



UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES 2024

The joys of being a little human being: New Zealand's
maternity services in historical perspective

Linda Bryder



Thursday 2 May 2024, 4-5pm

School of Humanities 206-523

All Welcome

In this talk Linda will discuss the findings of her recent book on the history of maternity services in Aotearoa New Zealand, specifically focusing on the origins of its widely applauded midwifery-led maternity services that developed in the 1990s and the consequences of its unique approach. She will explain how deep fractures appeared in the sector, as worldviews and approaches to maternity care clashed, and consider where that left those at the receiving end of the services - mothers, babies, and their whānau. She will also address her current research bringing an international focus to events in New Zealand.

Linda Bryder is Professor of History at the University of Auckland, where she teaches courses on health, medicine and society in an historical context. Since the publication of her DPhil at the University of Oxford on the social history of tuberculosis in 1988, she has published widely on multiple aspects of the history of health and medicine. Her current research interest lies in the history of reproductive and infant health. Her most recent book on the history of New Zealand's childbirth services was published by Auckland University Press in 2023.

For more information, contact Paul Taillon, p.taillon@auckland.ac.nz