

# ARCHIVES OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON LGBTQ ACTIVISM AND CULTURE

ORIENTATION RESOURCES

Various source media. Archives of Sexuality and Gender: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture



The purpose of this guide is to help you navigate the *Archives of Sexuality and Gender: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* and offer some research ideas to get you started. This guide is neither definitive nor comprehensive; if you do not have a particular topic or subject in mind, exploration and browsing is encouraged. If you have a specific research goal, 'Basic Search' and 'Advanced Search' are good starting points. This guide will cover finding and filtering material as well as explore some key topics covered by the archive.

The *Archives of Sexuality & Gender: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* examines diversity in underrepresented areas of the world such as southern Africa and Australia, highlighting cultural and social histories, struggles for rights and freedoms, explorations of sexuality, and organizations and key figures in LGBTQ history; it ensures LGBTQ stories and experiences are preserved. Among diverse and historical 20<sup>th</sup> century collections, materials include:

- the Papers of Simon Nkoli, a prominent South African anti-apartheid, gay and lesbian rights, and HIV/AIDS activist
- *Exit* newspaper (formerly *Link/Skakel*), South Africa's longest running monthly LGBTQ publication
- Geographic Files, also known as "Lesbians in..." with coverage from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe
- the largest available collection of digitized Australian LGBTQ periodicals

## DISCLAIMER

People tend to have very specific reactions and attitudes toward sex and sexuality based on the social and cultural attitudes with which they were raised. These attitudes differ all around the world due to a variety of factors (gender, education, religion, social norms) and are prone to change over time. Throughout *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* you will find language and terminology you might consider offensive. You will also find images that may be graphic or pornographic. It is easy to dismiss certain materials as vulgar or offensive. It is harder to think objectively about them in the context of the time period and society in which they were created.

Questions you might consider include:

- What do you find offensive or objectionable about a particular text or subject? Why?
- How does a particular text, image, or collection help describe a society or culture?

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is aimed at students and researchers who are using Gale Primary Source Archives for the first time. It will take you through the different stages of using a digital archive.

If you are unfamiliar with researching in a digital archive it is worth reading the guide through from start to finish.

If you have some experience working with digital archives and are looking for guidance on *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* specifically, head straight to the KEY TOPICS section. There you will find information on some of the main themes addressed by the collections in this archive. There are also some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help start your research.

If you are looking for examples of research conducted in this digital archive, the final section CASE STUDIES, will provide you with this. This section draws upon documents found in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* to show you how to use digital primary sources for research and teaching. Again, there are some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research.

## BROWSING THE COLLECTION

Why 'Browse'? One of the joys of working with archival material, whether digitally or in the archive itself, is coming across the unexpected. Browsing through a collection, as opposed to searching by keyword, will allow you to find source material that may not come up via keyword search. Browsing will also give you a better broader understanding of the topic or era you are researching and will ensure you have a good grasp of the context in which your key sources were created. It will not only deepen your thinking on a topic but may introduce ideas, perspectives, and questions you had not previously considered. Browse away! You never know what you will find.

## LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

In this section, you will identify the language and words that will produce useful results when you are using the search function in a digital archive. Bear in mind the archive includes materials in 15 languages, so you have a variety of options for searching. You will find materials in:

English	Hebrew	Chinese
German	Afrikaans	Danish
Spanish	Portuguese	Finnish
Dutch	Italian	Slovene
French	Catalan	Swedish

Think carefully about the words and phrases you choose to conduct your search. If you are unfamiliar with the spelling of a particular word, try typing in the search bar to see suggested search terms.

## BASIC SEARCH AND FILTERING

In this section, you will perform a basic search using keywords in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*. It will also cover how to filter your results, and the steps needed to find a useful and comprehensive set of sources tailored to your research questions.

When you enter a search term it will be used to scan both the content of the sources and the tags that have been applied to said sources. In *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*, your search is being applied across the 28 collections in the archive.

Let us start with a discriminatory policy in effect in South Africa from the mid- to late-twentieth century: Apartheid. To provide a little background, let's look at a description of the policy from Encyclopaedia Britannica:

The Apartheid (Afrikaans for "apartness") policy that governed relations between South Africa's white minority and non-white majority sanctioned racial segregation and political and economic discrimination against non-whites. The implementation of apartheid, often called "separate development" since the 1960s, was made possible through the Population Registration Act of 1950, which classified all South Africans as either Bantu (all Black Africans), Coloured (those of mixed race), or white. A fourth category—Asian (Indian and Pakistani)—was later added.

In addition to being a repressive policy against non-whites in South Africa, it is interesting to discover how Apartheid impacted people in the LGBTQ community.

- Search your key term "Apartheid" in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*. You will receive results from 412 manuscripts, more than 1,000 newspapers and periodicals, and 5 photograph collections.
- Filter your results. Using the filter buttons on the right of your results list you can refine your list. You can use these filters to help ensure the source material you are using relates directly to your research question. For example, you might want to learn more about how Nelson Mandela viewed the role of LGBTQ people and organizations within the Anti-Apartheid movement. Use Search Within to find references to Nelson Mandela.

- Assess your results. It is important to remember throughout that these searches are the starting point of your research and as such will provide you with a very broad range of documents. Once you have filtered your results you will still need to analyse them to assess their relevance to your topic. In our examination of Apartheid and Nelson Mandela, for example, you will want to read through some of the works you have found. Let us examine one of the results from our list, in this case the [California, San Francisco](#) folder from the Geographic Files of the Lesbian Herstory Archives. California, San Francisco. November 21, 1973-June 24, 2000. MS Geographic Files ("Lesbians in...") from the Lesbian Herstory Archives.
- Search Term Hits and hit term highlighting can help you quickly locate relevant passages; in the case of our pamphlet, page 371 mentions our search term. If you don't see your search term indicated, you may need to use 'Search Within Document' to find the specific reference(s) to your subject. In this case, we are looking at an article from the April 4, 1990 issue of Out Week titled *Mandela Answers Gay Lib Question – Simon Nkoli Responds*.
- Iterate on your search. As you become more familiar with your topic you may also need to go back to your earlier searches and re-assess material you previously discounted. You may also need to undertake new searches using terms you have learned during your research process. For example, having looked at the article *Mandela Answers Gay Lib Question*, we will have learned about Mandela's stance on lesbian and gay organizations that fought for his release from prison and their place in a new South Africa. Mandela noted that "...we will leave no stone unturned in our effort to unite the oppressed people of our country" and "I will personally see to it that the rights of all people shall be discussed." Anti-Apartheid and gay rights activist Simon Nkoli's response was that Mandela's remarks were "...absolutely great, great news...We can quote what he said about no stone unturned." He went on to acknowledge the answer was "...a little bit indirect, not really to the issue, but certainly not to our disadvantage." You may want to expand your research to examine the role of the South African gay rights movement and Simon Nkoli within the Anti-Apartheid movement.

## ADVANCED SEARCH

The 'Advanced Search' function allows users to refine their search for multiple terms and apply the filtering process at the beginning of your search. This can be useful for when you have a very specific research question or in the latter stages of your research project when you have a more defined idea of the source material you are looking for.



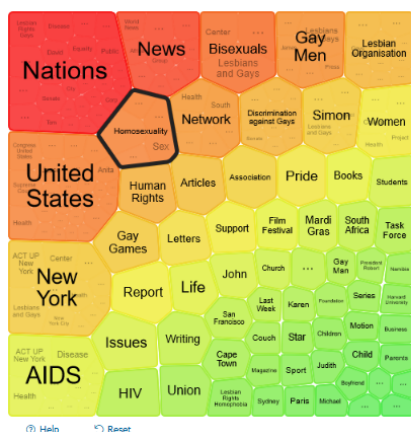
## TOPIC FINDER

Topic Finder provides you with a way to use topics or keywords to discover connections throughout the archive. This tool takes the titles, subjects, and approximately the first 100 words from a subset of your top results and feeds them into an algorithm. Keywords shown in the graphics are those found most often in the text with your search term. Use the Topic Finder as a tool for exploration.

In this example, we have performed a basic search using the term “homophobia”, received results, and then clicked on Start the Topic Finder to view the topic heat map.

There are two ways to visualize below which words and subjects are found most often in the text of your search results.

Visualization:  Tiles  Wheel



### RESULTS

Clicking on a topic wheel or tile narrows your original search results to the documents also containing that subject or term.

RESULTS FOR TOPIC: **HOMOSEXUALITY** (15)

#### International News

INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL NEWS French Senator out paris France French Senator Bertrand Delanoë a Paris Socialist came out of the closet on a televised program last week Im a homosexual Delanoë...

#### News

News News Muslim pupils warned of Homosexuality in textbook PUPILS at some Islamic schools in Britain are warned in a school textbook that punishment for engaging in homosexual acts is death by stoning burning...

[Discrimination against gays] [Homosexuality] [Lesbians] [Parades]

#### News

SHOCK TREATMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN GAYS The psychiatrist accused of using electric shocks to reprogramme gay soldiers has bitten back claiming he only used drugs and a batteryoperated device on his patients...

[Homosexuality]

#### International News

Kmim GERMANY Government says it will rescind convictions for Homosexuality From 1949 to 1969 under a law inherited from the Nazi regime about 50 000 men in West Germany were convicted of Homosexuality Many...

Within Topic Finder, you can select individual tiles; some will have subtopics. Your filtered results will appear on the right side of the screen.

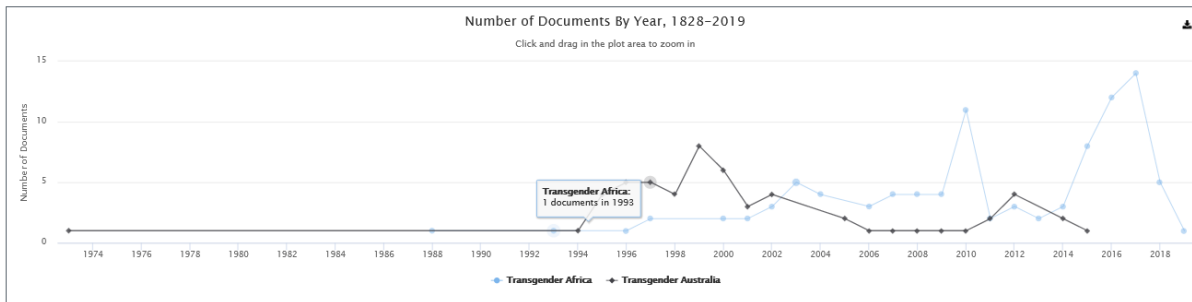
## TERM FREQUENCY

Term Frequency allows you to view search results over time. You can compare multiple words or phrases. Clicking on a point on the graph will take you to results for that particular year. You can also click and drag on the graph to select a time period to zoom in on. In the example below, we look at usage of the words “Transgender Africa” and “Transgender Australia”. This helps us find historical references to the terms across the archive. Term Frequency is another useful tool for exploration.

Enter words or phrases to graph their occurrence against the narrowed search results.  Frequency  Popularity

Term:

Search Terms: LIMITS:Source Library: "Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives" Or "Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA)" Or "Lesbian Herstory Archives" AND Archive: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture [Back to Search Results](#)



## KEY TOPICS

All of the collections in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* are unique in that they are variously ephemeral, rare, never before digitized, or in the case of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives periodicals collection, never presented digitally in such a substantial and comprehensive collection. The GALA materials preserve and present the rich community history of LGBTQ people in southern Africa. The collections from the Lesbian Herstory Archives bear witness to the organizations that fought for equal rights for women everywhere, and document the development of global Lesbian cultural identities.

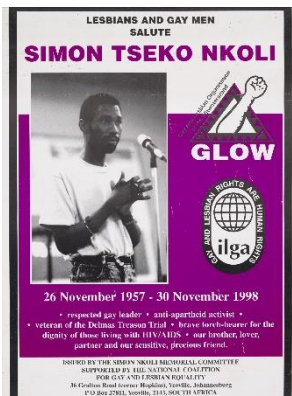
*International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* was created to provide more awareness of marginalized LGBTQ groups, including those outside North America and Europe. Specifically, it focuses on history and narratives that often do not show up in gender and sexuality studies. The archive highlights diversity and inclusivity in areas of the world like southern Africa and Australia, documenting culture and social history, providing material about struggles for equality, rights, freedoms, and explorations of sexuality, and presenting records and papers of organizations and figures in LGBTQ history. This is an archive that provides something beyond just a Western world point of view.

This section will introduce you to some sample subject areas covered by *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*. Bear in mind this list is by no means definitive; KEY TOPICS offers you a starting point for your research.

These subject areas were chosen because they relate directly to the documents that make up *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*, as well as reflecting historiographical debates and key teaching areas. There are also questions designed to help guide your research into these topics in the archive. You

will also find lists of further useful search terms which will assist you in broadening your knowledge of these subjects. These terms have already been tested via the archive's search function, so should provide you with helpful results.

## Activism



The LGBT rights and freedoms that are enjoyed by many today owe a debt of gratitude to the activists and reformers who had the courage to speak up and speak out about social injustices against LGBT people. Harvey Milk, an American politician and the first openly gay elected official in the history of California, where he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, is an activist of particular note found in the archives. During Milk's brief time in office as a city supervisor, he was able to sponsor a bill banning discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

Milk was assassinated in 1978.

You will find many activists and activist organizations in the archive. One person you may want to get to know better is Simon Nkoli, a prominent South African anti-apartheid, gay and lesbian rights and HIV/ AIDS activist. You will find the [Simon Nkoli Collection](#) from GALA in the archive. Nkoli helped in the campaigns to retain the inclusion of the protection from discrimination in the Bill of Rights in the 1994 South African constitution, and for the May 1998 repeal of the South African sodomy laws. Nkoli also helped establish Soweto's Township AIDS Project (TAP) in 1990, and after becoming one of the first publicly HIV-positive African gay men, he initiated the Positive African Men group based in central Johannesburg.

During the 1970s, the gay rights movement began in Australia. An interesting fact is that Australia did not legalize same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults until 1994 (1997 in Tasmania). You can read about the struggle for gay rights in Australia in a variety of 1970s political titles, including *Homosexual Law Reform Society of the A.C.T. Newsletter*, *Daughters of Bilitis Newsletter*, a variety of *CAMP* periodicals, *Society Five Newsletter*, and *Gay Liberation Press*. The articles in the periodicals allow you to trace activist history and events around Australia and follow the progress of the movement through the years until equality was achieved.

For lesbian activism, turn to the Lesbian Herstory Archives Organization Files. You will find Lesbian Feminist Liberation, National Association of Social Workers Task Force on Gay Issues, Movimiento de

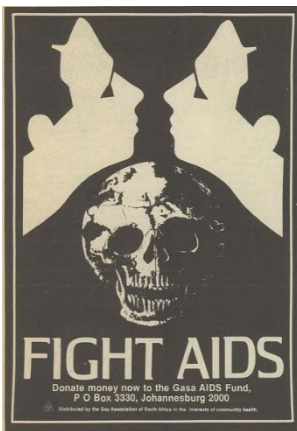


Liberación Homosexual, and Vulva Riot, among others. The Organization Files offer many groups that supported and continue to support lesbian rights around the world.

- What were some of the causes LGBT activists and organizations were fighting for?
- In what ways did the LGBT activists and organizations go about fighting for LGBT rights?
- What parallels can you draw between the struggle against Apartheid and the fight for gay rights in South Africa?

Useful search terms: activism, anti-discrimination, discrimination, equality, gay rights, LGBT rights, protest, sodomy laws

## AIDS/HIV



The following is the definition of HIV and AIDS according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

*HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks cells that help the body fight infection, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases. It is spread by contact with certain bodily fluids of a person with HIV, most commonly during unprotected sex (sex without a condom or HIV medicine to prevent or treat HIV), or through sharing injection drug equipment. If left untreated, HIV can lead to the disease*

*AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).*

The AIDS crisis is a viral epidemic that has challenged global health resources and spurred governments and societies to coordinate and respond. During the first years of the crisis, AIDS was pejoratively referred to as a “gay man’s disease” as sensationalistic journalism focused on the epidemic as it swept through the gay community. Homophobia caused gay men to be singled out for abuse as they were seen to be primarily responsible for transmission of the disease. It was a few years into the crisis before it was discovered that AIDS could also be transmitted via heterosexual sex.

According to Avert, an organization working to ensure widespread knowledge and understanding of HIV and AIDS, in order to reduce infections and improve the lives of those affected, we have the following early history of AIDS:

## Pre-1980

It is widely believed that [HIV originated in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo around 1920 when HIV crossed species from chimpanzees to humans.](#) Up until the 1980s, we do not know how many people were infected with HIV or developed AIDS. HIV was unknown and transmission was not accompanied by noticeable signs or symptoms.

While sporadic cases of AIDS were documented prior to 1970, available data suggests that the current epidemic started in the mid- to late 1970s. By 1980, HIV may have already spread to five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Australia). In this period, between 100,000 and 300,000 people could have already been infected.<sup>1</sup>

By the 1980s, AIDS/HIV had become a globally significant viral epidemic. The disease remains with us today, but we are working to bring the epidemic under control through knowledge of how it is transmitted, ongoing research, and organizations established to educate and help prevent the spread of the disease.

Within *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*, you will find extensive documentation on the AIDS crisis and responses from the LGBT community. Coverage of AIDS is pervasive throughout LGBT periodicals and numerous organizations were established to support those who were afflicted and to educate society. The archive offers the opportunity to learn how AIDS impacted life around the world, but especially in Southern Africa and Australia.

- What organizations were established to help control the spread of AIDS and educate the LGBT community?
- In what ways did the LGBT community help spread awareness and understanding of AIDS?
- How was the AIDS crisis portrayed in the mainstream media as opposed to in LGBT media? Note: it may be helpful to do some searches in newspaper archives for the mainstream perspective.

Useful search terms: AIDS, AIDS crisis, AIDS education, AIDS prevention, AIDS research, AIDS treatment, disease, epidemic, HIV, virus

References:

What are HIV and AIDS?

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/about-hiv-and-aids/what-are-hiv-and-aids>

History of HIV and AIDS Overview

<https://www.avert.org/professionals/history-hiv-aids/overview>

## Apartheid

Apartheid may not be something you expected to search for in an archive of sexuality and gender, but it was a racially discriminatory policy that had far reaching impacts both within South Africa and around the world. The idea of a white government enforcing discrimination against a non-white population is not new; one need only look to the Jim Crow Laws of the American South for a parallel. The struggle to end Apartheid was fought on many fronts and by many organizations, including gay rights activists. Throughout the archive, you will find Apartheid covered from a variety of perspectives around the world.

- What was it like to be coloured and gay in Apartheid South Africa?
- How was Apartheid covered in the media outside South Africa? Find examples of articles or reports from other countries.
- Did Apartheid have an impact on the AIDS crisis? Why or why not?

Useful search terms: African National Congress, Apartheid, coloured, Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, nonwhite, Simon Nkoli

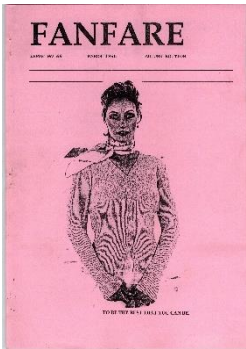
## Colonialism

Colonialism refers to the act of taking political control of another sovereign country, occupying it, settling the land, and exploiting it economically, all at the expense of the people who were already living there. Colonial rulers generally impose their own language, religion, economic practices, laws, and culture upon the indigenous peoples. You will find the effects of colonialism throughout the archive, especially in the ALGA (Australia) and GALA (South Africa) collections. It appears in the political systems the colonizers left behind. You will find it in imported religions, such as Christianity. You will find it in indigenous populations that have been suppressed, exploited, or displaced altogether. This topic may require more research on your part in understanding the history of colonialism. You might want to focus on a specific country in order to narrow your research.

- What impact did colonialism have on gay rights in southern Africa? What about women's rights?
- What impact did colonialism have on gay rights in Australia? How were women's rights affected?
- How did colonialism affect non-white indigenous peoples?

Useful search terms: aborigine(s), buggery law, colonialism, indigenous people(s), racial intolerance, religious homophobia, sodomy law, women's rights

### Cross-dressers, Transvestites, and Transgender



A transvestite or cross-dresser is a person who derives pleasure from dressing in clothes primarily associated with the opposite sex. Interestingly, Magnus Hirschfeld coined the word transvestite in 1910 to refer to the sexual interest in cross-dressing. He created the term to describe persons who habitually and voluntarily wore clothes of the opposite sex. Hirschfeld's group of transvestites consisted of both males and females, with heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, and asexual orientations.

Cross-dressers are typically men, and less commonly women, who choose to wear the clothing, makeup, and accessories that are culturally associated with the opposite sex. Though cross-dressers do not wish to live full-time as the opposite sex, or permanently change their sex, their choice to cross-dress is a form of gender expression rather than of entertainment. For this reason, drag queens and kings are not necessarily labeled as cross-dressers. Some cross-dressers do not tend to associate with the LGBTQ+ community because they identify as heterosexual males or females. It is important to remember that gender and sexual orientation are two different things. The term transgender is an adjective and has several implications. It is generally used to describe a person whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from the sex that they were assigned when they were born. Contrary to popular misconceptions, being transgender is not dependent upon a person's appearance or any medical procedures that they may choose to undergo. Being transgender only means that a person's gender identity is not consistent with their sex assignment from birth. How they choose to express themselves through their appearance is up to them! Some transgender people who desire medical assistance to transition from one sex to another identify as transsexual.

In many countries, transgender people are not recognized for who they are; many laws rigidly state you are the sex you were assigned at birth. Some transgender people face additional barriers as they are rejected by the gender with which they identify.

- Explain the difference between cross-dressers and transvestites. How are they different? How are they the same?
- Are cross-dressers also transgender? Why or why not?
- What examples of cross-dressers, transvestites, and transgender persons can you find in the archive?
- What social difficulties do transgender people experience due to social mores?
- What difficulties do transgender people face from the gender with which they identify?

Some useful search terms: cross-dresser, drag king, drag queen, gender bender, Tommy boy, trannie, tranny, transsexual, transvestite

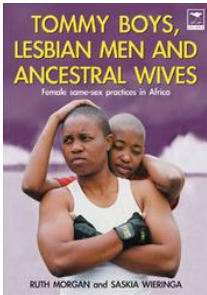
Some suggested collections to start with:

- [Australian LGBTIQ Periodicals](#) – You will find broad coverage of the cross dressing, drag, and transgender communities among the many periodicals in the collection. Stories and articles describe cultural life, history, art, news, and organizations.
- [Gender Dynamix \(GDX\)](#) - Established in 2005, Gender Dynamix (GDX) is the first registered Africa-based public benefit organization to focus solely on the transgender and broader gender diverse community. What started as a mere vision, slowly grew into a grassroots organisation. GDX has since become an institutionalized non-profit organisation (NPO) that is fundamental to the development of the trans and gender diverse movement(s) in South Africa and across Africa
- [Joy Wellbeloved Collection](#) – Joy Wellbeloved (James) founded the Phoenix Society, a 1980s South African society that was aimed at providing a way for (white) men who dressed in women's clothing to connect with each other. 'Transgender' was at the time not used as a description, although members ranged from transvestites and drag queens to what would today be considered transgender.
- [Sally Gross Collection](#) - Sally Gross was born intersex, with a sexual anatomy that did not fit the typical definitions of female or male. The collection consists of Sally Gross' personal documents, photographs and memorabilia and reflects her transition from living as a man to living as a woman, her life as a priest, work with the South African government in the Human Rights Commission and the Land Reform Commission and her crisis of faith and subsequent interest in Buddhism and Quakerism.



- [Sexual Minorities Uganda or SMUG](#) was created to work closely with international human rights organizations to bring attention to the persecution of LGBTI people in Uganda. SMUG was founded in 2004 and the network currently comprises 18 organizations in Uganda offering counselling, health, and other services to the LGBTI community.

## Female Same-Sex Relationships in Africa



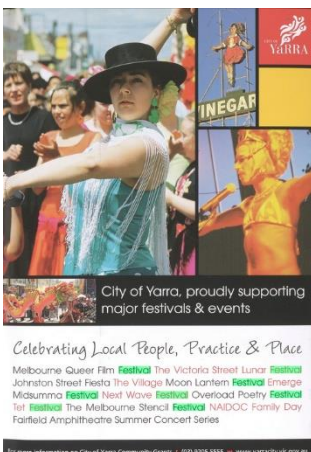
Finding information on female same-sex relationships in Africa can be difficult due to the fact that it is considered taboo; some African leaders have claimed it is “un-African” and “an import from the West.” See [Planning Documents: Sex & Secrecy Conference: Special Session on Women's Same Sex Practices, June 2003](#).

The [African Women's Life History Project](#) collection from GALA brings together research conducted through oral history projects, workshops, and conferences. Non-homophobic African women were trained to conduct interviews of women around Africa to get a better understanding of female same-sex relationships. The research culminated in the book *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men & Ancestral Wives: Female same-sex practices in Africa*, which is available in the archive. The oral histories are fascinating for their insights into the challenges faced by women around Africa, with interviews from Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

- Some of the women interviewed in the oral histories maintain their religious faith, or tried to; how do the leaders of the churches or mosques view these women?
- What is a sangoma, and how are they related to ancestral wives?
- Read some of the oral histories. What challenges do the women face in coming out and in their relationships? How are these challenges similar in other societies? How are they different?

Useful search terms: ancestral wives, bisexual women, tommy boys

## Festivals



Festivals offer an important celebration of cultural identity. They provide a venue where groups can come together to exchange ideas and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals. In Australia, festivals such as Melbourne's Midsumma, Sydney's Mardi Gras, Adelaide's Festival, and Canberra's SpringOut Festival are all culturally important and provide a sense of LGBT community. In the Australian LGBTIQ Periodicals, you will find broad coverage of festivals and related events.

To learn more, examine festival programs, such as *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi*

*Gras Annual Report and Guide, Midsumma Guide, Feast Guide, and Melbourne Queer Film Festival Guide.*

- What does this variety of festivals tell us about LGBT culture in Australia?
- How do festivals in Australia compare to those in Southern Africa? Find and compare a festival from each region.
- What other LGBT festivals can you find around the world? Are they allowed to proceed in a spirit of openness or are there restrictions?

Useful search terms: celebration, festival, pride

## Gender

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, gender is defined as *either of the two sexes (male and female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones. The term is also used more broadly to denote a range of identities that do not correspond to established ideas of male and female.* In 1882, the *Oxford Etymological Dictionary of the English Language* defined gender as *kind, breed, sex.*

The Gender Spectrum organization provides a good overview of the dimensions of gender

(<https://genderspectrum.org/articles/understanding-gender>): *“People tend to use the terms “sex” and “gender” interchangeably. But, while connected, the two terms are not equivalent. Generally, we assign a newborn’s sex as either male or female (some US states and other countries offer a third option) based on the baby’s genitals. Once a sex is assigned, we presume the child’s gender. For some people, this is cause for little, if any, concern or further thought because their gender aligns with gender-related ideas and assumptions associated with their sex. Nevertheless, while gender may begin with the assignment of our sex, it doesn’t end there. A person’s gender is the complex interrelationship between three dimensions: body, identity, and social gender.”*

Bear in mind that gender is different from sexual orientation. Gender is really about how we perceive ourselves, whereas sexual orientation is about who we are physically, emotionally and/or romantically attracted to.

- What definitions of gender can you glean from the materials in the archive? How do they reflect upon our current understanding of gender?
- What depictions of gender identities can you find in the archive?
- In what ways was gender identity perceived differently in Southern Africa as opposed to Australia?

Useful search terms: boy, gender, girl, identity, intersex, female, male, man, sex, sexuality, transgender, woman

## LGBT Rights



LGBT rights or gay rights or gay equality all revolve around the idea everyone deserves their individual freedom to live as who they are without persecution. LGBT rights are human rights. Nevertheless, these rights, or lack thereof, are different in nearly every country around the world. There are countries where same-sex marriage is accepted and legal and there are places LGBT people are ostracized or subject to the death penalty for being who they are. Historically, societies around the world have taken different views of LGBT people, from full acceptance to condemnation. Today, LGBT rights are impacted by a variety of laws both positive and negative, religious acceptance or censure, and cultural and social mores. You can explore the struggle for LGBT rights and freedoms throughout the archive.

- What were some of the challenges faced by LGBT groups in southern Africa?
- How did laws left over from colonial periods impact the perception of homosexuality in Southern Africa and Australia?
- Sodomy laws have been used to prohibit a range of same-sex sexual activities between consenting adults. Using the archive, what can you find out about different countries around the world and their sodomy laws?
- What other areas of the world have based their laws about homosexuality on laws from a colonial period?
- How have social views toward homosexuality in Southern Africa changed over time?

Useful search terms: buggery, bullying, civil unions, discrimination, domestic partnerships, equal rights, equality, gay, gay bashing, gay rights, hate crime, homosexuality, lesbian, LGBT rights, queer, same-sex marriage, sodomy, sodomy laws, transgender rights

## LGBTI Youth Experiences in South Africa

Balancing Act: South African Gay & Lesbian Youth Speak Out is a collection from GALA. The oral history transcripts in this collection offer a glimpse into LGBTI life for young people.

Many young South Africans identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or intersexed (LGBTI) feel isolated and disempowered by the lack of access to realistic, positive information on the range of orientation choices available to them.

In order to help address this GALA undertook an oral history project on the experiences of LGBT youth. 26 people were interviewed for this project, and these interviews form the heart of this collection (series A). There are also many photographs that accompany these interviews (series B).

Out of this material GALA and New Africa Books published *Balancing Act: South African Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out in 2005*, a book that shares stories of gay and lesbian youth in South Africa, while promoting respect and tolerance in schools. The book was written to be used in schools, and contains teaching notes relating to the area of Life Orientation. Series B includes a copy of 'Balancing Act' as well as media coverage it received and some production-related material. The book was launched on 11 June 2005 at Constitution Hill around Youth Day celebrations. Justice Edwin Cameron spoke at the launch which was attended by at least 250 people.

The heart of this collection consists of interviews with 26 LGBT youth as part of a GALA oral history project (series A). GALA published a book (Series B) out of this material called *Balancing Act: South African Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out (2005)*. The following year, *Balancing Act* became an exhibition in collaboration with the Apartheid Museum (Series C). The collection contains interview transcripts, photographs of participants, as well as project files on the book publication, such as correspondence around publishing and launch event organization. Copies of the book are also included, as well as digital files of the exhibition panels.

- What can you learn about LGBTI life for youth in South Africa?
- How are their experiences different from, or similar to, LGBTI youth where you live?
- Homophobic bullying is an unfortunate facet of life for LGBTI people worldwide; what other instances of bullying can you find in the archive and how have they affected those who have been persecuted?
- What is being done to stop or prevent homophobic bullying?

In this case, go right to the [collection](#) and browse through the materials available to find things that interest you. You might consider going directly to the [Oral History Project transcripts](#).

## Religion in Sex and Gender

If ever there were a fertile field for ploughing, it is the interaction between religion, sex, and gender.

Organized religion has had a major impact on how we view sexuality and gender, how we study it, how we write about it, and how we interact with one another. Religion has at times been at odds with the scientific community in interpretations of sex and gender. In the queer community, one's sexuality or sexual identity may be at odds with that person's faith. Not all organized religions look kindly upon the queer community. The role of women in religion has also been at times contentious, with restrictions on their rights as well as their roles in the faith.

- What role has organized religion played in defining gender roles?
- What role has organized religion played in defining sexuality?
- How do different religions view sex and sexual life?
- In the archive, find instances where religion was at odds with someone's sexuality or gender. What impact did this have on the person's life?

Useful search terms: church, faith, god(s), religion, spirituality, temple

Useful collections:

- See the [Sally Gross Collection](#) to understand how being intersex impacted her faith and life as a priest.
- See the oral history transcripts in the [African Women's Life History Project](#) to learn how some of the interviewees dealt with their faith and religion as well as how they were treated in kind.

## Taboos

According to Oxford Reference, a taboo is *a social or religious custom prohibiting or restricting a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing*. You will find many instances of taboo throughout the archives. Some ideas of taboo are obvious (i.e. incest), some are socially or religiously proscribed (i.e. prohibitions against homosexuality), and some have to do with cultural mores (i.e. women must seclude themselves during menstruation). Sometimes, a taboo is simply a topic that is not discussed, and may be indicative of a way a group is silently oppressed; *"It was taboo for the townspeople to mention or discuss the young girl's rape, so she suffered in silence."*

- Find instances of the word "taboo" in the archive; in what context is it used?
- What are some examples of cultural taboos found in the archives?
- What taboos are the same or similar across cultures? Why is that so?
- A taboo can be an unspoken law that represses a particular group; find instances where the term "taboo" is used in this way.



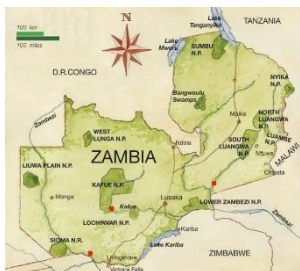
Useful search terms: for this topic, focus your search for the word “taboo” to see the many ways it is used throughout the archive.

## CASE STUDIES

These case studies provide some examples of the sorts of material found in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*. They will show you how the source material found in the archive relates to some of the key topics discussed above. They will also introduce you to the kinds of specific questions you can use to interrogate individual sources. If you are interested in the topics discussed in these case studies, at the end of each study you will find suggestions for how to investigate further.

These case studies can also be used as a teaching tool. They can be used to help educators explain using digital primary sources to new users. Together with the instructions above (“Basic Search and Filtering”), they can help in explaining to new users how to navigate a digital archive. They also provide clear examples of the source materials in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture*, and the kinds of critical thinking that need to be applied to these sources.

## LEGATRA – Decolonizing the Curriculum and the Intersectionality of Homosexuality, Politics, and Religion



What is decolonizing the curriculum?

Colonization of the curriculum is focused on white, Western intellectual tradition and a lack of representation of black and minority ethnic groups, as well as othered groups (i.e. disabled, LGBTQ, etc.). Decolonizing the curriculum involves offering voices, perspectives, and worldviews that challenge historical omissions and cultural biases. It does not mean completely eliminating western thought; it does mean reading and responding to the histories, experiences and narratives of groups, cultures, and societies that are generally marginalized in the Western educational canon. It is about diversity and inclusivity and recognizing that no one group “owns” knowledge; all races, ethnicities, classes, genders, sexual orientations, and disabilities contribute to shaping our world.

## A Brief History of Northern Rhodesia and Zambia

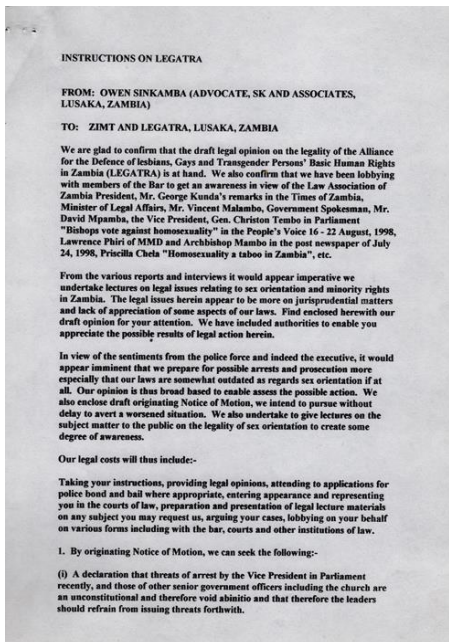


In 1911, Northern Rhodesia was a British South Africa Company (BSAC) administered territory organized by Cecil Rhodes, a financier, statesman, and empire builder in Southern Africa. In 1924, the BSAC turned over administration to the British Colonial Office. In 1964, the territory gained independence from the British Empire; the Republic of Zambia was formed, but inherited the laws, legal system, and religious beliefs of its former colonial occupiers. Laws and social mores concerning homosexuality have largely remained unchanged since then, and same-sex sexual activity is illegal for both males and females. For the record, the penalty for same-sex sexual activity in Zambia, if convicted, is from 15 years to life imprisonment for men; and up to 14 years imprisonment for women. Beyond that, of course, there is social harassment and persecution. It is not easy being queer in Zambia.

## What was LEGATRA?

LEGATRA was conceptualized as the Alliance for the Defense of Lesbians, Gays and Transgender Persons' Basic Human Rights in Zambia. In 1998, LEGATRA attempted to register as a non-profit society in support of the Zambian LGBT community.

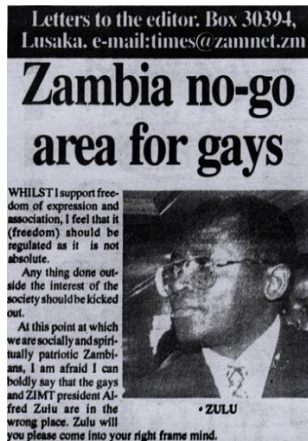
## How did homosexuality, politics, and religion intersect during the rise and fall of LEGATRA?



The LEGATRA Collection in *International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture* is small, not due to a lack of material to collect, but rather reflective of the short time the organization existed. Within the collection you will find a legal strategy document, a LEGATRA newsletter, and a series of press clippings that document the public furor that greeted LEGATRA's attempted registration as a non-profit society in 1998. A review of the collection tells the story rather succinctly. It begins with Alfred Zulu, a human rights activist, and a legal opinion he filed in an attempt to organize the Alliance for the Defence of Lesbians, Gays and Transgender Persons' Basic Human Rights in Zambia (LEGATRA). Pages 17-19 of the legal opinion clarify some of the challenges Zulu would face in establishing the

organization.

1998. TS LEGATRA (Zambia) Collection - Alliance for the Defense of Lesbians, Gays and Transgender Persons' Basic Human Rights in Zambia: Legal Strategy Documents AM3091\_A. Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA).



Press clippings from a short period of days in September 1998 highlight how the fate of LEGATRA unfolded. It seems a spark of hope ignited an inferno of intolerance and hatred. Reading through the headlines is similar to browsing chapters in a tragic novel; you are hoping the protagonist will find a way to happiness, but you also know the future is bleak. You are encouraged to read through the individual articles and letter to the editor to gain a better understanding of the challenges Alfred Zulu faced in organizing LEGATRA, as well as how popular sentiment, religious beliefs, law, and politics were all stacked

against him.

- "Homo Party? Not here!" by Vincent Zulu and Victor Chitafu, Sunday Times of Zambia, 6 September 1998.
- "Gays organisation: ZIMT has no shame" by Moses Mbewe in 'Watch Dog' column, publication unknown, 6 September 1998 (poor quality photocopy).
- "Homosexuals elect leaders" by Goodson Machona, The Post, 14 September 1998.
- "Homosexuality not new but can be stopped here" by Pauline Banda, Zambia Daily Mail, 17 September 1998.
- "Homos meet at Lusaka hotel" by Goodson Machona, The Post, 17 September 1998.
- "Alfred Zulu claims... We've homos in govt" by Kelvin Shimo and Lubasi Katundu, The Post, 18 September 1998.
- "Gays risk prosecution, warns LAZ (Law Association of Zambia)" by Times Reporter, Times of Zambia, 19 September 1998.
- "More 'agony' for gays" by Sunday Times Reporter, Sunday Times of Zambia, 20 September 1998.
- "ZIMT (Zambia Independent Monitoring Team) should attend to pertinent issues" in 'Comment' column, Sunday Times of Zambia, 20 September 1998.
- "Gay ministers backing LEGATRA" by Muzinge Nampito, National Mirror, 20-26 September 1998.
- "Zulu must name state sodomites" by Dickson Kaminda, Zambia Daily Mail, 21 September 1998.
- "Gay constitution sent to Registrar" by Kelvin Shimo, The Post, 21 September 1998.
- "Homosexual Jesus?", Zambia Daily Mail, 21 September 1998.

- “Gays body registration hangs in balance” by Mukupa Chifunda, Zambia Daily Mail, 22 September 1998.
- “Rights body mute on gays” by Nicky Shabolyo, publication unknown, 22 September 1998.
- “ZIMT calls for inquiry into issues of homos” by Kelvin Shimo, The Post, 22 September 1998.
- “Gay activists to be arrested” by Amos Malupenga, The Post, 23 September 1998.
- “You will be arrested, gay lobbyists warned” by Times Reporter, Times of Zambia, 23 September 1998.
- “Zambia no-go area for gays” in ‘Letters to the editor’ column, Times of Zambia, 23 September 1998.
- “Homo activists face arrest, says Veep” by Nicky Shabolyo, Zambia Daily Mail, 23 September 1998.
- “Homos, lesbians, go to hell” by Wam Kwaleyela in ‘Just Chatting’ column, Zambia Daily Mail, 26 September 1998.
- “Father, mother, I’m gay” in ‘Parenting with Miriam Zimba’ column, Times of Zambia, 26 September 1998.
- “Arrest Zulu” in ‘Digest’ column, Sunday Mail, 27 September 1998.
- “Zulu corrupted by donors’ dollars” in ‘Sunday Forum’ column, Sunday Times of Zambia, 27 September 1998.
- ‘Letters to the editor’ page, publication unknown, 27 September 1998:
  - “Honestly, just what is ZIMT up to?”
  - “Homos have no place in Zambia”
  - “Alfred, please find something else to do”
  - “Alfred Zulu, pray for forgiveness for misleading people”.
- “Homos, lesbians can’t be arrested” by Mactrevor Bwalya, Zambia Daily Mail, 29 September 1998.
- “Homos shouldn’t corrupt Zambians” by Douglas Hampande, The Post, 29 September 1998.
- “Suspect gays risk being nabbed, warns Kalumba” by Joy Sata, Zambia Daily Mail, 30 September 1998.
- “Gays no different from adulterers” in ‘Letters to the Editor’ column, Times of Zambia, 30 September 1998.
- “Homosexuality is social menace” by Dave Chibesa, Sunday Times of Zambia, date unknown.
- “Discussing gays is load of rubbish” in ‘Letters to the Editor’ column, Times of Zambia, date unknown.
- “Gays’ grouping plan thrown out” Mactrevor Bwalya, publication and date unknown (poor quality photocopy).

- “Zambian Homosexuals come out” by Anthony Kunda, New African, November 1998.
- “LEGATRA calls for autonomy of Registrar”, by Kelvin Shimo and Dickson Jere, publication and date unknown.

One of the last headlines sums it all up: “Gays’ grouping plan thrown out”. Due to police and state harassment as well as negative public opinion, LEGATRA was ultimately short lived, with most members fleeing Zambia’s borders.

Critical thinking questions on this topic:

- How did British colonial laws and organized religion set the stage for LEGATRA’s rise and rapid downfall?
- What was the popular sentiment toward homosexuality in Zambia?
- How did the church view homosexuality in Zambia? How did the church react to LEGATRA’s proposal to incorporate?
- It was rumored that some government officials backed LEGATRA’s right to incorporate, but it was also claimed these ministers were gay. What evidence can you find to support or deny this?

### Homosexual Gaol in Australia

As a colony of the British Empire, Australia inherited its laws, one of which was the Buggery Act of 1533. Buggery was defined as an unnatural sexual act against the will of God and Man, and later revised to include only anal penetration and bestiality. The act was in force for nearly three centuries until it was repealed and replaced by the Offences against the Person Act 1828. Buggery (also known as sodomy) was a capital offence punishable by execution until passage of the Offences against the Person Act of 1861. The United Kingdom Parliament repealed buggery laws for England and Wales in 1967, considering same-sex consensual acts lawful in private, yet not every country in the commonwealth changed their laws at the same time. Homosexuality was a criminal offense in Australia and remained so until same-sex sexual activity between consenting male adults was legalized in 1994 (1997 in Tasmania).

Let us examine one of the outcomes of being convicted of homosexual offenses in Australia prior to decriminalization: serving time in jail. In this case, we will use the Australian English term “gaol” and focus on Cooma Gaol, a place of detention for persons convicted of homosexual offences. According to the State Records Authority of New South Wales, the facility started out as Cooma Prison Camp (1953-1957) before



re-opening as Cooma Prison (1957-1992), a correctional facility specifically for homosexuals and high-risk prisoners requiring protection.

Nick Henderson, a volunteer Committee Member at the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives has fielded many “curly enquiries” from researchers, usually on subjects that require research on his part. Nick related a story about one such inquiry he received “*from a producer who was working on a documentary (now podcast series) on the little known and studied ‘homosexual gaol’ in Cooma, now Cooma Correctional Centre, which between the 1950s and 1970s was where homosexual prisoners were sent and were subject to psychiatric testing to ascertain the origins and potential cure of homosexuality.*”

*“Many of the periodical titles in our collection were short-lived, few have been studied, and many are rare or unique. One such title is Gayzette, published by Herd Publishing Company between 1974 and 1975, it continued from the precursor title Stallion. The publication was a mix of news, pop culture, personals, and feature articles – it was edited by the polemical activist Martin Smith. Only one library is listed as having a complete set of this title, with two libraries having partial sets. Issue 21 is only held by us and the State Library of NSW, and it is this issue that has a unique interview with an ex-prisoner at Cooma, Robert Adamson. (“Straights freak out when they’re sent to Cooma,” page 11 in “Gayzette.” Gayzette, 14 Nov. 1974, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/QDJJWR782081660/AHSI?u=virta&sid=AHSI&xid=718b51ed>). The issue also includes correspondence with the then Commissioner of Corrective Services, and other related articles. Given the limited coverage of the subject this is a vital source for any researchers and will be drawn on in the forthcoming podcast series.”*

A little internet sleuthing leads us to the podcast from producers Simon Cunich and Patrick Abboud. The producers provide the following synopsis: *Homosexuality is the “greatest menace” facing Australia. Those were the words of the NSW Police Commissioner in 1958. Police agents rounded up gay men on the streets of Sydney and sent them to Cooma gaol, which the government boasted was the only homosexual prison in the world. Meanwhile, an inquiry was launched into the “causes and treatment” of homosexuality and its subjects were found in the cells of Cooma gaol.*



Thanks to the Australian LGBTIQ Periodicals collection from the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, you now have the opportunity to read the Gayzette issue containing the full interview with Robert Adamson, as well as excerpts from an essay he wrote detailing life inside Cooma Gaol – see the article *Anyone for Gaol? Extracts from "Zimmer's Essay"*. If you want to expand your research, you can also search the full archive using the search term "gaol" or "homosexual gaol". The archive allows you to gain a better understanding of the persecution that was faced by homosexuals in society, under the criminal justice system, and within the correctional system. You will also have an opportunity to learn about life inside the prison system including treatment of prisoners, prisoner social culture, and instances of prison violence, including homosexual violence.



For a different perspective on prison life as a homosexual, read the letters of Simon Nkoli from the *Simon Nkoli Collection, 1977 to 1998*. Nkoli was a prominent South African anti-apartheid, gay and lesbian rights and HIV/AIDS activist. Charged with treason in 1984 together with twenty-one other political leaders in the Delmas Trial, Nkoli came out to his fellow trialists while a prisoner. While in prison Nkoli wrote over one hundred

letters, some to his partner Roy Shepherd. The letters are a testimony to Nkoli's extraordinary courage, and through this personal account give an insight into the day to day experience of being in detention. Nkoli was imprisoned from 1984 to 1988 when he was acquitted and released.

Critical thinking questions on this topic:

- In Australia, why were individuals convicted of homosexual offenses sent to a jail specifically for homosexuals?
- How did Robert Adamson's experience in Cooma Gaol compare with Simon Nkoli's prison experience?
- What impact did the threat of arrest and incarceration have on Australian homosexual society and culture?

Useful search terms: gaol, Cooma Gaol, homosexual gaol, Long Bay Gaol, Maitland Gaol, Simon Nkoli

References:

- The Greatest Menace – Unlocking the Story of Australia's Gay Prison by Simon Cunich and Patrick Abboud (podcast) <https://www.simoncunich.com.au/development>
- Simon Nkoli Correspondence, 1977-1998 – Nkoli was imprisoned from 1984-1988  
[https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?st=Manuscripts&searchResultsType=SingleTab&qt=OQE\\_COL~83SM~~S\\_UBCOL~%22Correspondence%2C+1977-1998%22&sw=w&ty=as&it=search&sid=AHSI&p=AHSI&s=Relevance&u=virta&v=2.1&asid=db316efb](https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?st=Manuscripts&searchResultsType=SingleTab&qt=OQE_COL~83SM~~S_UBCOL~%22Correspondence%2C+1977-1998%22&sw=w&ty=as&it=search&sid=AHSI&p=AHSI&s=Relevance&u=virta&v=2.1&asid=db316efb)

## **CITATION**

CITATION GOES HERE