

ECHOES OF HOME: ETHNIC BROADCASTING WAVES WEAVING PROSTHETIC MEMORY AND MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY IN AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

In the vast landscape of Australia's multicultural society (Australia. National Multicultural Advisory Council, 1999), ethnic broadcasting (Dissanayake, 2021) stands as a powerful medium through which migrant communities maintain connections with their cultural heritage while simultaneously establishing new identities in their adopted homeland (Patterson, 1981). This chapter examines how ethnic radio programs function as vehicles for prosthetic memory (Ciocea & Cărlan, 2015) formation-creating deeply felt connections to cultural experiences that listeners may not have directly lived-and how these mediated memories contribute to multicultural identity construction (Australia. National Multicultural Advisory Council, 1999) in contemporary Australia (O'Donnell et al., 2024). Through the broadcasting of nostalgic cultural artifacts (Pickering & Keightley, 2006) such as traditional music, folklore, and oral narratives in languages other than English, ethnic radio programs enable migrant communities to maintain, refresh, and transmit cultural memories across geographical distances and generational divides. This process transcends mere information sharing; it actively constructs shared memories that might otherwise erode due to displacement and time (Dissanayake, 2021). By analyzing the intersection of prosthetic memory theory (Landsberg, 1995), cultural memory transmission, and the practical realities of ethnic broadcasting in Australia, this chapter reveals how broadcasting carry profound implications for identity formation in diasporic communities, ultimately contributing to Australia's evolving multicultural fabric.

Keywords: *Ethnic Broadcasting, Prosthetic Memory, Multicultural Identity Construction, Cultural Memory Transmission, Diasporic Communities.*

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