

Frankfurt
Book Fair 2023
Rights Guide



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Frankfurt

Book Fair 2023

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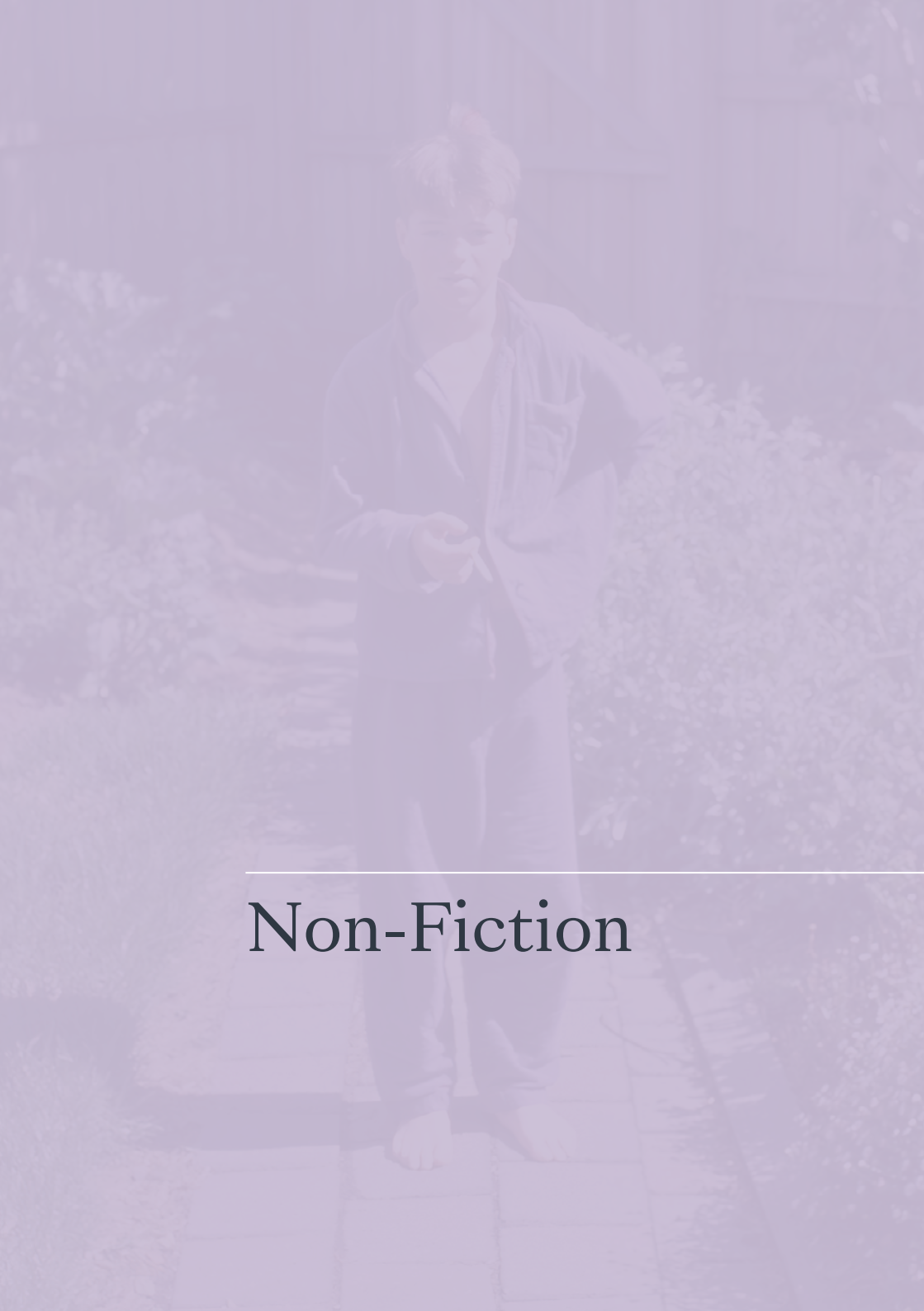
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Non-Fiction



FEBRUARY 2025
NATURE WRITING

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$34.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 320pp
Manuscript: September 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV

What the Mountains Remember

Nicole Hasham

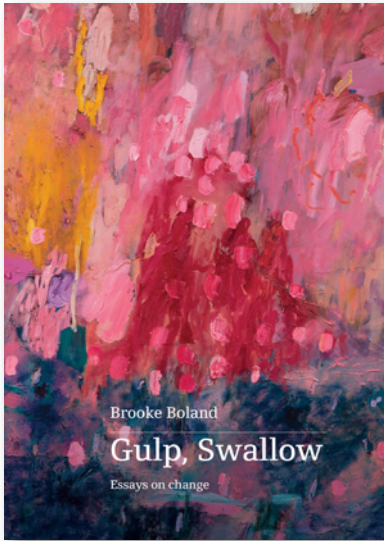
From award-winning journalist Nicole Hasham comes a captivating exploration of Australia's unique mountains.

Mountains are contested places, sites of colonial power, home to Indigenous stories and lightning rods for human drama. They are the point where the sky meets the Earth.

Mountains are also magnets for distinctive human characters. They attract those who seek power, adventure and riches, as well as those seeking a retreat, a spiritual connection and communion with nature. And on every mountain flank there exists a kaleidoscope of non-human life, in all its quiet genius, fragility and resilience.

The book tells the fascinating stories of nine Australian mountains, combining nature writing, travel writing, journalism, history, science and philosophy. By knowing mountains more intimately, Hasham suggests, we might find a renewed moral presence on the land, a sense of our true place in the natural order.

NICOLE HASHAM is a Walkley Award-winning journalist based in Canberra. She is the environment and energy editor at *The Conversation Australia* and former correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. Her work has also appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Monthly*, *Griffith Review* and *The Best Australian Science Writing*.



**NOVEMBER 2024
ESSAYS**

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 240pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Gulp, Swallow

Essays on Change

Brooke Boland

What happens when who you are is different to who you imagined you'd be?

When her son was three, Brooke Boland was diagnosed with depression. She went back to find where it all started – the panic attacks, the dissociation – in the early days of motherhood. When she found it difficult to read or write.

In this wide-ranging collection of essays Boland moves on from the person she was and writes to understand who she is now. She swims with sharks, falls in love with a rabbit, and watches her father fight for his life. She is a newcomer in a small regional town and a mother, but what else? She writes about family and friends, life and mortality, memory and forgetting, and along the way she finds her voice again.

This book is for anyone who has felt unmoored. It is about the unremarkable in-between, the way we try to build a home from nothing, the dirty dishes and the loads of washing. The uncertainty and the love. But written in sparkling prose with a sly and wry tone that is illuminating about the everyday as it pitches for a rich and fulfilled life.

BROOKE BOLAND lives and works on Yuin Country in regional NSW. She is a freelance writer interested in embodiment and identity and has a PhD in Contemporary Women's Writing from the University of NSW. She also works part-time as an arts journalist, writing profiles and reviews for various publications. Her essays have been published by *Meanjin*, *Overland*, and *The Sydney Review of Books*.



NOVEMBER 2024
LYRIC ESSAY

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 140pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Vessel

The Shape of Absent Bodies

Dani Netherclift

Who would think to call Ophelia a corpse?
She is but a woman emptied of herself.

When she was 18 years old, Dani Netherclift witnessed the drowning deaths of her father and brother in an irrigation channel in North-East Victoria. Or, she saw her father and brother disappear beneath an opaque surface and never saw these loved ones again. But also, never stopped imagining the shape of this bodily loss. Not viewing the bodies grows into a form of ambiguous loss that makes the world dangerous, making people seem liable to suddenly vanishing.

What would it have been like to have seen them, after the fact? To have looked upon their bodies. To picture the emptied vessels of her father and brother is to reach toward a sense of closure; a form of magical thinking in which goodbye is made possible. *Vessel* pulls together a language of space and ruin, interleaving stories of what it means to lose the physical body of a person you love with a bricolage of literature, history and (vessel) translations, and the realisation that all bodies become in the end bodies of text, beautifully written palimpsests—elegies—inked on the skins of the dead.

DANI NETHERCLIFT is a writer and poet living on unceded Taungurung lands in the Victoria High Country, surrounded by mountains. She is a PhD candidate in creative writing at Deakin University, researching the lyric essay and its intersections with white space, elegy and the body. She has been published widely and is the head poetry editor of *SWAMP* mag. *Vessel* is her first book.



Growing Up Indian in Australia

Aarti Betigeri (ed.)

Growing Up Indian in Australia features contributions from thirty Australian–Indian writers, both established and emerging, and hailing from diverse range of identities, religions and experiences. This anthology offers a meditation on culture, food, family and identity caught between two places, ultimately revealing deep truths about both Australian and Indian life.

AARTI BETIGERI is a Canberra-based writer and journalist. She is a former foreign correspondent, who spent almost a decade based in South Asia. She is a correspondent for *Monocle*, a columnist with the Lowy Institute's *The Interpreter*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Public Radio International* and others.

JULY 2024
ANTHOLOGY

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 288pp
Manuscript: October 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV



Growing Up Torres Strait Islander in Australia

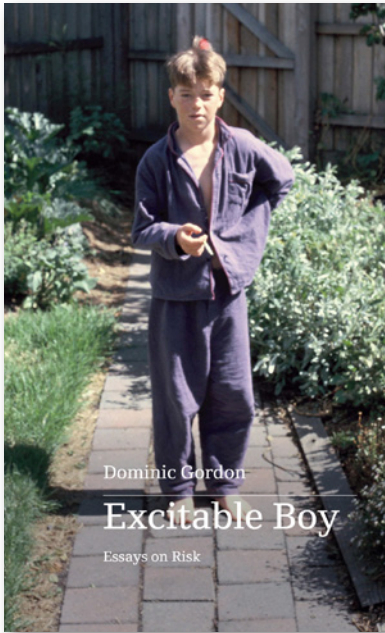
Samantha Faulkner (ed.)

This anthology offers up a rich and diverse celebration of family, identity and representation, unique to the Torres Strait and among First Nations Australians. It features established and emerging writers, including an excerpt from the memoir of Eddie Koiki Mabo, whose activism overturned the lie of terra nullius.

SAMANTHA FAULKNER is a Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal woman, from Badu and Moa Islands in the Torres Strait and the Yadhagana and Wuthathi peoples of Cape York Peninsula, Queensland. She is the proud author of *Life Blong Ali Drummond: A Life in the Torres Strait* and editor of *Pamle: Torres Strait Islanders in Canberra*. She is also Treasurer of First Nations Australia Writers Network and Us Mob Writing Group.

APRIL 2024
ANTHOLOGY

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 288pp
Manuscript: October 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV



Excitable Boy

Essays on Risk

Dominic Gordon, with an introduction by
Christos Tsiolkas

A wild ride through a disaffected youth by a gifted
writer

What happens to the adolescent spirit when all vestiges of innocence about the world are foregone, lost within the grinding sounds of concrete and metal of the CBD of Melbourne? For Dominic Gordon, train tunnels become nesting sites, carpark stairwells are spots to refuel on methamphetamine and hide from predators; agility leads him across nightclub rooftops, he slides unseen into elevators. For a rest, he rides on the back of a train as it speeds through the night. The dangers of his decades-long exploration of risk in the city streets is exhilarating.

In these original essays, Dominic explores his memories in tight prose bursting with insight, audacious ideas and dark humour.

DOMINIC GORDON is from Melbourne. His work has appeared in *Meanjin*, *The Suburban Review*, *Visible Ink* and other literary journals. In 2016 he created and produced a radio play that was broadcast on Radio National's *Soundproof* program, called *Cooked in the Big Smoke*. In 2018 Dominic was awarded a Berry Street Fellowship at the State Library of Victoria. *Excitable Boy: Essays on Risk* is his first book.

APRIL 2024
ESSAYS

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

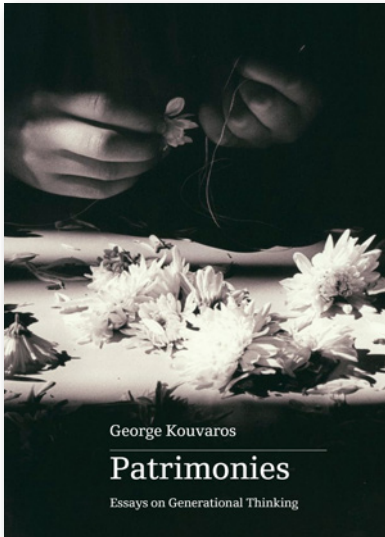
Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 224pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

'This book is a journey through space and through time, about a city and about a body, and the prose is hard, and the prose is sensual. It is also a book about lives lived in the underworld that doesn't have a hint of self-pity or sanctimony. Dominic Gordon takes writing seriously. He's an unsettling guide, but you can absolutely trust him.'

—Christos Tsiolkas, author of the international bestseller *The Slap*



JULY 2024
ESSAYS

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 144pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Patrimones

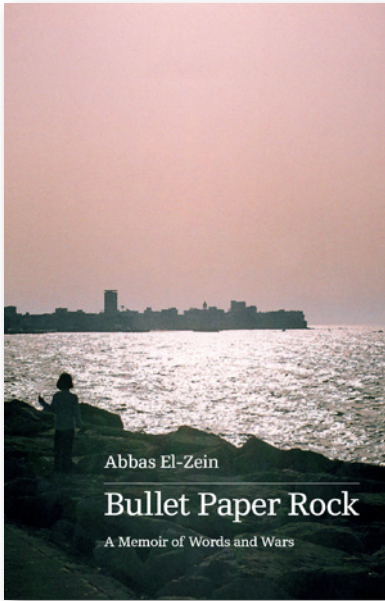
Essays on Generational Thinking

George Kouvaros

Is a patrimony something we inherit or something we create? Does it mark the continuation of the past or its ending?

Combining elements of criticism, cultural history and memoir, *Patrimones* models a practice of generational thinking that addresses the questions: How do we take from and give back to those who came before? How have their actions and choices left their mark on us? The instigation for these questions is an awareness of precariousness – people, places and histories on the brink. This is what gives George Kouvaros's essays their sense of occasion, and a responsibility to those who came before and those still to come. The result is a form of writing alert to the tension between survival and transformation, preservation and appropriation, that defines our engagements with forebears. Through this we hold onto traces of what cannot be known about the past.

GEORGE KOUVAROS is Professor of Film Studies at the University of New South Wales. His work examines how the interactions between different media influenced the nature of artistic experimentation in the post-war period. Recent writings deal with the relationship between photographic media and migration. He has also been published in leading journals such as *New German Critique and Screen* and conducted interviews with leading international filmmakers.



**APRIL 2024
MEMOIR**

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 224pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

ABBAS EL-ZEIN has written a novel, *Tell the Running Water*; a memoir, *Leave to Remain*, which won a NSW Premier's Literary Award; and a collection of short stories, *The Secret Maker of the World*. He lives in Sydney and teaches at the University of Sydney in environmental engineering. Abbas's writing has been published in *HEAT Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Age*, *Meanjin* and *Tank Magazine*.

Bullet, Paper, Rock

A Memoir of Words and Wars

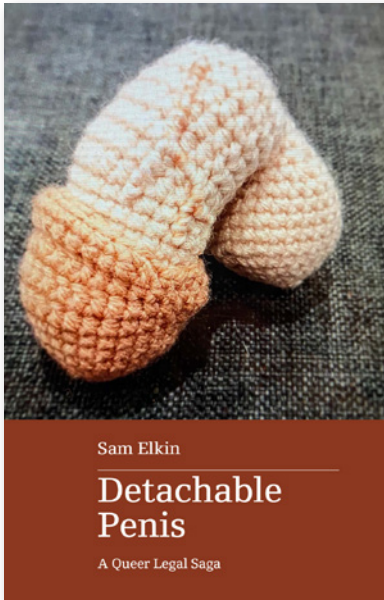
Abbas El-Zein

A story of survival, and a meditation on desire and loss, language and violence

In Abbas El-Zein's new memoir, conflicts abound – either tragic or amusing, sometimes both – between teachers and students, left- and right-wing factions, civilians and militiamen and, not least, French and Arabic, two languages vying for primacy in the post-colonial worlds of Beirut and the Levant, with English coming fast from behind.

By the time he graduated from high school, El-Zein had nearly drowned in the Mediterranean, survived the breakout of civil war and lived through the violent deaths of two close family members. He witnessed Syrian and Israeli soldiers invade his country and, from his bedroom balcony, saw the mushroom cloud of the explosion that killed hundreds of American and French marines. But while war and tragedy struck every now and then, everyday life continued unabated, rich with humour, serendipity and love of many kinds.

Bullet, Paper, Rock is at once a requiem for a Levantine past gone sour – from the innocent 1970s, through September 11 and its aftermath, to the cataclysms of the Arab Spring – and a tribute to women of his family – ‘weavers whose fabric of choice is hope, they were hard at work, at night as in daytime, carving out viable lives, ones in which they loved and were loved aplenty’.



Detachable Penis

A Queer Legal Saga

Sam Elkin

Set against the backdrop of a growing moral panic about the 'trans agenda', Sam Elkin reflects on the double-edged sword of visibility.

In Detachable Penis: A Queer Legal Saga, Elkin recounts his bumpy journey from lesbian to transgender lawyer in the aftermath of the 2017 marriage equality postal survey.

Elkin offers an honest, unflinching account of chest surgery, phalloplasty, the emotional impact of cross-sex hormones and the perils of airport body scanners. Undogmatic and refreshingly open-minded, Elkin explores his ambivalence about aspects of his own transition, masculinity and fears of lesbian erasure as he encounters a new world of gender-affirming psychologists, surgeons and speech pathologists.

Through an examination of Elkin's legal casework and law reform efforts, this book offers a kaleidoscopic view of LGBTIQ+ communities living on the margins. This politically sharp narrative offers a nuanced account of the lateral violence, poor mental health and activist burn out that besets the contemporary LGBTIQ+ rights movement.

Part love letter and part cautionary tale, *Detachable Penis: A Queer Legal Saga* offers a darkly humorous glimpse into Elkin's unique life in the law that will undoubtedly spark many prickly conversations.

APRIL 2024 MEMOIR

Imprint: Upswell

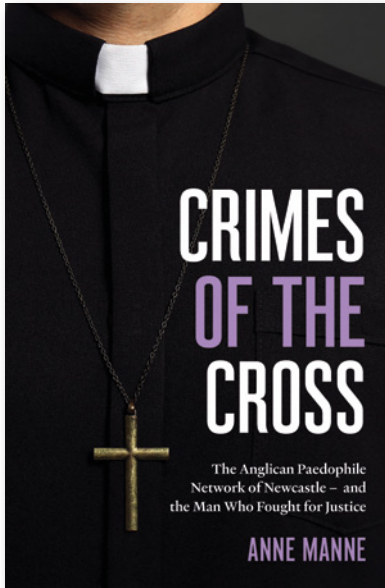
RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 224pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

SAM ELKIN is a writer, event producer and co-editor of *Nothing to Hide: Voices of Trans and Gender Diverse Australia*. Born in England and raised on Noongar land, Sam now lives on unceded Wurundjeri land. He hosts the 3RRR radio show *Queer View Mirror* and is a Tilde Film Festival board member. *Detachable Penis: A Queer Legal Saga* is his first book.



MARCH 2024

NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 320pp

Manuscript: October 2023

Rights held: World; film/TV

ANNE MANNE is an Australian writer, essayist and social philosopher. A former columnist for *The Australian* and *The Age*, she has written many essays about contemporary culture, especially for *The Monthly* magazine. Her books include *Motherhood*, *So This Is Life*, *The Life of I* and a Quarterly Essay, *Love and Money: The Family and the Free Market*.

Crimes of the Cross

The Anglican Paedophile Network of Newcastle
– and the Man Who Fought for Justice

Anne Manne

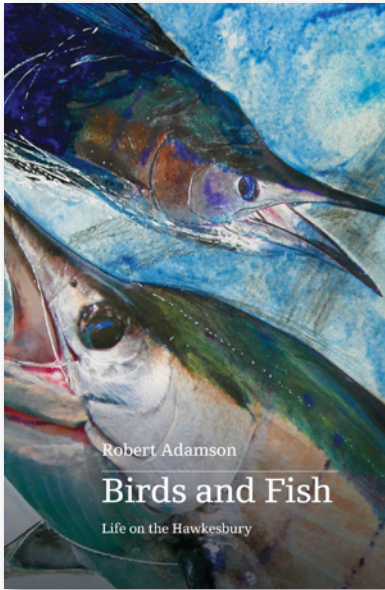
A searing expose of institutional child abuse, and the remarkable story of the survivors who would not be silenced.

For many years, Newcastle was the centre of an extensive paedophile network run by members of the Anglican church – and protected by parishioners and community members who looked the other way.

In this gripping book, Anne Manne reveals how this network was able to avoid detection for so long, and how its ringleaders were finally exposed and brought to justice. At the centre of the story is a survivor, Steve Smith, who endured years of childhood abuse but refused to be silenced.

Drawing on extensive research and interviews with survivors, clergy, police and others, Manne explores how the network operated and how it became entrenched in the upper echelons of Newcastle society. She offers deep insights into the minds and strategies of abusers and pays tribute to the victims and their tireless struggle for justice. Child sexual abuse has previously been thought of as an individual crime; Manne pioneers an examination of it as part of a network.

This is an unforgettable study of courage and faith in the face of unthinkable evil.



JANUARY 2024
MEMOIR

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 128pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

'He is as deft and resourceful a craftsman as exists, and his poems move with a clarity and ease I find unique.' —Robert Creeley

'Robert Adamson is one of Australia's national treasures.' —John Ashbery

Birds and Fish

Life on the Hawkesbury

Robert Adamson

The final collection from the award-winning 'poet of the Hawkesbury River'

In the old days I used to think art
That was purely imagined could fly higher
Than anything real. Now I feel a small fluttering
Bird in my own pulse, a connection to the sky.
—from *The Kingfisher's Soul*

In the last year of his life, with the help of friend and poet Devin Johnston, Robert Adamson put together a selection of his writings on the natural world. *Birds and Fish* defines the presences in his life on the Hawkesbury River and includes excerpts from his autobiography, *Inside Out*, as well as essays written over the years for *Fishing World*; some prose poems; and journal excerpts related to his bowerbird Spinoza. Adamson's prose is vivid, precise, and draws on his life on the river and his poetic sensibility. Includes selected black and white photographs by Adamson's partner Juno Gemes.

ROBERT ADAMSON (1942–2022) was born in Sydney and spent much of his teenage years in a home for juvenile offenders. He discovered poetry while educating himself in jail in his 20s. His first book, *Canticles on the Skin*, was published in 1970. He published numerous books and was widely awarded for his poetry and memoir. In 2011 he was awarded the Blake Poetry Prize and the Patrick White Award.



NOVEMBER 2023
MEMOIR

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 256pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World
Rights sold: France (Belfond); Film/TV
(Matchbox/SBS); Audio (Audible)

The Family Law (new edition)

Benjamin Law

Writer and columnist Benjamin Law revisits his joyous and much-loved family memoir, spilling the tea on his family's latest antics

The book that inspired the major SBS television series!

Meet the Law family – eccentric, endearing and hard to resist. Your guide is Benjamin, the third of five children and a born humourist. Join him as he tries to answer some puzzling questions. Why won't his Chinese dad wear made-in-China underpants? Why was most of his extended family deported in the 1980s? Will his childhood dreams of *Home and Away* stardom come to nothing? What are his chances of finding love?

In this updated edition with a new chapter, Benjamin Law fills us in on his family's antics from the past decade.

BENJAMIN LAW is the author of *The Family Law*, which he adapted for three seasons on SBS TV, *Gaysia*, and *Quarterly Essay: Moral Panic 101*. He is a columnist for *Good Weekend* magazine and a co-host of ABC Radio National's *Stop Everything*. Law has also written for over 50 publications internationally. He appeared on *Survivor: Heroes v Villains* in 2023.

PRAISE FOR THE FAMILY LAW

‘Benjamin Law manages to be scatological, hilarious and heartbreaking all at the same time. Every sentence fizzles like an exploding fireball of energy.’

—Alice Pung, author of *One Hundred Days*

‘A vivid, gorgeously garish, Technicolour portrait of a family. It’s impossible not to let oneself go along for the ride and emerge at the book’s end enlightened, touched, thrilling with laughter.’

—Marieke Hardy

‘The eccentric, clever and beautifully resonant *The Family Law*. It’s sharply written, brilliantly observed and infused with an authenticity that makes it compelling.’

—*Saturday Age*

‘Very funny ... you may find yourself at times almost barking with laughter’

—*The Monthly*

‘Law is a writer of great wit and warmth who combines apparently artless and effortless comedian’s patter with a high level of technical skill.’

—*Sydney Morning Herald*

‘Simultaneously weird and instantly recognisable, the Laws are an Australian family it’s well worth getting to know’

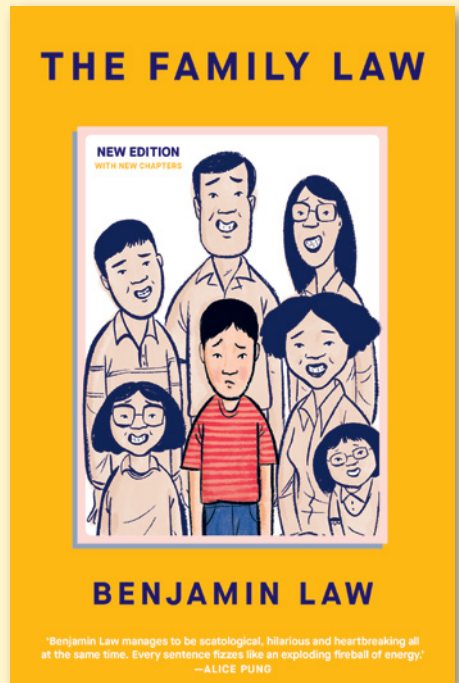
—*The Enthusiast*

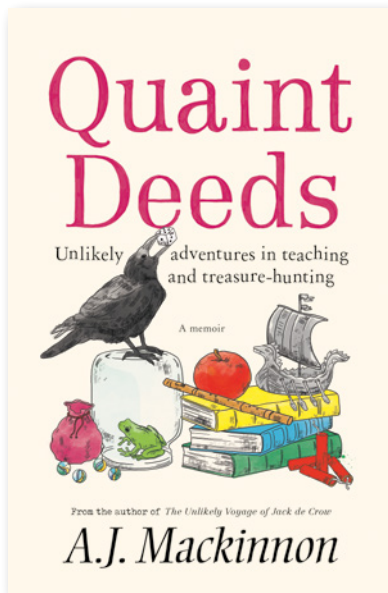
‘Wonderful. Everyone should run to their nearest bookshop and buy a copy.’

—*Defamer*

‘An addictive read.’

—*Courier-Mail*





NOVEMBER 2023
MEMOIR

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 336pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Quaint Deeds

Unlikely Adventures in Teaching and Treasure-hunting: A Memoir

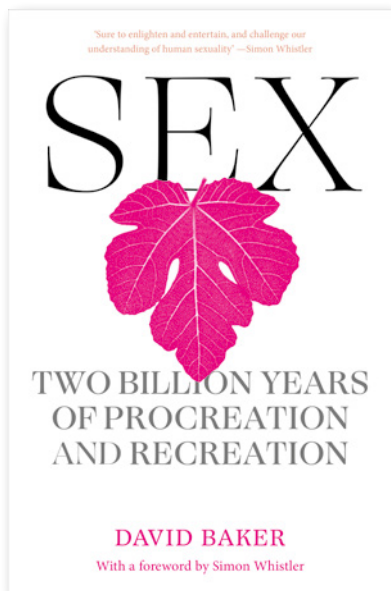
A.J. Mackinnon

From the bestselling author of *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, a hilarious and heart-warming memoir of teaching, treasure hunts and finding your own way in life.

A.J. ‘Sandy’ Mackinnon is best known to readers as a much-loved travel writer. But between eccentric voyages, he has for almost forty years taught at schools in Australia and the UK. In *Quaint Deeds* he brings his trademark wit and warmth to the classroom, recalling the ups, downs and unexpected detours of a teaching life. Along the way, he shares the lessons his students have taught him, often in the most unlikely moments – whether playing pranks, experimenting with home-made fireworks, or searching for buried treasure in the English countryside.

Uproarious and insightful in equal measure, *Quaint Deeds* is an irresistible ode to the magic and mystery of youth.

A.J. MACKINNON was born in Australia in 1963 and travelled as a boy on P&O liners between Australia and England, developing a love of slow travel. He started his teaching career in 1984 and has worked in various schools around the world, sharing his passion for English Literature, mathematics, drama, art and philosophy with countless students over the years. He now lives in the Victorian High Country of Australia, where he continues to love his teaching, his garden and various other creative projects. He is the author of the international bestseller *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow* and *The Well at the World’s End*.



**OCTOBER 2023
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 336pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: UK/Comm ex ANZ, Canada (Old Street); North America (The Experiment); Greece (Metaichmio); Spain (Antoni Bosch); Indian Subcontinent (Picador); Italy (Longenesi); film/TV (Smith&Nasht)

DAVID BAKER is a history and science writer for SimonWhistler.com who holds the world's first PhD in Big History. He has delivered award-winning lectures at Macquarie University and the University of Amsterdam, is a visiting lecturer at the University of Paris-Sorbonne, and wrote the YouTube series *Crash Course Big History*, hosted by John and Hank Green in partnership with the Gates Big History Project. He is also the author of *The Shortest History of the World*.

Sex

Two Billion Years of Procreation and Recreation

David Baker, with a foreword by Simon Whistler

The big history of sex from early life to sexbots

'I hope the reader of this book doesn't blush easily. They're in for a bit of a wild ride...'

How did sex begin? How did it evolve to be so varied and complex in humans? What influence does our genetic ancestry have on our love life today? And what might sex look like in the future?

Sex traces where all the facets of human sexuality came from, starting at the creation of sex approximately two billion years ago and chasing it down our evolutionary family tree – from dinosaurs to primates and the earliest humans – until we arrive at the present, revealing why humanity's baffling array of passions, impulses and fetishes are the way they are.

From the basic chemical process of two microbes sharing DNA to the modern phenomena of Tinder and OnlyFans, author David Baker guides the reader towards a clear understanding of one of the deepest and most abiding forces of human nature. He looks at how sex changed for humans across the foraging, agrarian and modern eras, and how we arrived at a period in history where the present nature of our sex lives has no historical or evolutionary precedent. Baker then looks at the horizon to figure out where current trends may lead us, as humans navigate the brave new world of technology.

The result is a revealing and utterly unique insight into history and human behaviour – and the dance between Nature and Nurture in society.

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a dark jacket and pants, is walking on a stone path. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The text is positioned in the lower half of the image, below a thin white horizontal line.

Forthcoming
in the Shortest
Histories series



The Shortest History of Egypt

Maria Golia

Long-time resident of Egypt **MARIA GOLIA** is the author of critically acclaimed non-fiction, including *Cairo: City of Sand*, *Photography and Egypt* and *A Short History of Tomb-Raiding*.

**JUNE 2026
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99

Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp

Manuscript: June 2025

Rights held: World; film/TV



The Shortest History of First Nations Australia

Larissa Behrendt

LARISSA BEHRENDT is Distinguished Professor at the University of Technology Sydney and the Director of Research at Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research. She is the host of *Speaking Out* on ABC Radio. She has published numerous textbooks on Indigenous legal issues. Her most recent novel is *After Story*. Larissa won the 2002 David Uniapon Award and a 2005 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her novel *Home*. Her second novel, *Legacy*, won a Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Larissa is an award-winning filmmaker, having written and directed several feature documentary films including *Araatika! Rise Up*, *Maralinga Tjarutka*, *After the Apology* and *Innocence Betrayed*.

**SEPTEMBER 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$27.99

Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 240pp

Manuscript: February 2025

Rights held: World; film/TV



The Shortest History of Turkey

Benjamin Fortna

BENJAMIN C. FORTNA is Professor and Director, School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona and formerly Professor of the History of the Middle East, SOAS, University of London. He has published numerous books on the Ottoman Empire, the early Turkish Republic and modern Turkey, and appeared on BBC programmes *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Empire*.

**SEPTEMBER 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp
Manuscript: September 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV



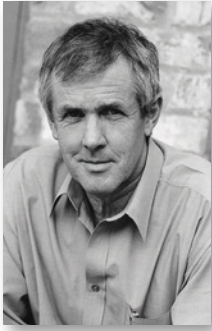
The Shortest History of Scandinavia

Mart Kuldkepp

MART KULDKEPP is Associate Professor of Scandinavian History and Politics at University College London. He has taught university-level courses in Scandinavian history, cultural history, and politics since 2010, which have covered the whole of Scandinavian history from ancient times up to this day. His current appointment is unique: he is the only academic in the UK explicitly focused on teaching and research in modern Scandinavian history.

**JULY 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp
Manuscript: March 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV



The Shortest History of the United States

Don Watson

DON WATSON is the author of many acclaimed books, including *Caledonia Australis*, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *American Journeys*, *The Bush*, *Watsonia* and *The Story of Australia*.

**JULY 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 288pp
Manuscript: February 2024
Rights held: World



The Shortest History of Portugal

Alison Roberts

ALISON ROBERTS has worked as a journalist, writer and translator for more than 30 years, having studied in Canada, the UK and India. After starting out as a local newspaper reporter in the UK, she worked for several years on financial topics for *Financial Times Magazine* (in London) and *Bloomberg News* (in Germany and Portugal) before turning freelance in order to branch out into other subjects. She has worked for a range of media such as BBC News in the UK, US and other countries – as well as editing and contributing to many guidebooks for UK and US publishers.

**APRIL 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp
Manuscript: April 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV



The Shortest History of Ancient Rome

Ross King

ROSS KING is a renowned expert in the Italian Renaissance. He is the author of numerous bestselling and acclaimed books including *The Bookseller of Florence*, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Machiavelli*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* and *Leonardo and the Last Supper*. He lives just outside Oxford.

**FEBRUARY 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.

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Manuscript: May 2024

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The Shortest History of Australia

Mark McKenna

MARK MCKENNA is one of Australia's leading historians, based at the University of Sydney. He is the author of several prize-winning books, including *From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories*, *Looking for Blackfellas' Point* and *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of Manning Clark*, which won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-Fiction and the Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australian premiers' awards. His most recent book is *Return to Uluru*.

**NOVEMBER 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: AU\$26.99

Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 240pp

Manuscript: May 2024

Rights held: World



The Shortest History of Music

Andrew Ford

ANDREW FORD is a composer, writer and broadcaster. For twelve years he was in the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong. He has written nine books and, since 1995, has presented *The Music Show* each weekend on Radio National.

**JULY 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp
Manuscript: February 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV



The Shortest History of Japan

Lesley Downer

LESLEY DOWNER is an author, journalist and historian. She has travelled all over the world and given lectures at the Japan Society, Asia House, the Royal Geographic Society, the British Museum and the Japan Society in New York. She is the historical consultant for Northern Ballet's spectacular 2020 ballet *Geisha* and she appears on *Age of the Samurai: Battle for Japan* (Netflix). She has written four novels, *The Shogun Quartet*, set in the glittering world of nineteenth century Japan. She has also written several works of non-fiction, including the immersive work of journalism *Geisha: The Remarkable Truth Behind the Fiction* and *The Brothers*, which was chosen as a *New York Times* 'Book of the Year'. She lives in London with her husband, the author Arthur I. Miller.

**JUNE 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$26.99
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Manuscript: Available
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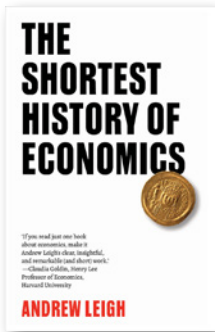
The Shortest History of Italy

Ross King

ROSS KING is a renowned expert in the Italian Renaissance. He is the author of numerous bestselling and acclaimed books including *The Bookseller of Florence*, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Machiavelli*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* and *Leonardo and the Last Supper*. He lives just outside Oxford.

**MARCH 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp
Manuscript: Available
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Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)



The Shortest History of Economics

Andrew Leigh

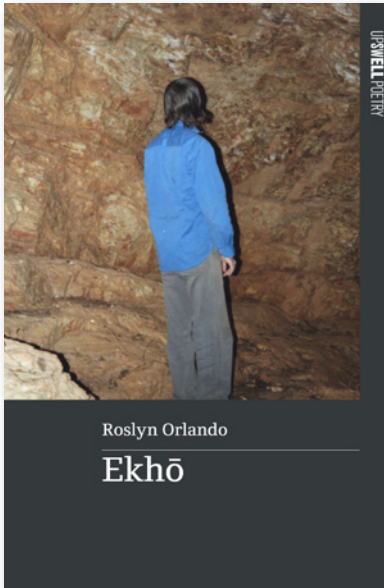
ANDREW LEIGH is Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Employment, and federal member for Fenner in the ACT. He holds a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard and is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. Andrew is also the author of several previous books, including *Randomistas: How Radical Researchers Are Changing Our World* and *Reconnected: A Community Builder's Handbook*.

**FEBRUARY 2024
HISTORY**

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(Alta Books)



Poetry



Ekho

Roslyn Orlando

Taking her lead from Canadian poet and prankster Anne Carson, Roslyn Orlando shines in her first book with its playful upturning of Greek mythology for our century.

Ekho is a poem in three parts. Through poetic narrative, this work considers the 'echo' as a social and historical phenomenon. From Echo, the nymph of Greek mythology whose voice was stolen by the gods, through to the advent of the Amazon Echo smart speaker, the echo has been described as a condition of voicelessness, unfulfilled desire, loss and entrapment. These poems reconsider echoing as a poetic practice, and as an orienting device that tunes the world into itself.

ROSLYN ORLANDO is an artist, writer and gardener based in Melbourne on Wurundjeri Country. Her writing and artistic works explore relationships between language, history and technology. She studied Journalism at the University of Sydney, and Arts Politics at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

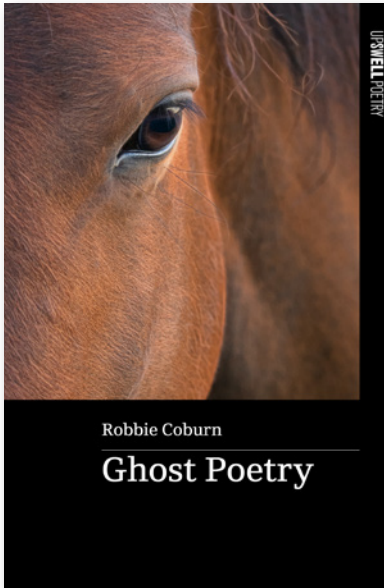
JANUARY 2024
POETRY

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$24.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 112pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV



JANUARY 2024
POETRY

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$24.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 96pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

Ghost Poetry

Robbie Coburn

*I saved the pieces of you
when you fell apart*

Robert Adamson wrote that Robbie Coburn's poems 'come from tough experiences, yet are created with a muscular craft that glows with alert intelligence'. Largely set within stark farmland and surreal, nightmarish dreams, Coburn's new collection of poems, *Ghost Poetry*, is haunted by depression, trauma, addiction, memory, regret, and the spectre of mutilation and violence inflicted on the human body, accompanied by the desire to leave.

But through this, there is always the process of the poet writing; an act that both dissects and preserves experience and suffering. This act ultimately creates, as Leonard Cohen wrote, an engine of survival.

Always vulnerable, often confronting and harrowing, *Ghost Poetry* is a beautifully crafted and important work that will scar the reader.

ROBBIE COBURN's books include *And I Could Not Have Hurt You*, *The Other Flesh* and *Rain Season*. His poems have been published in *Poetry*, *Meanjin*, *Island*, *Westerly*, and elsewhere, and anthologised in books including *Writing to the Wire* and *To End All Wars*. He is currently based in Melbourne.



Fat Chance

Journalism Poems

Kent MacCarter

With irony and absurdity dialled up to the sublime, you will be confronted by this feel-bad book of the year.

In *Fat Chance*, poet and publisher Kent MacCarter investigates variations on how non-fiction can be reported, taking an uncanny look into sole survivors of major airline crashes, a memoir approach at the surgical complication known as gossypiboma – where an instrument is left behind in a body cavity after surgery – a recount of marketing tactics for children’s toys and more.

Columns of justified prose lure you into the familiar channels of reporting facts; you could be mistaken for believing there is no poet or poetry here at all. Yet, the primary purpose of *Fat Chance* is not the transmission of information, and it thrives on contradiction. Contrary to the title’s colloquial meaning, it offers you ample possibility. Here, the journalistic and the poetic collide to liberate language from truth so you can wander in the wide, bountiful space between.

Emotion is denuded from the stories, forcing you to fill the void with your own suppositions and terrors ... rubbernecking at yourself on why you are uncomfortably allured.

JANUARY 2024
POETRY

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$24.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 128pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

KENT MACCARTER is a poet and publisher based in Castlemaine, Victoria. His publishing career began at University of Chicago Press in 2000; since then, he has worked with educational publishers and for the past twelve years been the managing editor of *Cordite Poetry Review*, and for eight years publisher of Cordite Books. His writing has been published widely and includes four poetry collections. Kent has been an active participant in writing and publishing communities for decades.



La Trobe
University Press



FEBRUARY 2025 BIOGRAPHY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press
RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 336pp

Manuscript: July 2024

Rights held: World; film/TV

LUCY SUSSEX is a New Zealand-born writer living in Australia. She has a PhD from the University of Wales and is an Honorary Fellow at La Trobe University.

MEGAN BROWN completed her doctorate at the University of Wollongong, examining aspects of the prolific writings of Mary Fortune. She has continued to research, publish and present papers about Fortune, including chapters in *The Routledge Companion to Australian Literature* and *The Unsocial Sociability of Women's Life Writing*.

The Outrageous Fortunes

The Adventures of Mary Fortune, Crime-writer, and her Criminal Son George

Lucy Sussex and Megan Brown

The extraordinary life story of one of the first female detective writers in the world

Mary Fortune (1832–1911) was very nearly lost to history but is now recognised as a major early crime writer, with her work reprinted, even published by the British Library. After emigrating to Australia in the 1850s, she was responsible for *The Detective's Album*, a police procedural serial which lasted 40 years, and was written convincingly in the persona of a male detective. She was also a pioneering female journalist. The lady wrote under a pseudonym for good reason: she had run away from her Canadian husband, had an illegitimate son on the goldfields, and made a bigamous marriage with a policeman.

Mary's son George grew up to be a career criminal, robbing banks and cracking safes. In the Fortune family, crime fiction meets true crime: she was accused of inspiring her son via her fiction, and she wrote about him.

Here is a woman very unconventional, a bohemian when that term could only apply to males without moral loathing. She innovated as a journalist and crime writer. Her literary reputation has grown, from complete invisibility to translations and reprints. Her life was extraordinary, confounding notions of Victorian femininity. What she could not write about openly as a woman, she expressed through her male persona.



SEPTEMBER 2024
HISTORY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press

RRP: AU\$36.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 368pp

Manuscript: March 2024

Rights held: World; film/TV

Bina

First Nations Languages Old and New

Gari Tudor-Smith, Paul Williams and Felicity Meakins

A guide to First Nations languages in Australia, their origins and future

Bina: First Nations Languages Old and New is a lively, enthralling guide, the perfect introduction to First Nations languages and dialects. From the aural nature of knowledge to the birth of new languages amidst the loss of original languages, the book explores the rich history and current state of Indigenous languages in Australia.

GARI TUDOR-SMITH, PAUL WILLIAMS, and FELICITY MEAKINS are linguists with the University of Queensland.



RELEASE DATE TBA
FOREIGN POLICY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press
RRP: AU\$32.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp

Manuscript: April 2024

Rights held: World; film/TV

How to Lose a Continent

Dr Elizabeth Buchanan

A riveting journey through Antarctic geopolitics. Will Australia lose its share of the icy continent?

How do you lose a continent? If Australia's lax attitude towards our 42% territorial claim in Antarctica continues, and our policies are not revised for the strategic competition underway at the South Pole, Canberra is destined to find out. This book is an argumentative narrative which traverses Antarctic geopolitics in an age of renewed great power rivalry and resource grabs. It is the book to read about the politics of Antarctica, present and future.

DR ELIZABETH BUCHANAN is a Lecturer in Strategic Studies at the Australian War College. She has academic articles published or forthcoming in *International Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs* and *The Australian Journal of International Affairs*. She has two books – *Red Arctic* with the Brookings Institution Press and *Russian Energy Strategy in the Asia-Pacific* with ANU Press. Dr Buchanan is co-director of Project 6633 at West Point Military Academy and Fellow of the Modern War Institute. Dr Buchanan is the 2021–2022 Australian Parliamentary Research Fellow, undertaking archival studies into Antarctic strategy. She publishes regularly with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Chatham House, Australian Strategic Policy Institute and NATO Defense College. Her strategic studies policy impact spans enduring linkages with NATO, US Department of Defense, Marine Corps University, and various think tanks.



**JULY 2024
BIOGRAPHY**

Imprint: La Trobe University Press
RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp

Manuscript: January 2024

Rights held: World; film/TV

Madame Brussels

A brothel keeper in nineteenth-century Melbourne

Barbara Minchinton

A major new biography of a Melbourne icon

Caroline Hodgson, the woman who created and performed the role of 'Madame Brussels the brothel keeper' is more than an amusing caricature from colourful days gone by; she represents much of what Melbourne was in the nineteenth century and what it became in the twentieth. Born in Prussia, she arrived in Melbourne on the ship *Melmerby* in 1871. Her police-officer husband was sent to work remotely, leaving his young wife alone in Melbourne. By the end of 1874, the brilliantly entrepreneurial Caroline, using the name 'Madame Brussels', was running a number of brothels. Her principal establishment, within a stone's throw of Parliament House, was lavishly furnished and catered to Melbourne's ruling classes. Caroline rode the zeitgeist of Melbourne's boom in the 1880s, weathered the storm of the depression years in the 1890s, and suffered from the outburst of moral panic in the 1900s. Her death in 1908 signified the end of one kind of Melbourne and the beginning of another: in terms of prostitution the city went from tolerance to complete prohibition in her lifetime.

BARBARA MINCHINTON is a historian and independent researcher. For several years she collaborated with a team of archaeologists on the interpretation of artefacts from Melbourne's Little Lon district. She is the co-editor of *The Commonwealth Block, Melbourne*, a historical archaeology of the city's working-class and immigrant communities, and the author of *The Women of Little Lon* which won the History Publication Prize at the Victorian Community History Awards 2022.



APRIL 2024
FOREIGN POLICY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press
RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp
Manuscript: October 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV

Girt by Sea

Re-Imagining Australia's Security

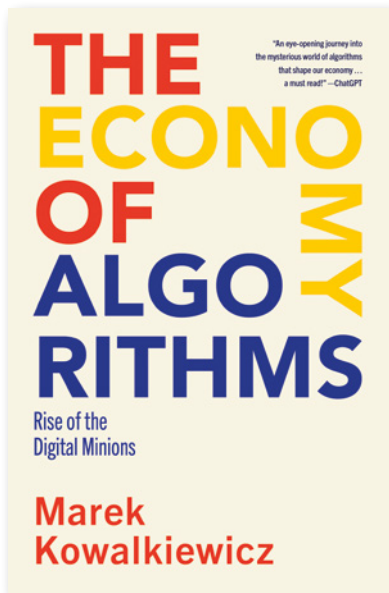
Rebecca Strating and Joanne Wallis

A clear-eyed examination of how Australia should approach the complex security challenges at play in its maritime domain

This book reimagines how Australia should understand its strategic challenges and pursue its security, focusing on the six key maritime domains central to Australia's national interests: North Seas (Timor, Arafura and Coral Seas and Torres Strait), the Western Pacific, South China Sea, the South Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the Southern Ocean. By so doing, it expands Australia's strategic imagination by drawing its gaze back from its distant horizons to interrogate and foreground the nature and extent of the security threats it faces across these crucial domains.

REBECCA STRATING is the Director of La Trobe Asia and an Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on Australian foreign policy and maritime disputes in the Indo-Pacific. In 2019, Dr Strating was awarded an Asian Studies visiting fellowship to the East-West Center in Washington D.C. In 2018, Dr Strating was awarded the Boyer Prize for best article published in *The Australian Journal of International Affairs* in 2017.

JOANNE WALLIS is Professor of International Security in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Adelaide. She is the author or editor of seven books, and is the chief investigator on two Australian Research Council Discovery projects that analyse Australian interventions in the Pacific Islands and the operation of the Australia-New Zealand alliance.



MARCH 2024
TECHNOLOGY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press
RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV
Rights sold: China (Hangzhou Blue Lion Cultural & Creative Co.); Taiwan (Flaneur Co.); Indian Subcontinent (Simon & Schuster India)

MAREK KOWALKIEWICZ is founding director of the Queensland University of Technology Research Centre for the Digital Economy. He joined QUT from Silicon Valley, where he led innovation teams for one of the largest enterprise software vendors in the world. In 2023, Thinkers360 included him in its list of the Top 100 Global Thought Leaders in Artificial Intelligence.

The Economy of Algorithms

Rise of the Digital Minions

Marek Kowalkiewicz

An insider's guide to the invisible new economy that is reshaping our lives

Welcome to the economy of algorithms. It's here and it's growing.

In the past few years, we have been flooded with examples of impressive technology. Algorithms have been around for hundreds of years, but they have only recently begun to 'escape' our understanding. When algorithms perform certain tasks, they're not just as good as us, they're becoming infinitely better, and, at the same time, massively more surprising. We are so impressed by what they can do that we give them a lot of agency. But because they are so hard to comprehend, this leads to all kinds of unintended consequences.

In the twentieth century, things were simple: we had the economy of corporations. In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, we saw the emergence of the economy of people, otherwise known as the digital economy, enabled by the internet. Now we're seeing a new economy take shape: the economy of algorithms.

How do you advertise to a fridge? Can an algorithm take your job? Do algorithms dream of electric sheep? These questions and more are answered by this exciting and ground-breaking book, which includes nine rules for flourishing in the new economy of algorithms.

PRAISE FOR THE ECONOMY OF ALGORITHMS

‘Professor Kowalkiewicz’s book is an eye opener about how ubiquitous digital helpers and algorithms have become in our daily lives. This book is right on time for us to understand more of the good, the bad and the ugly of algorithms.’

—Mario Herger, technology trend researcher and author of *Gamification at Work*

‘Professor Kowalkiewicz has written a fantastic and timely book on the opportunities and risks of algorithms in our lives. In simple and often humorous ways, he connects the dots on a topic that is deserving of much greater attention. Software-based automation is playing a greater role today than many of us realise, and its ability to both positively augment and negatively disrupt our lives is starkly laid out. The book is full of great examples and stories that remove much of the complexity and make the reading fun and insightful from start to finish. It concludes with a series of much needed recommendations that, despite all the challenges he identifies throughout the book, provides guidance on how we can all learn to live and prosper with our digital minions.’

—Dr Jonathan Reichenal, founder and CEO of Human Future and author of *Smart Cities for Dummies*

‘Professor Kowalkiewicz has written a very accessible book for anyone interested in the long-term opportunities for businesses, individuals and society as technology penetrates ever more corners of the economy and our lives. His global examples of the application of software to solve novel problems are enlightening, informative and encouraging.’

—Simon Dale, Vice-President, Adobe

‘AI appears to be eating the world. How then to understand where this is taking us, both the promises and the threats? This book is

for you. A down to earth tour that will help you understand how the algorithms are increasingly taking on human roles.’

—Toby Walsh, Chief Scientist at the UNSW AI Institute and author of *Machines Behaving Badly*

‘A damn-well written book... Marek provides a very thrilling, entertaining whirlwind tour of the different AI algorithms and examples of their industry applications, including the implications they have on everyone’s everyday life and the overall workforce. This is the book I will, from now on, recommend to anyone who wants to understand the implications that a new generation of AI-powered algorithms will have on the human society, and how to best work together with them – from my children, to laypeople, to the data scientists in the field of manufacturing intelligence.’

—Tobias Lange, Senior Vice-President, Siemens Digital Industries Software

‘AI and algorithms are reshaping our world at an unprecedented pace, with buzzwords like neural networks, deep learning and transformers dominating the headlines. But what significance do these terms hold for you? Professor Kowalkiewicz’s eagerly awaited book provides clear and accessible answers to this question.’

—Chong Wang, AI Research Scientist, Apple Inc.

‘Through an entertaining collection of stories and lessons, Kowalkiewicz deftly charts the so-called “march of the algorithms” and how they have come to dominate so much of our world and decision making. Whether you’re trying to minimise the impact of algorithms or leverage their opportunity, this is an optimistic guide to tilting our modern economy of algorithms toward opportunity instead of disaster.’

—Rohit Bhargava, author of *Non-Obvious Megatrends*

Overseas Co-Agents

Arab region

Mohammed Abdullah
Kalemat Agency
Said Bin Zaid, Building No. 6113
Secondary No. 2678 Qurtubah Dist.
12348 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Rights@Kalemat-agency.com

Brazil

João Paulo Riff & Laura Riff
Agência Riff
Avenida Calógeras n° 6, sl 1007
20030-070 - Centro
Rio de Janeiro, RJ Brasil
+55 21 2287-6299
joaopaulo@agenciariff.com.br
laura@agenciariff.com.br
www.agenciariff.com.br

Czech Republic & Slovak Republic

Kristin Olson & Tereza Krobotova
Kristin Olson Literary Agency
Klímentská 24, 110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
+420 222 582 042
kristin.olson@litag.cz
tereza.krobotova@litag.cz
<http://litag.cz>

France

Eliane Benisti
Eliane Benisti Agency
80 Rue des Saints-Pères
75007 Paris, France
+33 1 42 22 85 33
eliane@elianebenisti.com
<http://agenceelianebenisti.com/>

Germany

Christian Dittus
Paul & Peter Fritz AG
Neptunstrasse 20
8032 Zurich, Switzerland
+41 44 388 41 48
cdittus@fritzagency.com
www.fritzagency.com

Greece

Evangelia Avloniti & Avgi Daferera
Ersilia Literary Agency
Aktaiou 38-40
118 51 Athens, Greece
+30 693 8454 332
eavloniti@ersilialit.com
childrensbooks@ersilialit.com
<http://ersilialit.com/cms>

Hungary

Margit Gruber
DS Budapest, Budapest
Bartók Béla út 79. fsz. 2
H-1115, Hungary
+36 1 4560363
margit@dsbudapest.hu

Iran

Majid Jafari
POL Literary Agency
polliteraryagency@gmail.com
<http://www.pol-ir.ir>

Israel

Sharon Galant & Thomasin Chinnery
Zeitgeist Agency
75 Rue E. Van Driessche
1050 Brussels, Belgium
+32 479 262 843
sharon@zeitgeistagency.com
thomasin@zeitgeistagency.com
<https://www.zeitgeistagency.com/>

Italy

Beatrice Beraldo
The Italian Literary Agency
Via De Amicis, 53
20123 Milano, Italy
+39 02 86 54 45
beatrice.beraldo@italianliterary.com
<http://www.italianliterary.com>

Japan

Fumika Ogihara
Tuttle-Mori Agency
Kanda Jimbocho Bldg., 4F,
2-17 Kanda Jimbocho,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051
Japan
+81(0)3 3230 4083
fumika-ogihara@tuttlemori.com
<http://www.tuttlemori.com>

Korea

Duran Kim
Duran Kim Agency
2F Taeyang Building
263 Hyoryeong-ro, Seocho-gu
Seoul 06653, Korea
+82-2-583-5724
dukan@durankim.com
<http://cafe.daum.net/durankim>

Mainland China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand & Vietnam

Zoe Tso
Big Apple Agency
3F, No. 838, Zhong Shan Bei Road
Zha-Bei District
Shanghai 200070
PR China
+86-0-21-6658-0055
Zoe-tso@bigapple1-china.com
www.bigapple1.info

Netherlands & Scandinavia

Monique Oosterhof
Mo Literary Services
Zwaluwtong 41
1141 KN Monnickendam
The Netherlands
+31 20 632 58 10
mo@moliterary.nl
www.moliterary.nl

Poland

Paulina Machnik
Graal Literary Agency
Pruszkowska 29/252
02-119 Warszawa
Poland
+48 609 626 243
paulina.machnik@graal.com.pl
graalagency.com

Russia, the Ukraine & Georgia

Anastasya Markova
Synopsis Literary Agency
Office 404
Leninsky prospect 111, bld.1
Moscow 119421
Russia
+7 (095) 781 0183/82
ay@synopsis-agency.ru

Spain & Portugal

Jennifer Brooke Hoge
International Editors' Co
Calle Còrsega 288,
1º 2º, 08008
Barcelona, Spain
+34 93 215 88 12
jennifer.hoge@internationaleeditors.com
<http://www.internationaleeditors.com>

Turkey

Filiz Karaman
Nurcihan Kesim Literary Agency
Dumankaya Vizyon
Esentepe Mah. Milangaz Cad. No. 77
A1 Blok Kat 23 D. 128
Kartal-Istanbul
Turkey
+90 212 5269130
filiz@nurcihankesim.net

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22-24 Northumberland Street
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia
P +61 3 9486 0288
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Sophy Williams
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