

BRIGHT SPARKS



INTRODUCING OUR 2016 COHORT / US GRADUATE STUDENT MATT JONES STUDIES NON-NATIVE SPECIES
DISPERSAL / FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE A LIFE-CHANGING, SOUL-SEARCHING JOURNEY FOR DOCTOR /
RESEARCHING INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADERS / TACKLING NZ'S YOUTH SUICIDE PROBLEM

From the Executive Director

In this issue, we focus on leadership, a core value of the Fulbright programme. Throughout this Bright Sparks we bring you in depth interviews with some of our outstanding grantees and alumni who are leaders and future leaders in their fields. On page 21, we share insights from a Leadership Week event we held in partnership with the Sir Peter Blake Trust.



Penelope Borland
Executive Director

We decided it was important to hold this event because in today's globalised world New Zealand needs leaders who can connect communities and create positive outcomes into the future. Sustainable leadership comes from empowering a collective of people who share your vision. Senator J. William Fulbright created the Fulbright programme in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II, because he believed that mutual understanding between different countries and cultures is crucial to ensure a peaceful world for the future. He said that the Fulbright programme aims "to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship." Many years and more than 3,000 alumni between New Zealand and the US later, his vision continues to live on through the leadership embodied by our alumni and the connections formed during their exchanges that are maintained throughout their lives and careers.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of Bright Sparks. We welcome your feedback.



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Contents

- 03 News from current grantees and alumni
- 05 Fulbright exchange a life-changing, soul-searching journey for doctor
- 07 Enjoying New Zealand and its “curious, interested, friendly people”
- 09 Introducing our 2016 cohort
- 13 Researching indigenous women leaders
- 15 Tackling New Zealand’s youth suicide problem
- 17 2016 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellows Jackie Dingfelder and Anastasia Telesetsky
- 18 2016 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer Miria George
- 18 2016 Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research grantee Alex Shegay
- 19 The challenges and joys of New York, and political studies at a progressive US university
- 21 Creating enduring leadership



2014 Fulbright Science & Innovation Graduate Award grantee **Elizabeth Chan** (above) was honoured to be selected as an awards presenter at the prestigious One To World 2016 Fulbright Awards Dinner in NYC.



Ben Gerritsen (above) has been appointed General Manager Commercial & Regulation at First Gas Ltd. He was previously Managing Director of Castalia Strategic Advisors. Ben used his 2006 Fulbright-Ministry of Research, Science and Technology Award to complete his Master of Public Administration at Georgetown.

Fulbright New Zealand welcomes three new independent directors to its board, **Hal Josephson, Jan Dawson and Helen Robinson.**

Hal Josephson (US) is an entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of MediaSense, Programme Chair of conference The Project. Jan Dawson (NZ) is chair of Westpac and an independent director of Beca, AIG New Zealand, Meridian Energy and Air New Zealand. Helen Robinson (NZ) is Chair of The Network for Learning Ltd (N4L), CLOUD M and Valens Group. Helen is Executive Chair and Co-Founder of Organic Initiative and Director, ATEED (Auckland Tourism Events & Economic Development).

Distinguished Professor **Paul Spoonley** (right), Pro-Vice Chancellor for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University, was awarded a 2015 Auckland Museum Medal for careers with sustained excellence in research and scholarship and made a Fellow of Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum. He has also been made a Senior Visiting Scholar of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity to continue his work on super-diversity. Paul used his 2010 Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to co-write (with Richard Bedford) a book on immigration and diversity while at the University of California Berkeley.



Clare Burn (left) is one of just 20 people from around the world to be awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute research fellowship, to complete the United States studies she began on her Fulbright.

Clare received a 2014 Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Award to study for her PhD in Biomedical Sciences specialising in infectious disease research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University in New York. Clare graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Otago in 2011.

Abstract painter **Simon Morris** has been selected as the eighth grantee of the prestigious annual Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award.

The award is for an outstanding mid-career or senior New Zealand visual artist to undertake a residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California. One residency valued at up to US\$24,000 is offered each year.

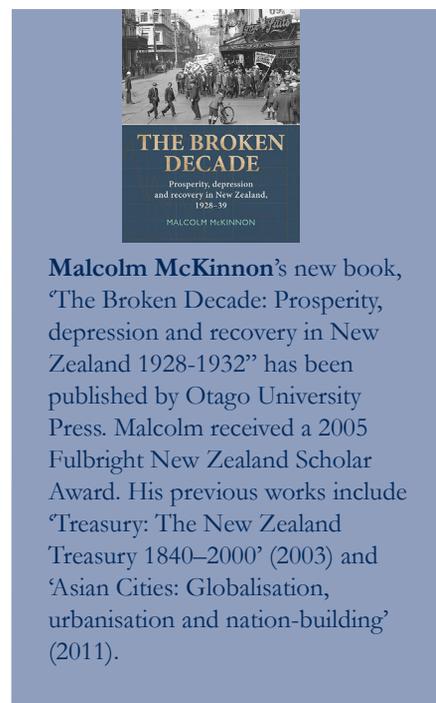
Mr Morris is an artist whose work focuses on painting, site responsive wall painting and installation. He has worked with geometric structures for over twenty-five years exploring how line, colour and structure in architectural space, and on the canvas informs new aesthetic understandings of space and time. He takes a reductive approach, making works in which a self-imposed set of limitations interact. He worked with internationally renowned Athfield Architects to complete the Rainscreen for The Dowse Art Museum.

His 2015 work Colour Order #2 is pictured right. The piece is 775mm x 775mm, acrylic on canvas.



Two-time Fulbright New Zealand grantee **Jacinta Ruru** (left) was awarded the Prime Minister's Supreme Award at the 2016 Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards.

Jacinta received a 2002 Fulbright New Zealand Travel Award and a 2011 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award. She works at the University of Otago where she is New Zealand's first Māori Professor of Law and the founder and director of a programme for Māori law students: Te Ihaka; Building Māori Leaders in Law. Jacinta is also a Co-Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.



Malcolm McKinnon's new book, "The Broken Decade: Prosperity, depression and recovery in New Zealand 1928-1932" has been published by Otago University Press. Malcolm received a 2005 Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Award. His previous works include "Treasury: The New Zealand Treasury 1840-2000" (2003) and 'Asian Cities: Globalisation, urbanisation and nation-building' (2011).

Fulbright exchange a life-changing, soul-searching journey for doctor

Mahendra Naidoo from Auckland used his 2014 Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Award to complete a Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy and Global Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mahendra Naidoo chose to go to Johns Hopkins on his Fulbright exchange due to its reputation as the mecca of public health – the oldest and largest public health school in the world.

“After working for years as a doctor at the frontline, the ‘bigger picture’ started becoming of interest to me and I wanted to learn more about what can be done to improve health at the frontline by understanding issues and interventions at the systems levels,” Mr Naidoo says.

“I wanted to learn not just the basics of public health, but also the kind of reach and force that such an institution is capable of at the highest levels. This was the start of a soul searching journey that would change my life significantly.”

He completed his Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy and Global Health. Then he stayed another year in the US to do post academic training as a Visiting Fellow at the National Cancer Institute in Washington, DC.

“I went to the US with the intention to focus on non-communicable disease models, but adjusted course to re-focus generally on health

systems in low and middle income countries. By learning about issues and solutions in low and middle income countries across health and relevant social determinants I established a newly formed dream to, in the long term, reverse innovate health system models of care to high income countries – therefore being part of a team that contributes to all levels of health, regardless of development status.”



The highlight of his exchange was being immersed not just in the US culture but international cultures that swarmed from around the world in class. He and his classmates formed a group that went to visit schools around Baltimore to talk about their backgrounds, sharing diverse knowledge and cultures with local children.

“My greatest learning curve came during the riots of 2015 in Baltimore, where in the lead up and thereafter I realised there were incredible social inequity issues in the city’s own backyard, however I learned the power of the human spirit was also incredibly strong as a force for change. Baltimore is a wonderful city and my experience was total testament against any external misconceptions of the city.”

During his exchange, he enjoyed a classic 4th of July celebration in Washington DC with a fireworks celebration in the heart of the city. He witnessed the Blue Angel fighter jets give off an aerial display in Baltimore for the celebration of the American flag’s 200 year anniversary.

“I had several classic American family Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas celebrations. However, by far my most enjoyable experience was experiencing my first ever Halloween as an adult – the parties were fantastic! Professionally, other moments that stood out include meeting Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, attending a meeting at the White House and watching Helen Clark discuss her progress on the UNDP prior to interviewing for the United Nations top job.”



At the National Cancer Institute, his work focused on developing, reviewing and forging partnerships towards new research grants that improve health research capacity in low and middle income countries.

“I enjoy public health because one can be part of upstream changes that prevent ill-health and have wider impact to entire health populations. I hope to spend the next significant phase of my career focusing on cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and innovative models of care.”





Above: Matt Jones surfing at All Day Bay. Below: climbing Mt Tongariro



Enjoying NZ life and its “curious, interested, friendly” people

Matt Jones from Pullman, Washington is a Fulbright US Graduate Award grantee developing a new framework for studying non-native species dispersal in New Zealand at the University of Canterbury towards his Washington State University PhD.

I've been studying dung beetle ecology as a part of my PhD in the United States. When I heard that New Zealand was in the process of introducing these insects, I was keen to be involved in studying the implications of this introduction from early on. I had also wanted to visit New Zealand for a really long time; the Fulbright Programme provided the perfect opportunity to do so.

The University of Canterbury is a fantastic university with lots of cross discipline collaboration, joint lab meetings, etc. People are friendly and keen to share ideas and help each other with their projects. I'm involved in formal lab group meetings with peers and department faculty as well as informal coffee meetings with other faculty and visiting scholars.

I've been fortunate to work with mentors back home for my Bachelors, Masters and PhD programs who have given me endless freedom in developing projects from the ground up – this has been incredibly helpful in my transition to developing a big project in a foreign country.

I am renting a house out by the beach in Sumner with my partner, Summer. We wanted a quiet neighbourhood, close to the water. It's been fantastic. We're able to surf all the time, and I just hop on the

purple line [public transport] into work each day – it's very convenient.

It's nearly impossible to have a conversation with locals in Christchurch without the big earthquakes of 2010/2011 coming up at some point. Those events have shaped the way people live in the city and relate to each other so much. It's been powerful to see the long lasting effects on the city's culture years later.

I have been surprised to find it takes forever to drive places, buying healthy food here seems very expensive. I had no idea so much of the country was covered in pasture. It's been much easier to settle in here than I anticipated - people are so curious and interested and friendly.

I'll soon be returning to my PhD program at Washington State University (about 2 years left). After that, I am very interested in working at a research university or for the Department of Agriculture. My time in New Zealand has introduced me to working in pasture ecosystems with livestock farmers, which I am loving, and has also helped me realise how much work there is to co-managing natural spaces with agriculture. My time in New Zealand has already been invaluable in helping me fine tune my long term plans.



Introducing our 2016 cohort

The new grantees of Fulbright New Zealand Awards were announced and honoured at a prestigious ceremony held at Parliament in June.

The 2016 Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony and Alumni Reception was hosted by Hon Chris Finlayson, U.S. Ambassador Mark Gilbert and Fulbright New Zealand Chair Harlene Hayne.

It was a memorable and special evening, especially for the newest additions to the Fulbright family, the 2016 award grantees.

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards for New Zealand and American graduates, scholars and professionals. Many of the New Zealand grantees for 2016 have now arrived in the U.S, and the American grantees are now partway through their exchanges.

Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards

- **Alexandra Sinclair** from Masterton will complete a Master of Laws degree specialising in intellectual property and civil and indigenous rights at Columbia Law School in New York City.
- **Ethan Thomson** from Christchurch will research ground motion simulation at Stanford University, as part of his PhD in Earthquake Engineering at the University of Canterbury.
- **Hannah Griffin** from Wellington will complete a Master of Public Administration specialising in Environmental Policy at Syracuse University, New York.
- **Harrison Jull** from Hamilton will research laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy applied to an agricultural robot at Nova Southeastern University, towards his PhD in Engineering at the University of Waikato.



Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award grantee David Green (third from left) and guests

- **Henry Lane** from Auckland will research the phylogeography of the oyster parasite *Bonamia* at the College of William and Mary, Virginia, towards his PhD in Zoology from the University of Otago.
- **James Major** from Christchurch will complete a Master of Engineering in Geological Sciences at Cornell University in New York.
- **Chantal Juntao Chen** from Auckland will complete a PhD in Neuroscience specialising in computational modelling of neural activity at Washington University in St Louis.
- **Mataroria Lyndon** from Whangarei will complete a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.
- **Sanna O'Connor-Morberg** from Auckland will complete a Masters Degree in Environmental Management specialising in Environmental Science and Policy at Yale University, New Haven.
- **Sarah Neill** from Auckland will complete a Masters of Science in Structural Engineering, Mechanics and Materials, specialising in earthquake engineering at the

University of California, Berkeley.

Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research

- **Alex Shegay** from Auckland will research the seismic performance of high-rise structural walls at the University of Washington in Seattle, towards a PhD from The University of Auckland.

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award

- **Maia Wikaira** from Tūrangi will complete a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy specialising in freshwater law and policy and indigenous rights at Stanford University in California.

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards

- **Ana Montgomery-Neutze** from Kāpiti will complete a Masters in Social Documentary Film at The School of Visual Arts in New York.
- **Clara Pau** from Alexandra will complete a PhD in Political Development, specialising

in community development and policy in the Pacific at Tulane University, New Orleans.

- **David Bullock** from Lower Hutt will complete a Master of Laws at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.
- **David Green** from Waitakere will complete a Master of Laws degree specialising in indigenous legal issues at Harvard University in Boston.
- **Emily Draper** from Auckland will complete a Master of Arts specialising in English Literature at the University of Washington.
- **Jeremy Olds** from Auckland will complete a Master of Arts in Journalism specialising in arts and culture at Columbia University in New York.

Fulbright US Graduate Award

- **Clare Jones** from New Orleans, Louisiana is completing a collection of poetry, specialising in the intersection between ecology and poetry, at Victoria University of Wellington.
- **Daniel Coppersmith** from Concord, Massachusetts is researching the epidemiology and prevention of youth suicide and self-harm, at the University of Otago.
- **Elena Perry** from Bethesda, Maryland is researching how supplementary feeding affects the gut microbiome of the endangered kakapo, at The University of Auckland.
- **Eliza Oldach** from Chapel Hill, North Carolina is researching coastal ecosystems with the Marine Ecology Research Group at University of Canterbury.
- **Kandyce Anderson** from Indianapolis,

Indiana is completing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Global Education, focusing on theoretical underpinnings of Kaupapa Māori Theory at the University of Waikato.

- **Lindsey Pointer** from Fort Collins, Colorado is completing a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy, specialising in the role of rituals in restorative justice, at Victoria University of Wellington.
- **Matt Jones** from Pullman, Washington is using empirical data collection and statistical modelling to understand the establishment of dung beetle introductions to New Zealand. He is based at the University of Canterbury.
- **Robby Goldman** from Los Angeles, California is researching how the distribution and composition of primary volcanic features observed in the heavily eroded Akaroa volcano of the Banks Peninsula constrain numerical models of that volcano's formation, at the University of Canterbury.

Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards

- **Matthew Stott** from Taupō is undertaking research into the ecological, functional and taxonomic similarities of microorganisms that populate geothermal ecosystems in New Zealand and Yellowstone National Park.
- **Nigel Isaacs** from Wellington is researching the development of the first USA national building code (1922) and its impact on the first New Zealand national building code (1924) based at the University of Illinois with visits to archives in Minnesota, Iowa and Maryland.



Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award grantee Maia Wikaira and Fulbright Science and Innovation grantee Mataroria Lyndon



Fulbright US Graduate Award grantees Eliza Oldach (centre) and Elena Perry (right) with guest



2016 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellows Anastasia Telesetsky (left) and Jackie Dingfelder

- **Rob Keyzers** from Wellington will research the use of microbial imaging mass spectrometry to fast-track the discovery of new antibiotics at the Skaggs Institute of Pharmacy, University of California in San Diego. Rob is a Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at Victoria University of Wellington.

Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award

- **Te Kīpa Kēpa Brian Morgan** from Waiheke Island is researching potential applications of the Mauri Model Decision Making Framework at the University of Hawai`i, Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Arizona.

Fulbright US Scholar Awards

- **David Grainger** from Salt Lake City, Utah developed a new nanoparticle toxicity assessment model for the brain at the University of Otago.
- **Jake Vander Zanden** from Madison, Wisconsin researched factors affecting

water quality in New Zealand lakes, based at the University of Waikato.

- **Katherine Crawford-Garrett** focussed on TeachFirst NZ, a programme that prepares university graduates in New Zealand to work in low-decile schools.
- **Louise Davidson-Schmich** from Miami, Florida researched New Zealand's female Prime Ministers (Jenny Shipley and Helen Clark) and teaching a class on Comparative Political Economy at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence Programme

- **Caro McCaw** from Dunedin will be hosted by State University of New York in upstate New York to teach in their Graphic and Multimedia design programme. Caro will give talks about current art and design practices in New Zealand to nearby universities and the wider community. Caro is a Principal Lecturer and Academic Leader of Communication Design at Otago Polytechnic.

Researching indigenous women leaders

Sharon Toi used her 2014 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award to research the invisibility of indigenous women in tribal governance, at the University of Arizona in Tucson, towards a PhD in Law from the University of Waikato. Sharon graduated with an LLB in 1997 and a BA in 1998 from The University of Auckland. She obtained an MBA in 2008 and an LLM (Hons) in 2010 from the University of Waikato.

When Sharon Toi arrived in Tucson, Arizona with its “hot as an oven, 46 degrees Celsius summer weather”, she made a personal commitment to make her Fulbright exchange an experience of a life-time. She believes she exceeded her own, her family’s and her academic colleagues’ expectations.

“I made lifelong friends, American, Indian and international. I stepped way out of my comfort zone and attended many events on my own so that I would be forced into meeting new people,” Sharon says.

She joined a triathlon training club shortly after arrival and competed in two sprint triathlons. The early morning triathlon training sessions kept her active and got her out of the apartment, which was graduate housing on campus near “superb” local public transport, cafes, stores and supermarkets. Her flatmate was a young American woman from Kansas doing a graduate programme in photography. Despite their age difference (Sharon is now in her 50’s), the pair became firm friends.

Sharon met other Fulbrighters from around the world at the Fulbright orientation she attended, joined the Native Law Students Association and became an affiliated member of the National

she met had met a Māori person or knew about the culture so she was invited to speak at many events, dinners and luncheon about her research, Māori language, customs and way of life.

A highlight of her time in Arizona was making Diné (Navajo) friends and spending time on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. She spent some time in Tuba City with a New Zealander, Brendan Kennedy who practised law with the Navajo Legal Aid Services. Sharon travelled several times to Chinle, on the Navajo reservation, where she enjoyed helping out with the High School’s track meet against the visiting Ganado High school.

“It was an alternative Spring Break like no other, butchering and cooking a sheep included. I stayed with a friend and her family for a few days meeting her 96 year old grandmother who only spoke Diné and who showed me how to make tortilla. Her woven Navajo rugs, quilts and dresses were unbelievably beautiful, as was she.”

Sharon’s research situates Māori women’s participation in tribal governance within the context of treaty settlements. Perceived as providing a pathway toward economic, social and cultural development, post-settlement governance is



currently a site of struggle for Māori women as it is for many indigenous nations.

“The research I conducted in the US broadened my knowledge on indigenous women’s issues significantly,” Sharon says.

“My research objective as a Fulbright scholar was to undertake a comparative study of the participation of Māori and Native American women as tribal leaders and decision-makers. I was particularly interested in interviewing a sample of women of the Southwestern tribes who have a well-researched history of grassroots activism, political and tribal leadership.”

Once in the US, Sharon found that her lack of knowledge of Federal Indian Law and the workings of tribal governments meant that she had to do between three and four months of intensive preparatory research in those areas prior to initiating contact with potential interview participants. As a result, she interviewed some local Native women tribal leaders and was provided access to a number of Native databases containing many interviews with tribal men and women, through the Native Nations

Institute and the work of the Dr. Stephen Cornell of the Harvard American Indian Economic Development Programme.

Overall, her research goal is to aid in the development of Kaupapa Māori theory through an indigenous women’s lens, thus building on Mana Wahine as a theory appropriate for both Māori and other indigenous women.

“Ultimately, my hope is to develop ‘decolonising’ gender analysis tools to facilitate indigenous women’s decision-making in tribal governance. Women have an important role to play in the self-determination agenda of indigenous nations, however, I believe that there is a pressing need to identify who the ‘self’ is in that agenda and that women’s roles, participation and ways of deciding are being overlooked,” Sharon says.

“My intent is to position indigenous women as essential decision-makers within this framework through Mana Wahine theory and the development of Mana Wahine/gender analysis tools.”

When it came to sharing cultural knowledge on her exchange, Sharon aimed to give as well as receive which she did by teaching waiata, haka and poi as well as answering many questions about her home country.

“I came away from Arizona confident in the knowledge that people I had met, befriended, talked to, conferenced with, and presented to, had been left with some insights firstly about Te Reo me ona tikanga Māori and secondly, about New Zealand.”

Tackling NZ's youth suicide problem

Daniel Coppersmith from Concord, Massachusetts is researching the epidemiology and prevention of youth suicide and self-harm at the University of Otago on his Fulbright US Graduate Award. Daniel graduated with a BA from Brown University in 2015.

Fulbright scholar Daniel Coppersmith experienced the tragedy of youth suicide during his own teen years. Now he is dedicating his career to improving outcomes for at-risk youth.

New Zealand's suicide rates are currently at a record high and youth stand out among those statistics. On his Fulbright exchange from Concord, Massachusetts, Daniel wants to find out why "such a beautiful country" has so many young people choosing to end their lives prematurely. In his research at the University of Otago, he is looking at ways to better identify signs that youth are at risk of suicide in order to prevent further self-harm.

He was directly affected by youth suicide when two teenagers in his hometown took their own lives, including one at his high school.

"It had a really big impact on our community. It was just a huge tragedy. It was really, really sad," Daniel says.

Daniel first studied suicide on an internship at Harvard's Nock Lab, which aims to advance the understanding of why people engage in behaviours that are harmful to themselves. Its research has a special emphasis on suicide, self-injury, and other forms of direct self-harm.



"The first thing I did in the lab was transcribe these 30 hour long interviews with soldiers who had recently attempted suicide. It was really tough. They were really tragic stories. It was also a huge eye opener because behind every number and every statistic, there is a story," Daniel says.

"I heard what happened in their lives, how they wished they'd received help and many said they were glad they had lived. That speaks to why this research is so important."

Daniel arrived in New Zealand in February 2016. He is doing an independent research project as a visiting student researcher. He appreciates having autonomy

due to the nature of work.

There are a lot of potential reasons behind New Zealand's high suicide rates, especially for youth. Daniel says nobody has the answers yet.

“It is a complex problem with psychological, biological and societal factors that feed into it. There are a multitude of different risk factors that interact in really complex ways. New Zealand does have some things that could potentially increase the risk – such as rural areas with social isolation, smaller communities and a relatively small country could mean suicide contagion is relatively more applicable. Youth are especially vulnerable to suicide contagion, that's why there are strict media reporting guidelines on it,” Daniel says.

“Mental illness of course increases the rates of suicide. New Zealand does have relatively high rates of child abuse – we know that increases the likelihood of suicide risk because early life stressors can potentially lead to negative outcomes later in life. There has been a lot of epidemiological work to try and understand the risk factors but the reality is, we don't know.”

Of the New Zealanders Daniel has spoken to on his Fulbright exchange so far, all have been aware of the disproportionately high youth suicide toll.

“No one I have spoken to in New Zealand is surprised to hear it's a problem. It is complex. New Zealand is a relatively well-off country that has overall relatively good health outcomes but as we've

“

Youth suicide is a problem in New Zealand and I feel very honoured and privileged to be given the opportunity to do this work and to try and help”

seen in the States, even as health outcomes have improved the suicide rate has remained relatively stable.”

As a researcher, it can be difficult dealing with subject matter such as self-harm and suicide. At Harvard, Daniel learned to be acutely aware of his own mental health and wellbeing, especially when working with participants. He relies on strong social and family relationships, exercise and a range of hobbies combined with self-awareness to keep positive.

“Hearing the stories of bereaved parents, seeing these statistics is all a motivator to work harder. Research can really be a strong form of advocacy in matters like this,” Daniel says.

Daniel plans to do his PhD in psychology focusing on the prevention of youth suicide and self-harm when his Fulbright exchange is over.

“You can't alleviate suffering unless you talk about it,” Daniel says.

“Youth suicide is a problem in New Zealand and I feel very honoured and privileged to be given the opportunity to do this work and to try and help.”

2016 Ian Axford Fellow Jackie Dingfelder



2016 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellow **Jackie Dingfelder**'s research 'New Zealand's Approach to Integrated Freshwater Management with a Focus on Indigenous Interests' is now available at www.fulbright.org.nz. It focuses on New Zealand's freshwater reform efforts since 2009. Key findings and recommendations to strengthen a bicultural approach to integrated water management include: central government demonstrating clear leadership and support of regional efforts; expanding local capacity and national-level infrastructure; facilitating greater understanding and dialogue about different world views; and promoting support tools for collaborative processes. Jackie was the Environmental Policy Director for Mayor Charlie Hales, from Portland, Oregon.

2016 Ian Axford Fellow Anastasia Telesetsky



2016 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellow **Anastasia Telesetsky**'s research on 'Fishing for the Future: Addressing Fisheries Discards' is now available at www.fulbright.org.nz. This project highlights international comparative approaches to handling discards in European and North American fisheries and offers a variety of suggestions to improve quality of available information for fisheries science, improve the operation of the existing quota system to reduce incentives to discard, improve selectivity during fishing, and enhance professionalism in the fishing industry. The project concludes with some thoughts about how New Zealand may be able to increase value for its export fisheries products. Anastasia is a Professor of environmental law at the University of Idaho.

2016 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer Mīria George

Writer, producer and director **Mīria George** is the first Cook Islands artist to receive the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency at the University of Hawai'i. Mīria is of Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Kuki Airani (Rarotonga & Atiu) heritage and is the co-director of theatre company Tawata Productions. During her three-month residency, Mīria will develop a new work, *Fire In The Water, Fire In The Sky*, which is a performance piece addressing the effects of colonisation, christianity and climate change in the Pacific. "This is a uniquely Pasifika journey. It will investigate the outside factors which have had a huge impact on the lives of Pacific peoples and also search for hope for the future of the Pacific and the world," says Mīria.



2016 Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award grantee Alex Shegay

2016 Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research grantee **Alex Shegay** is soon heading to the University of Washington on his Fulbright exchange. In the US, he will research the seismic performance of high-rise structural walls towards his PhD in Structural/Earthquake Engineering at The University of Auckland. Alex, 24, graduated with a BE(Hons) in 2014 from The University of Auckland. "My time in the US will be spent using the experimental data obtained from testing prior to departure to create validated computer models. I will be collaborating with leading researchers in the modelling field to create models that can then be used to cover a broader range of design variables beyond the experimental program. My goal is to bring this knowledge back to New Zealand."





Clockwise from top left: Alix on the Brooklyn Bridge, trying locally made ice cream in New York, visiting Lake Tahoe

The challenges and joys of New York, and Political Studies at a progressive US university

Alix Jansen from Auckland used her 2014 Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award to complete a Master of Arts degree in Political Studies, specialising in the relationship between social outcomes, unemployment and social welfare at The New School in New York. Alix graduated with a Master of Public Policy (Hons) from The University of Auckland in 2013.

When I arrived at The New School I wanted to study people's experiences with unemployment following the global financial crisis. From 2008, my friends, my sibling and I struggled in low paying jobs and swapped stories of our parents' employment difficulties. These experiences raised questions about searching for meaningful work in a labour market increasingly shaped by hands-off labour regulation.

19 How do we create meaning and security in the midst of unstable employment conditions? Prior to arriving

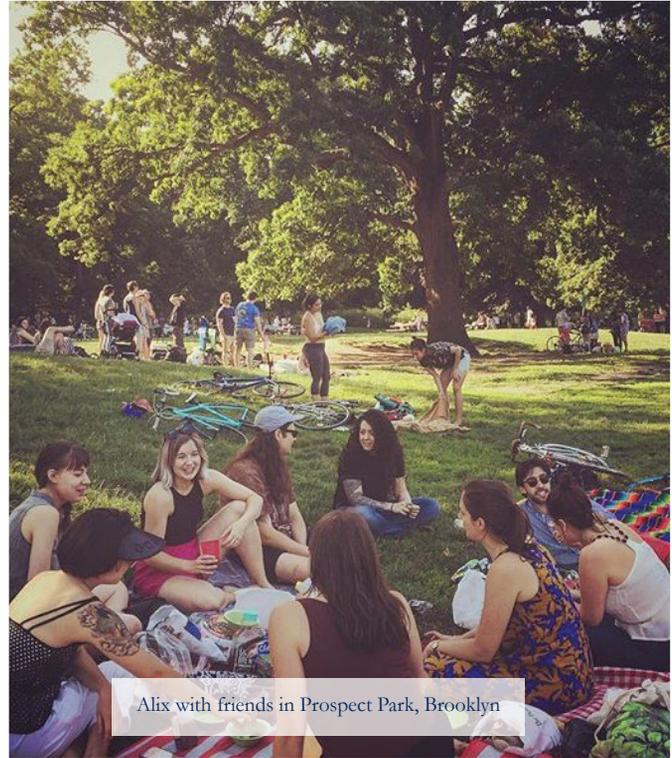
in New York, I spent two and a half years working for the Ministry of Social Development and continued to develop a sense of unease with the way people are reduced to their employment status in policy, political discourse and regular conversation.

I was interested in exploring the ways in which unemployment policies and programs influenced people's lives: did they help people who were experiencing unemployment or cause more harm?

I wrote a paper for a class that I later delivered at a conference about the problems with the US's two-tiered welfare systems. Support for people experiencing unemployment in New York depends on a person's work history. People with histories of access to good employment opportunities receive significantly higher support payments through Unemployment Insurance compared with people who only have access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Lifetimes of income inequality are then replicated through access to state support.

Over time, and through getting to know more people, I came to understand that many people in New York were working a whole range of part time jobs. This meant they weren't eligible for a whole lot of forms of social support designed to help make society fairer. I got curious about the ways in which different kinds of jobs make people's lives easier or more difficult and started focus on precarious work: work that is low income, inconsistent, and comes with little to no social benefits or entitlements like protection from discrimination and sick leave.

As a result, I did a series of interviews that became the basis for my MA thesis. I ended up focusing on investigating the ways that irregular scheduling affects workers' lives, on top of the difficulties people face when living on low incomes. I found two main things from my small-scale study. First, low income workers with irregular hours, compared to low-income workers with regular hours, struggle to manage their time and end up working invisibly – without pay or recognition. Second, irregular workers feel more insecure in part as a result of the structural



insecurity they face and in part because they blame themselves for these structural insecurities. Both the regular and irregular workers I spoke to framed their work as something they chose. As a result, workers with irregular hours interpret their struggles through a lens of personal failure. I presented this paper at two graduate conferences and it will be the basis for my PhD, which I'm starting in September.

In September I'll be starting a PhD in Political Science at the University of Toronto, continuing to focus on the ways that employment and unemployment make people's lives difficult, while looking for ways that governments and employers could step up.

Creating enduring leadership

Fulbright New Zealand partnered with the Sir Peter Blake Trust to deliver the event Creating Enduring Leadership as part of 2016 Leadership Week in July, in Wellington. The panellists, including two Fulbright alumni, discussed the meaning of good, enduring leadership. Victoria University Public and Community Leadership Professor Brad Jackson led the conversation on making meaningful connections and inspiring actions that have sustainable impact both here and around the world, with a panel of innovators.

Panellists were Fulbright alum Mark Pennington ONZM, Lead Coach for the government-funded 'Better By Design' programme and head designer at Formway; Sam Johnson, social entrepreneur and founder of the Student Volunteer Army; Maia Wikaira (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa), Kahui Legal lawyer, 2016 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award grantee; and Rachel Taulelei MNZM (Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Rarua), Kono Chief Executive, Yellow Brick Road Founder, Aotearoa Fisheries Director and, 2012 Blake Leader.

Referred to as 'the most creative man in New Zealand,' Mark Pennington was the first panellist. An industrial designer, he traced his journey in the design industry and his innovation of a high performance task chair. Mr Pennington moved beyond the goal of creating a product to striving to increase productivity and efficiency in the workplace. He emphasised teamwork, where individuals working

to a brief were transformed through leadership to a collective involved and invested in creating the vision. Some leadership values he learnt centred around having a shared vision, which translated into shared leadership and greater success. Having a clearly defined goal and collectively-owned purpose cemented commitment, and he stressed the need to help each other, work with humility, and most importantly, have fun.

Rachel Taulelei attributed leadership to authenticity: it is about who you are and what you represent, which in Māoridom incorporates Tupuna (ancestors). It also includes excellence (doing one's best), action (to take the first step forward), and the clarity, conviction and courage to continue moving forward. By taking initiative to see a need in the world, then humbly paying your service forward, Ms Taulelei believed that one's leadership would succeed. Echoing Mark's introduction, she finished with, "if you love what you do, it's going to invariably end up being your best."

Fulbright grantee and future Stanford University student Maia Wikaira discussed Māori values in leadership. Ms Wikaira began with a whakataukī (Māori proverb) – "Men will be lost but the land will remain" – focusing on the importance of a living legacy through leadership, especially the legacy of one's values: 'leaders may be lost, but you must retain their legacy.' Ms Wikaira passionately talked about values in the broader context and her journey to learn who she was and the need for caring



Left to right: Fulbright alum Mark Pennington, Sam Johnson, Fulbright grantee Maia Wikaira, Rachel Taulelei

for one another. She illustrated leadership where having a privileged position, a greater understanding, and the ability to convey concepts creates an obligation to impart those gifts to others.

The final panelist, Sam Johnson, was founder of the Student Volunteer Army and New Zealander of the Year in 2012. Characterising the world as changing more than we can keep up, Mr Johnson emphasised the need to build, change, and grow, both individually and collectively. Vulnerability is necessary to succeed, to discover yourself and your gifts. Mr Johnson humorously discussed how his Student Army is comparable in task-organisation to prison workers, where students were more effective in their work through volunteerism and shared responsibility. Exercising shared responsibility, Mr Johnson

invested in building the movement, not the organisation (a gem of knowledge given to him by the Dalai Lama), to set a lasting goal and ensure people want to achieve it by putting trust in project participants and helping people have the confidence to act.

Victoria University Provost Professor Wendy Lerner finished the evening's proceedings, summarising the points discussed. She commented that leadership endures when we strive to make things better, bringing people together to do things better, and sharing responsibilities, visions, and values to work together. Leadership endures when we embrace values of authenticity, humility, gratitude and empathy; doing your best, loving what you do, and settling for respect rather than an agreement.

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