

## Luncheon Seminar: 14 February 2022

Luncheon: 12.00 pm–12.30 pm

Presentation: 12.30 pm–1.30 pm

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Wednesday 9 February via our [online registration form](#).

Location:  
Ashburn Recreation Hall

Parking:  
Top carpark.

No smoking onsite.

*This event is supported by research funds from the James Hume Bequest.*

**Ashburn Clinic**  
496 Taieri Rd  
Halfway Bush  
Private Bag 1916,  
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(03) 476-2092

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**Topic: Identity & Drug Use – Punishment, Prison & Addiction**  
**Presenter: Seán Manning, MSc, DipGrad, DipSW, TSTA**

Our sense of who we are, where we belong, and to which identity groups – our sense of self – is the major determinant of how we think and feel and what we do. The experience of imprisonment, involving isolation from whānau and the wider community, has the effect of creating and practicing a particular sense of self, identified here as a ‘criminal identity’ which gives men mana, a loyal peer group, mentors and a career, albeit not one intended by the criminal justice system. Imprisonment creates an intoxicating, performative, adaptive sense of self, which is not readily given up and which involves dangerous norms in risk-taking, the use of drugs and attitudes towards women. This way of looking at crime, violence and drug use, seeing it as a power-knowledge complex driven by discourse, predicts outcomes and guides treatment approaches better than the commonly accepted deviance, deficit or trauma-based models, and explains the poor performance of most prison-based rehabilitation programmes.

Aotearoa has high rate of imprisonment (5th among 37 OECD countries), particularly of indigenous people, a scandalous 52.9% of the prison population, compared to less than 20% of the nation. Our Corrections system is seen, from this perspective, as a dangerous, self-perpetuating machine that encourages and perpetuates violence, drug use and crime, damages whānau, reduces participation in community and the wider democracy and particularly targets indigenous people.

*Raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Seán has lived in Aotearoa/New Zealand since 1975. He is a registered psychotherapist and kaihaumanu - clinical specialist - at Moana House therapeutic community in Dunedin. He works for a stopping violence programme and maintains a small private practice. He is a former president of the NZ Association of Psychotherapists and has had several governance roles in other organisations. He has qualifications in psychology, social work, Māori studies and psychotherapy and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Health Science at AUT, studying the way criminality and its accompaniments, violence and addiction, are assembled and maintained.*

*Following his interest in language, Seán once had some command of Māori language, which is still better than his Irish, and his Spanish is both gaining and losing ground. He plays some stringed instruments just well enough to have company. He has published regularly.*

**Next Luncheon Seminar: 14 March** Dr Adam Fusheini (Lecturer in Public Health), Health Disparities and Inequities