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Dennis Altman is the son of Jewish refugees, who first came to attention with the publication of his book *Homosexual: Oppression & Liberation* in 1972. His most recent books are *God Save the Queen: the strange persistence of monarchies* and *Death in the Sauna*.

Altman is a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. He was President of the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (2001-2005) and was listed by *The Bulletin* as one of the 100 most influential Australians ever. He is a Patron of the Australian Queer Archives and the Pride Foundation.