

The Politics of the Psychiatric Biomarker: Clinical Trials for Psychiatric Deep Brain Stimulation and the Quest to Map "Pure Depression"



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**HYBRID
EVENT**

Friday, April 19 at 1-2PM PT

Zoom or CHS 16-154

Questions? Email: hetss@mednet.ucla.edu

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Co-sponsored by the Research Theme in Health Equity & Translational Social Science (HETSS) and the Rangell Social Medicine Grand Rounds Series

12-1PM = Meet & Greet Luncheon

1-2PM = Presentation followed by Q&A

In this talk, I will describe one contemporary effort to find psychiatric biomarkers for depression through clinical trials of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). Based on seven years of ethnographic fieldwork with clinical trials testing DBS for depression, and archival research, I argue that the current attempt to extract psychiatric biomarkers is refracted through the historical stakes of bioethical debates in the 1970s. The emergence of contemporary bioethics was structured by concerns about authenticity, which have, in turn, constructed the conditions in which current efforts to locate psychiatric biomarkers are conducted. This talk traces the implications of this history for contemporary efforts to map the brain.