INJURY BROKERS

Presented by Genevieve Grant

Date: Wednesday 27th June, 2012

Time: 12 pm

Venue: Room 405A,
Melbourne School of Population Health.
Level 4. 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

Genevieve Grant is a PhD Candidate in the Melbourne School of Population Health and the Melbourne Law School, and a Research Fellow in the Law and Public Health Research Group. She has worked as a personal injury lawyer and had roles in court administration and legal policy development in government. Genevieve’s research injury interests are injury compensation systems, public health, dispute resolution and civil justice.

Doctors acting as medical expert witnesses play a central role in the operation of personal injury compensation systems. Acting in their treating capacity, or as hired medico-legal consultants, doctors supply compensation systems with evidence of claimants’ injuries, impairment and disability.

In contested cases, expert evidence is a currency traded in support of the claims and counterclaims of injured claimants and insurance authorities. This practice elevates medical experts to the status of Injury Brokers, the brokers of legally-recognised and compensated injury. Despite the importance of this evidence-currency to the business of compensation, little is known about the doctors who act as expert witnesses in these settings.

This seminar presents findings from a study of Injury Brokers operating in transport accident compensation litigation. The study is drawn from a thesis investigating the tools and techniques of contemporary personal injury law, and their role in shaping health and injury in compensation settings.