrs
- Poor family
- Struggles financially
- Aust to study
- Freedom
- Several same sex relationships
- Several suicide attempts and nPEP courses
- Post relationship breakdown

SM Christian

- 19yrs, no sexual activity
- Wanted to tell the truth & came out to parents
- Given “counselling”
- Thrown out of home
- Others in church refused to speak or contact him again
- Parents and siblings instructed to do the same
- Multiple suicide attempts
- Supported by another Christian organisation

SM Refugees

- Fleeing more than one thing
- 2000: 2 men Bangladeshi (visa 2015)
- 2015: Bangladeshi man rejected
- 2014: 3 African lesbians rejected
- 2016: 2 Iranian men sent to Nauru
- Mongolian man refused asylum (photo)

Refugee Review Tribunal

- Based on notions of GLBTI people
- Read Oscar Wilde
- How they dress, act, look
- If have sex toys
- Told “they don’t look like a lesbian”
- Claims made that asylum seekers could live in home countries if “discrete”
- Deep fear of authority

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2010) has found that

“Within detention facilities [in Australia or elsewhere] ... gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons suffer double or triple discrimination.”

From staff & other refugees

It is better

- General and rising acceptance of GLB people in Australia
- Legal protections (some)
- Trans and intersex acceptance slower
- To know a GLBTI is to be ok about it



But it also is the same

- Scots College , Sydney. 2016
- Requested the Gospel, Society & Culture Committee of the school for a planned response if a same sex couple wanted to enroll their child and promote the “gay agenda”
- “Homosexual sex is contrary to god’s law and so is a sin. Christian repentance must include turning aside from a lifestyle which has deliberately embraced a contravention of God’s moral law, including homosexual sex”

Same: “ex-gay” therapy

Liberty Christian Ministries

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Liberty longs to see

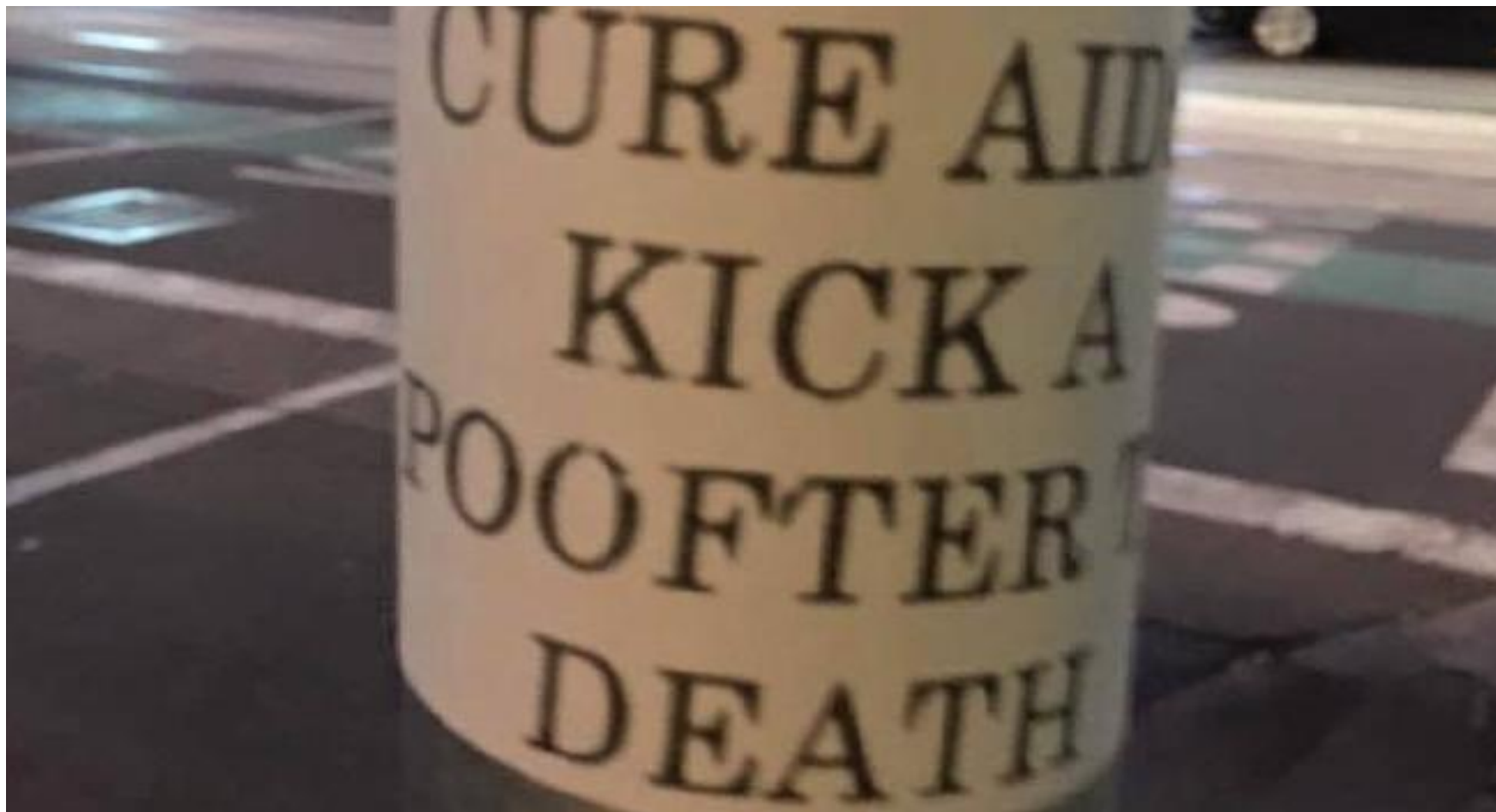
Churches and Christian communities across Sydney become places where all of Christ's people:

[Read More](#)

- Are committed to the traditional understanding of biblical sexual boundaries
- Can withstand the challenges of our day with conviction and grace



Still the same: Melbourne 2016



So what can you do?

- Protection. Nothing changes or has ever changed without allies outside the 'tainted' group
- Education adhoc anywhere
- Normalisation to staff and patients
- Curriculum development (e.g. universities)
- Examine your own ideas and prejudices of same-sex attracted & gender diverse people & everybody
- Challenge yourself

You can help

- De-blind yourself to unmet needs
- Get less awkward talking about sex, we deal with much more than the mind
- Use preferred pronouns and name
- Avoid assumption about medical procedures/interventions that have been or may be done when caring for Trans people

You can help

- Be very clear that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and/or questioning or any race or religious membership is not in itself a problem
- There is currently a lack of protection from discrimination on the basis of gender identity, gender expression, sex and sex characteristics and sexual orientation at a Commonwealth level. Get writing
- *Sec 18C Racial Discrimination Act* .

Remember you accept (and agree with) the behaviour you walk past