



Dr. Fairleigh Gilmour
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Letter of Affiliation: Amanda Coleman

Dear Fulbright Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of Amanda Coleman, an excellent candidate for a Fulbright in Dunedin, Aotearoa (New Zealand). I am a lecturer in Criminology and Gender Studies at the University of Otago, and I am looking forward to working with Amanda next year.

Amanda first contacted me in July to discuss her proposed project and we have since discussed it further over both email and Skype. Amanda proposes to explore the impact of participation in prison arts programs and dynamic risk factors for recidivism, using an approach informed by Self-Determination Theory's pre-conditions for pro-social change. Amanda is in touch with Ruth Ratcliffe, who runs the Otago Corrections Facility (OCF) Drama Group and Sherie Lucke (Acting Assistant Prison Director and Principal Adviser Rehabilitation and Learning at OCF). I also have a close relationship with OCF and organize student volunteers to run art and creative writing groups at OCF each semester and am currently research the impacts of volunteer-run programs in prisons. Amanda is also in contact with Marianne Bevan of the New Zealand Department of Corrections (NZDC) Research and Evaluation Steering Committee, who has assisted in the research application process, as well as Beth Hill of Northland Region Corrections Facility and Tony Denton of Hawke's Bay Regional Prison who will assist with facility access and support on-site logistics.

The prison population is at an all-time high in Aotearoa, where we have the second highest incarceration rate in the OECD. Research that examines risk factors in terms of prisoner recidivism is therefore very timely, and I would very much look forward to supporting a candidate whose research interests align so well with my own. Amanda's engagement with Kaupapa Māori research theory and principles and her clear ability to network with and gain support from NZDC staff indicate that her research will be robust, culturally sensitive and of value to the people involved.

Amanda and I have discussed my potential role and I would look forward to being a research advisor, particularly in terms of navigating ethics and access to prison populations in Aotearoa. I would also be delighted to introduce Amanda to other local researchers in the field, and to be a mentor throughout the project.

Thank you for your consideration of Amanda's application. I look forward to working with Amanda during her Fulbright and collaborating into the future.

Ngā mihi,



Dr. Fairleigh Gilmour
Lecturer in Criminology and Gender Studies

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