

## Prison Research Meets Practice: A Conversation on Women in Prison

### Speaker Biographies



**Michelle Daniel Jones** is a sixth-year doctoral student in the American studies program at New York University (ABD). Her dissertation focuses on creative liberation strategies of incarcerated women and the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project. As an organizer, collaborator, and subject matter expert she creates opportunities to speak truth to power and serves in the development and operation of taskforces and initiatives to reduce harm and end mass incarceration. She has joined Second Chance Educational Alliance as a senior research consultant, Women Transcending Oral History Project at the Columbia University, Center for Justice, the Survivor's Justice Project and serves on the boards of Worth Rises and the Correctional Association of New York and

advisory boards of the Jamii Sisterhood, the Education Trust, A Touch of Light, the Urban Institute and ITHAKA's Higher Education in Prison Research project. She is a founding member and board president of Constructing Our Future, a reentry and housing organization for women created by incarcerated women in Indiana and a Beyond the Bars fellow, a research fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University, and a Ford Foundation Bearing Witness Fellow with Art for Justice, a SOZE Foundation Right of Return Fellow, a Code for America Fellow, a Mural Arts Rendering Justice Fellow and an Artist for the People Practitioner Fellow at the Human Rights Lab/Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago. Daniel Jones is co-editor with Elizabeth Nelson of a new history of Indiana's carceral institutions for women with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated colleagues titled, *Who Would Believe a Prisoner? Indiana Women's Carceral Institutions, 1848 - 1920*. As an artist, further, Daniel Jones is interested in finding ways to funnel her research pursuits into theater, dance, and photography. She co-authored an original play with Anastazia Schmid, *The Duchess of Stringtown* that was produced in Indianapolis and New York City. Daniel Jones's artist installation about the weaponization of stigma, "Point of Triangulation: Intersections of Identity," ran at the New York University, Gallatin Galleries, the Beyond the Bars Conference at Columbia University, the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and a Mural Arts of Philadelphia permanent mural. Daniel Jones is curator and featured artist in "Makes Me Wanna Holla: Art, Death and Imprisonment" exhibition about COVID-19 in prisons opens July 2023 in Chicago, Illinois. Contact information: [michelle@constructingourfuture.org](mailto:michelle@constructingourfuture.org).



**Evelyn F. McCoy** is a senior manager in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she leads projects on the experiences of people incarcerated in jails and prisons, including reproductive health, sexual abuse, parenting, and trauma, as well as alternatives to incarceration. McCoy has expertise in mixed-methods research, policy analysis, and technical assistance and has worked with criminal legal agencies, community-based organizations, and people involved in the criminal legal system and their families. McCoy earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and earned her master's degree in sociology and public policy at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, where her research focused on victim services and service delivery models for youth

survivors of sex trafficking. Contact information: [emccoy@urban.org](mailto:emccoy@urban.org).



**Dr. Emily Salisbury** is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Utah Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah College of Social Work. She is trained as an applied criminologist and focuses her research on the science of correctional treatment interventions, particularly among system-involved women. Dr. Salisbury earned her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, has a master's degree in forensic psychology, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her scholarship focuses on correctional policy, offender risk/needs assessment and treatment intervention strategies, with a particular focus on system-involved women, gender-responsive practices, and trauma-responsive care. Her research publications have appeared in several top academic journals and edited volumes. Dr. Salisbury is the Research Director of the *Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)* instruments that she co-developed

through a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice. The WRNA correctional assessments are the only peer-reviewed, validated risk and strength instruments specifically designed by and for system-involved women. The WRNA has been implemented in over 100 international and domestic jurisdictions (e.g., United Kingdom, Singapore, Czech Republic, Namibia). As a result of her scholarship on behalf of women, she was awarded the *Marguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award* from the American Society of Criminology Division on Corrections and Sentencing. For five years, she also served as Editor-in-Chief of *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, a top-tier research and policy journal focused on correctional rehabilitation. Additionally, she is co-author of the book, *Correctional Counseling and Rehabilitation*, currently in its 10<sup>th</sup> edition. She is often sought as an expert witness among human rights organizations on the issue of incarcerated women, recently testifying to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She takes her public servant role seriously, and believes in the ethos of public criminology, illustrated by taking on such roles as a Commissioner for the Nevada Sentencing Commission. Dr. Salisbury frequently provides applied technical assistance to the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the National Institute of Corrections, as well as various federal and state departments of corrections and international NGOs. Contact information: [emily.salisbury@utah.edu](mailto:emily.salisbury@utah.edu).



**Amanda Woolford** is a Fellow in the Litmus program of the NYU Marron Institute and the Director of Women's Programs at the Maine Department of Corrections since 2011. She is a champion for justice-involved women, looking for ways to overcome limitations, and challenging the status quo. She is passionate about increasing positive outcomes and opportunities for her clients and helping them successfully and permanently transition out of the system. She has implemented policies and practices that push boundaries and become a national leader in promoting a public-health approach to criminal-justice involvement. Woolford's career started in case management, while studying criminal justice at Northeastern University. She moved on to juvenile probation and, in 2011, transitioned into the facility and began oversight of the adult women's facilities in Maine. Woolford also earned her master's degree in criminal justice from Boston University, with a concentration in strategic management. Contact information:

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