

# Challenging the divide

## Approaches to Science and Poetry

**Erica Jolly**

Ever since Descartes there has been vigorous debate about the separation of mind and body, and of rational thought and feeling. Challenging the Divide argues against dualistic views and proposes a re-engagement and cross-fertilisation between the 'sciences' (rational, supposedly dispassionate, thought) and 'poetry' (the arts, and felt thought and emotions). Contemporary scientists and poets offer their views on how both modes of thinking inspire and inform their work.

Australian scientists and poets have contributed essays and poems, and the work of international writers such as Lewis Thomas, Miroslav Holub and Primo Levi is discussed.

Erica Jolly puts the case for cross-disciplinary approaches in schools, to excite the curiosity and imagination of young students.

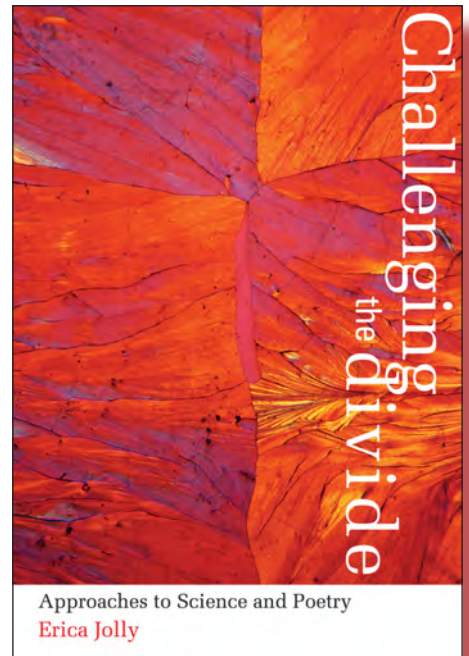
As Nobel Prize-winner Professor Peter C. Doherty says in his contribution to this book,

*'the more that we can do to give our young people a solid acquaintance with both the sciences and the humanities the better our society will be.'*

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