

**Otago Medical School Alumnus Association  
2013 History of Medicine Series  
Room G30, Hunter Centre, Great King Street, Dunedin  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 5.15pm**

Associate-Professor Jacqueline Leckie will present

**The Medicalization of Madness in Colonial Fiji**



**This presentation examines the encounter between indigenous and community constructions of madness – in that most extreme site of confinement – the lunatic asylum. This was established in Fiji in 1884. The asylum was an early hospital in the Pacific, indeed among colonies worldwide. It still functions as St Giles Psychiatric Hospital. It was a microcosm of the broader encounter and engagement between Fijian communities, the state and medical authorities over the care and confinement of those considered lialia, pagalaa or mad. This was also part of the general medicalization of mental illness in Fiji. The talk will trace the tensions in the management of madness at the asylum and what this might tell us about the nature of mental illness in an ethnically complex colonial society.**

***This is a public lecture. All interested are welcome***