Health and Race Colloquium

The Health and Race Colloquium will aim to highlight the issues and debates relating to racism and health nationally and internationally. It will involve keynote presentations from Professor Jonathan Metzl, Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Medicine, Health and Society, and Professor Warwick Anderson, ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor in the Department of History and the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney. The colloquium will also include a panel discussion from academics working in this field within the University of Melbourne, and will open up discussion about visions for future activity and engagement in the field.

Date and Time:  Wednesday, 17th April, 9:15am to 12:30pm
Venue:  Woodward Convention Centre
Level 10, Melbourne Law School Building
Cnr Pelham and Leicester Street, Carlton

PROFESSOR JONATHAN METZL is the Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry, and the Director of the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He will be speaking on “The Protest Psychosis: Race, Stigma, and the Diagnosis of Schizophrenia”.

Summary:  Surveys of popular opinion consistently link schizophrenia to a host of social misperceptions, such as schizophrenia and violence. Professor Metzl will detail the surprising and often inadvertent ways in which American beliefs about the criminality of schizophrenia emerged in context of a larger set of conversations about race. He ultimately argues that stigmatizations of psychiatric disorders need be historically understood if they are to be effectively treated in the present day.

PROFESSOR WARWICK ANDERSON MD is an ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor in the Department of History and the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney. He will be speaking on “Teaching ‘Race’ in Medical School”.

Summary:  It is rare to find an analysis of how ideas about race figure in the mundane practice of educating future medical doctors and scientific researchers. Through examination of an exemplary, wide-ranging discussion of an attempt to teach on race in the medical curriculum, this talk addresses the disciplinary and institutional difficulties of translating critiques of controversial science into pedagogy. In particular, Professor Anderson would like to stimulate discussion about the relations (if any) between the teaching of Indigenous health and critical race theory.