Trans Activism in Canada
A Reader

Centring the voices and experiences of trans identified people as experts on their own lives and agents of change, _Trans Activism in Canada_ opens up a dialogue between scholars and community members in an effort to improve the lives of sex and gender variant people. The first of its kind, this anthology brings together activists and allies to examine the various strategies and forms of resistance needed to transform oppression into opportunity for change. Reflecting upon the challenges trans communities face and offering insight into achieving institutional reform, the themes addressed range from poverty and isolation to health care and best practices. Using personal narratives, archival material, and qualitative research, as well as case- and community-based research, this text demonstrates the leading role of trans and two-spirit activists in generating social change. By drawing on feminist, anti-racist, and social justice frameworks, the contributors approach oppression and activism as inseparable from hetero-patriarchal, colonialist, and capitalist power relations. Written for trans activists, scholars, and allies, _Trans Activism in Canada_ is poised to enrich transgender theorizing by focusing on concrete experiences and practical knowledge gained from the everyday lives of trans people.

Author Information
Dan Irving
Dan Irving is Assistant Professor of Sexuality Studies and Human Rights in the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Carleton University. Dan is co-author, with David Bedford, of _The Tragedy of Progress: Marxism, Modernity and the Aboriginal Question_ (2001).

Rupert Raj
Rupert Raj is a psychotherapist specializing in gender and sexual identity issues in Toronto. He received the City of Toronto Access and Equity Human Rights Pride Award in 2007 and was inducted into the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives’ National Portrait Collection in 2013.

Reviews
"The strength of this anthology is its invitation to think differently. Whether in currents of research, trans studies, community building, clinical knowledge, advocacy, or the act and process of listening itself, this book challenges us to reimagine how we can know the realities of trans people, and why such knowledge matters. This is a supremely useful book: a document of what has been accomplished, an encyclopedia of what’s happening now, a who’s who of activism, and a roadmap to the future as we bend the long arc of the universe toward justice for trans people." _Susan Stryker, Director for the Encyclopedia of What's Happening Now_.

"The strength of this anthology is its invitation to think differently. Whether in currents of research, trans studies, community building, clinical knowledge, advocacy, or the act and process of listening itself, this book challenges us to reimagine how we can know the realities of trans people, and why such knowledge matters. This is a supremely useful book: a document of what has been accomplished, an encyclopedia of what’s happening now, a who’s who of activism, and a roadmap to the future as we bend the long arc of the universe toward justice for trans people." _Susan Stryker, Director for the Encyclopedia of What’s Happening Now_, a Who’s Who of Activism, and a Roadmap to the Future as We Bend the Long Arc of the Universe Toward Justice for Trans People._

Table of Contents
Acknowledgements

Foreword — _Aaron H. Devor_
Introduction — _Dan Irving_ and _Rupert Raj_

**Part I: Transforming Experiences of Oppression into Opportunities for Social Change**

**Part IA: Historical Perspectives**

Chapter 1: "We Paved the Way for Whatever Tolerance They Have in Their Lives": An Interview with Michelle De Ville — _Viviane Namaste_
Chapter 3: Rupert Raj and the Rise of Transsexual Consumer Activism in the 1980s — _Nick Matte_
Chapter 4: Gender Strike! It’s an Offence — _Elizabeth “Raven” James_
Chapter 5: Finding My Place: The High Risk Project Society — _Sandy Leo Laframboise_

**Part IB: Contemporary Perspectives**

Chapter 6: Two Poems: “My Name is Susan” and “Pause and Reflect” — _Susan Gapka_
Chapter 7: When Dad Becomes Mom: The Story of One Mother’s Love for Her Children, Parent Alienation, and “Happily Ever After” — _Michelle Boyle_ and _Jessica Boyle_

**Part II: “Changing the Way We Change”: Critical Reflections on Doing Trans Activism**

**Part IIA: Individual Approaches**

Chapter 8: A Sense of Place: Expressions of Trans Activism North of Lake Nipissing — _Grey Kimber Pitaapan Muldoon_ (with Dan Irving)
Chapter 9: Zening the Art of Trans Activism — _Rupert Raj_
Chapter 10: Acting Queerly: Ruminations on Being a Queer Lawyer and Activist — _barbara findlay_
Chapter 11: "What Is Missing in Our Community Is Self-Love." An Interview with Marie-Marcelle Godbout, Founder of L’Aide aux Transsexuel(le)s du Québec — _Nora Butler Burke_ and _Viviane Namaste_, translated and revised by _Natalie Duchesne_

**Part IIB: Community Approaches**

Chapter 14: A Conversation about Art and Activism with Trans and Genderqueer People Labelled with Intellectual Disabilities — _Zack Marshall, Marcus Burnette, Sonia Lowton, Rainbow, Romeo Donta_, and _Tessa Vo_ — Illustrated by _Flisha Lim_
**Part IIIA: Transformations in Bureaucracy**

Chapter 16: Gender Struggles: Reflections on Trans Liberation, Trade Unionism, and the Limits of Solidarity – Trish Salah

Chapter 17: Trans in Class: Trans Activism in a Suburban School Board – j wallace

Chapter 18: A Very Brief Discussion of Social Work and Gender – Treanor Mahood-Greer

Chapter 19: One Step at a Time: Moving Trans Activism Forward in a Large Bureaucracy – Devon MacFarlane, Lorraine Grieses, and Al Zwiers

**Part IIIB: Transformations in Health**

Chapter 20: Auditioning for Care: Transsexual Men in Ontario Accessing Health Care – Will Rowe

Chapter 21: Agustine Only Plays with Barbies: A Psychosocial Synthesis of a Case Study – Silvia Tenenbaum

Chapter 22: Using a Family and Multi-Systems Treatment Approach: Working with Gender-Variant Children – Wallace Wong

Chapter 23: Sexual Health on Our Own Terms: The Gay, Bi, Queer Trans Men’s Working Group – Ayden I. Scheim, Syrus Marcus Ware, Nik Redman, Zack Marshall, and Broden Giambrone

Chapter 24: Public Health Professionals, Community Researchers, and Community-Based Participatory Action Research: Process and Discovery – Kathy Chow, Jean Clipsham, Cheryl Dobinson, Susan Gapka, Elaine Hampson, Judith A. MacDonnell, and Rupert Raj

Chapter 25: Advocacy for Gender Diversity in the Contemporary Canadian Nursing Context: A Focus on Ontario – Judith A. MacDonnell and Robin Fern

Afterword – Viviane Namaste

Contributor Biographies

Index

Related Books

LGBTQ People and Social Work
Brian J. O'Neill, Tracy A. Swan, Nick J. Mulé

Oversight
Viviane Namaste

Queerly Canadian
Maureen FitzGerald, Scott Rayter

Sex Change, Social Change, Second Edition
Viviane Namaste

Bent on Writing
Elizabeth Ruth

Unsettling Activisms
May Chazan, Melissa Baldwin, Patricia Evans