

Rethinking Incarcerated Women's Leisure as Subjected to Coercive and Normative Prison Missions

Alexis Marcoux Rouleau*

School of Criminology, University of Montreal, Montreal, QC, Canada

Leisure is commonly understood as contributing to well-being; this is especially appealing when considering multiply marginalized populations such as incarcerated women. However, leisure is not impervious to cooptation by less benevolent social processes. In this conceptual analysis, I argue that incarcerated women's leisure must be rethought as a component of its environment and by extension, as subjected to coercive and normative prison missions. After broadly delineating incarcerated women's leisure, I determine that some characteristics of leisure can be compatible with these prison missions. I then examine individual, organizational, and social benefits and issues with leisure in women's prisons. I link these practices to reduced coerciveness and increased normativity. I conclude by suggesting that ensuring incarcerated people's well-being through leisure is not in itself an end, but a means to achieve prison's coercive and normative ends. I discuss implications for scholars, practitioners, and advocates.

OPEN ACCESS

Edited by:

Arianne Reis, Western Sydney University, Australia

Reviewed by:

Reinhard Haudenhuyse, Vrije University Brussel, Belgium Mary G. Parr, Kent State University, United States

*Correspondence:

Alexis Marcoux Rouleau alexis.rouleau@umontreal.ca

Specialty section:

This article was submitted to Sport, Leisure and Tourism, a section of the journal Frontiers in Sports and Active Living

> Received: 29 July 2020 Accepted: 28 October 2020 Published: 23 November 2020

Citation:

Marcoux Rouleau A (2020) Rethinking Incarcerated Women's Leisure as Subjected to Coercive and Normative Prison Missions. Front. Sports Act. Living 2:588775. doi: 10.3389/fspor.2020.588775 Keywords: leisure, sports, arts, programs, prison, women, normative, coercive

1

INTRODUCTION

Criminalized women tend to be multiply marginalized—poor, racialized, single parents, survivors of physical, and sexual violence, struggling with mental or physical health problems and addictions (Balfour and Comack, 2014). Once incarcerated, deprivations inherent to the setting engender embodied and affective suffering among this population (Chamberlen, 2016). This baseline of suffering is especially worrying in the context of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, as prisons lock down, concerns of human rights violations have been entwined with reported suspensions of "non-essential" prison activities including family visits, programs, and leisure (see compilation by Rubin, 2020). Such activities are, however, essential to women's coping and well-being in prison (Davila Figueroa, 2011).

From a human rights or social justice perspective, these suspensions can be dismaying. However, leisure's status as a right in prison has often been contested; leisure may instead be a privilege (Walakafra-Wills, 1983; Todd, 1995; Lee, 1996; Hensley et al., 2003; Lippke, 2003; Ambrose and Rosky, 2013; Lucas et al., 2019). If leisure is a privilege rather than a right, it can easily be denied by surveillance staff or suspended by prison administrators for internal or external motives. Further, leisure is both an individual and social phenomenon which cannot be understood as separate from the rest of social life (Rojek, 1995). Prisons are highly regulated and relatively sealed institutions (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007); it follows that attempts to understand leisure in prison should tie this phenomenon to its particular sociological setting. The question at hand thus is not "why cancel leisure if it can offer some comfort in these trying times," but "how is leisure part of its environment in the first place?"

In this paper, I argue that leisure needs to be rethought as a component of prison and as subjected to the same organizational missions.

So how does leisure fit within prison's missions? What does this entail for incarcerated women? After broadly delineating leisure in women's prisons, I examine whether leisure *could* fit by tying some of its characteristics to Canadian prisons' coercive and normative missions (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007). I then review incarcerated women's leisure practices—what it *actually does, for whom.* I link benefits and issues at individual, organizational, and societal levels to coercive and normative prison missions. In closing I discuss implications for researchers and for practitioners and advocates.

Multiple articles review the state of knowledge around yoga, sports, or arts-based programs in prison and most of the literature emphasizes how leisure contributes to incarcerated people's well-being (Finio, 1986; Cheliotis, 2014; Auty et al., 2017; Martinez-Merino et al., 2017; Woods et al., 2017). However, incarcerated women's leisure experiences are more complex than this literature suggests due to this population's trauma experiences as well as leisure's potential to reflect oppressive social structures and enact social control (Yuen et al., 2012). The current paper contributes to this body of knowledge by considering all types of leisure in prison, identifying benefits as well as issues, and tying these to prison missions. This provides a clearer picture of leisure as a component of its environment. In that sense, I bring together English and French empirical, theoretical, and gray literature spanning leisure and prison studies. Because leisure in women's prisons remains an emerging area of inquiry, some work centering men is included to provide organizational insights.

BROADLY DELINEATING INCARCERATED WOMEN'S LEISURE

It is important to identify what counts as leisure in women's prisons before attempting to rethink what this concept entails. Delineating leisure in broad strokes leaves space for recognizing patterns and commonalities across all leisure, which in turn helps make sense of leisure as a component of its environment.

Although leisure is often presumed to be positive or beneficial, a broader delineation may better account for the complexity and diversity of incarcerated women's experiences (Yuen et al., 2012). I thus consider positive and negative leisure, as well as what falls between these poles. Some leisure can be understood as positive recreation (Yuen and Pedlar, 2009). Indeed, Indigenous women's ceremonies in prison—the sweat lodge, annual Pow Wow, drum songs, and conversations with Elders—are experienced as leisure in that they foster re-creation, healing, empowerment, and reparative justice (Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; Yuen, 2011). As for incarcerated women in general, a range of activities can be included in leisure due to their positive effects: sports tournaments, active outdoor or passive indoor recreation, card games, movies, music, reading, telephoning family, holiday activities, and writing (Davila Figueroa, 2011). Due to positive effects on incarcerated women and despite

common assumptions, even work, educational, and religious programs are experienced as recreation in the prison context (Davila Figueroa, 2011). Beyond recreation, some leisure can be negative reproduction because it enforces harmful norms (Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; details in Societal Issues section). It is reasonable to assume that some experiences rest in the middle ground between positive recreation and negative reproduction: leisure with less pronounced effects, with mixed positive and negative effects, or with positive effects only in some cases. Take access to cigarettes and tobacco in prison (Tewksbury and Mustaine, 2005). Incarcerated women could experience smoking as leisure due to its short-term soothing effect and the pleasant companionship of fellow smokers; the negative long-term effects of smoking and the nuisance for non-smokers remain acknowledged. Accepting a middle ground in leisure means that an activity like smoking is not exaggeratedly framed as empowering or as socially destructive.

Types of leisure can then be deduced from such a broad delineation. Physical leisure covers sports and physical activities like weight training (see Martinez-Merino et al., 2017; Woods et al., 2017). Artistic leisure includes writing, arts, crafting, theater, choir, and other creative endeavors (see Finio, 1986; Merriam, 1998; Leeder and Wimmer, 2007; Johnson, 2008; Cohen, 2009, 2019; Nugent and Loucks, 2011; Frigon, 2015; Ridha, 2018; Dewey et al., 2019; Lucas et al., 2019). Indigenous ceremonies, spiritual, or religious practices in prison are grouped as cultural or spiritual leisure (see Desaulniers Turgeon, 2010; Duwe, 2017; Snodgrass, 2019). Relational leisure includes support groups and citizen-detainee circles (see Twaddle et al., 2007; Pedlar et al., 2008, 2018; Fortune et al., 2010; Yuen et al., 2012). The above types are not mutually exclusive: for instance dance is physical and artistic, whereas yoga is physical, artistic, and spiritual (see Frigon and Jenny, 2009; Frigon, 2010, 2014, 2019; Jenny and Frigon, 2012; Bilderbeck et al., 2014; Auty et al., 2017; Bartels et al., 2019; Middleton et al., 2019; Rousseau et al., 2019). Programs include parenting, philosophy, nutrition, and high school courses; work and vocational training; clinical or therapeutic programs focused on intoxication or addictions (Morash et al., 1994; Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Pollack, 2009, 2016; Williams and Walker, 2009; Firth et al., 2015; McCall, 2016; Coulombe, 2017; Crittenden and Koons-Witt, 2017; Duwe, 2017; Zhao et al., 2019). Animal programs such as canine training or zootherapy are also included here (Strimple, 2003; Smith, 2019; Wesely, 2019). Finally, most studies focus on group leisure whether it is managed by detained people or by staff and service providers. Reading is the only form of solitary leisure discussed in the literature (Sweeney, 2010; Davila Figueroa, 2011; Arford, 2013).

LEISURE'S ANTICIPATED COMPATIBILITY WITH PRISON MISSIONS

Prisons can be understood as more or less coercive or normative organizations (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007). Coercive organizations aim to maintain internal order through control and incentive systems for example; normative organizations

transmit social norms through programming and rely on more humane detention conditions to achieve this goal (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007). In Canada, incarceration initially removed freedom in an effort to isolate, deprive, inflict suffering, and foster penitence (Vacheret, 2013). Although these coercive elements persist, criticisms have led to the inclusion of normative missions. Since the 1960s, rehabilitation efforts have relied on re-educating detained people to live within the boundaries of the law once released. Since the 1990s a new, overarching goal has emerged: protecting society. This is achieved by controlling specific populations and through social reintegration (Vacheret, 2013). These dual means of protecting society can be understood as a compromise between coercive and normative ends (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007). Indeed, professionals now rely on actuarial tools such as the Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) model to assess whether criminalized people pose a risk for society and which needs/risk factors should be targeted in clinical interventions. Through this model, the responsibility to become a conventional citizen has shifted to the individual whose time spent in prison is purportedly maximized to change their so-called antisocial personality (Vacheret, 2013).

Can or should leisure fit within prison's missions? Yes, according to theorists and even media. Within a total institution such as a prison, every aspect of daily life including play occurs in the same place and under the same authority: participation is coerced and tightly regimented to comply with the institution's official missions (Goffman, 1968). Prisons aim to discipline, punish, and normalize individuals, which manifests through a control of activities: time penetrates the body and must remain maximally filled and useful so as to increase the productivity of the whole (Foucault, 1975). Even the harshest theories of punishment are compatible with at least minimal recreation and entertainment (Lippke, 2003). One study has also shown written medias' insistence that women's leisure subscribe to prison's coercive and normative missions, rather than be frivolous or trivial (Pedlar et al., 2007).

How can leisure be compatible with prison's missions? First, it can be understood as keeping detained people *active* rather than idle, which in turn may be tied to the degree of coerciveness within a prison. Idleness is indeed understood as a source of vice and crime and is further discussed as a scourge for detained people, guards, and administrators (Foucault, 1975; Wiebe and Nesbitt, 2000; Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Martin and Kaledas, 2010). Since time is experienced as unbearably long and painful in prison (Vacheret, 2013), filling it with leisure could attenuate such hardships (Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Ambrose and Rosky, 2013). Simply staying busy through leisure could reflect the middle ground between extremely positive and extremely negative leisure.

Second, leisure allows for *agency*, which could help incarcerated people adapt to or survive more coercive environments. Indeed, the wider literature often characterizes leisure as allowing for agency, whether through freedom, autonomy, choice, discretionary power, absence of constraints from work or other obligations (Kelly, 1972; Samdahl, 1988; Iso-Ahola, 1999; Jackson and Burton, 1999; Scraton and Watson, 2016; Roberts, 2019). In prison, three studies show leisure helps

detained people adjust to deprivations, constraints, stressors, or frustrations; perceived free will is key (Kratcoski and Babb, 1990; Davila Figueroa, 2011; Meek and Lewis, 2014). Others demonstrate how leisure allows detained people to make some choices, be autonomous, and even to feel somewhat free despite prison constraints (Pedlar et al., 2008; Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; Fortune et al., 2010; Sweeney, 2010; Davila Figueroa, 2011; Link and Williams, 2017). Leisure allowing for agency could qualify as positive recreation.

Third, conventional leisure could help satisfy normative prison missions. As opposed to deviant leisure, conventional leisure respects formal or informal norms (Stebbins, 1997; Williams, 2009) and can aim to produce socially acceptable individuals (Yuen et al., 2012). The distinction between conventional and deviant leisure is apparent within the RNR model: people who are not involved in conventional organized leisure or who "poorly" fill their time are deemed at greater risk of reoffending (Bonta and Andrews, 2016). Prisons relying on the RNR model could enforce conventional expectations through leisure provision and be viewed as positive by staff and in public opinion; women could experience conventional leisure as reproductive and negative.

Lastly, involvement in serious leisure such as programs could fulfill normative prison missions. Serious leisure requires a degree of effort, perseverance, and training to be appreciated and resembles a career (Stebbins, 1982). It includes volunteering, amateurism (such as quasi-professional athletes), and hobbyism (such as collectors or tinkerers). At the other end of the spectrum, casual leisure, such as watching television or socializing with a friend, is immediately pleasant and requires no special training to be appreciated (Stebbins, 1997). Many of the reviewed documents put forth goals beyond immediate pleasure by requiring work on oneself and even by preparing individuals for conventional careers once they exit prison. For instance in one study, most incarcerated women were extremely invested in sports and exercise in prison and were even in the process of obtaining academic or professional qualifications to eventually work in this field (Ozano 2008). The broad delineation of leisure also leaves space for working on oneself to achieve positive long term goals.

LEISURE PRACTICES AS PARTICIPATING IN PRISON'S MISSIONS

Individual Benefits and Issues

Coercive aspects of incarceration may be reduced through leisure with *physical*, *psychological*, and *spiritual benefits*. Physical leisure in prison has many well-documented physical benefits established by systematic reviews (Martinez-Merino et al., 2017; Woods et al., 2017). These include improving women's cardiovascular abilities and muscular functions, relationship to their bodies, and reducing cigarette intake (Ozano, 2008; Martinez-Merino et al., 2017). Some benefits specifically address issues created by incarceration. Sports help women adopt a healthier lifestyle and manage their weight to address some consequences of poor-quality prison food (Meek and Lewis, 2014). Dance workshops answer physical issues created by incarceration, such as scarred, blocked, trapped, and encumbered

bodies and eyesight; this helps transform incarcerated women's bodies (Jenny and Frigon, 2012). All types of leisure present psychological benefits. Women experience solitude as a disease: access to social activities, work, and projects help keep depression at bay (Esposito, 2015). Other benefits include reduced stress, anxiety, aggression, or other negative emotions, as well as increased self-esteem, concentration, pleasure, well-being, selfreflection, relaxation, peacefulness, connection with emotions, and positive outlook on the future (Ozano, 2008; Davila Figueroa, 2011; Jenny and Frigon, 2012; Frigon, 2014; Meek and Lewis, 2014; Esposito, 2015; Auty et al., 2017; Woods et al., 2017; Bartels et al., 2019). Indigenous women's ceremonies have spiritual, but also physical and psychological benefits by fostering holistic healing (Yuen, 2011). These practices also help resist the coercive prison setting by creating a safer space and by centering harmony and balance rather than the punitive, white, Western approach to justice (Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; Yuen, 2011).

Group leisure with relational or post-detention benefits seems closer to normative missions. Indeed, citizen-detainee groups, support circles, drama therapy, and dance workshops create opportunities to connect with self and others, to develop supportive relationships with detained people and service providers, and help create relationships extending beyond incarceration (Leeder and Wimmer, 2007; Twaddle et al., 2007; Pedlar et al., 2008; Fortune et al., 2010; Davila Figueroa, 2011; Jenny and Frigon, 2012; Frigon, 2014; Meek and Lewis, 2014). Some studies also suggest that leisure may directly benefit social reinsertion or rehabilitation. Leisure functioning in educational programs is tied to readiness for returning to society, specifically through perception of freedom and motivation in leisure (Link and Williams, 2017). Skills acquired through leisure and programs could affect one's criminal identity and help one adopt a more conventional lifestyle, which in turn may reduce or prevent reoffending (Kendall, 1993; Sempé et al., 2006; Pedlar et al., 2007, 2008; Johnson, 2008; Ozano, 2008; Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; Fortune et al., 2010; Nugent and Loucks, 2011; Yuen, 2011; Meek and Lewis, 2014; Esposito, 2015; Link and Williams, 2017). However, these results must be nuanced as all of these studies occurred while individuals were still incarcerated; they thus speak to anticipated rehabilitation, reintegration, or non-recidivism.

Although the above benefits can reduce coerciveness or contribute to normative missions, issues with leisure may tip the scale toward more coerciveness. Psychological and relational issues may increase coerciveness. Rigid and mandatory addiction treatment programs were experienced as unsafe and as inhibiting women's healing (Pollack, 2009). Return to daily prison life after a dance workshop can be difficult for trauma survivors, especially when guards act in a dehumanizing manner (Frigon, 2014). Lack of women staffing a prison's fitness center was a barrier to involvement: indeed, violence survivors and women who preferred not to be around men for cultural motives had no alternatives (Meek and Lewis, 2014). Finally, the leisure-as-rehabilitation hypothesis is dubious in cases where leisure does not fulfill incarcerated people's needs or interests (McIntosh, 1986). Such leisure could reflect the negative or preoccupied approaches to planning and implementing leisure provision, which reflect more coercive missions: the goals are, respectively, to tire detained people or fill their time without consideration for their interests (Walakafra-Wills, 1983). This sets the table for organizational practices.

Organizational Benefits and Issues

Organizational benefits of leisure may contribute to coerciveness. Leisure involvement does not empirically increase a prison's safety (Frey and Delaney, 1996), yet many authors insist that individual benefits such as reducing tensions and violence can or should be leveraged to monitor and manage detained people (Walakafra-Wills, 1983; Wiebe and Nesbitt, 2000; Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Bodin et al., 2007). Fitting leisure into an incentive system could facilitate detained people's collaboration (Sempé et al., 2006; Martin and Kaledas, 2010; Ambrose and Rosky, 2013; Bilderbeck et al., 2014; Gallant et al., 2015; Brosens, 2019). One review argues that leisure is intentionally deployed to camouflage coercive missions by controlling unruly prisoners or enforcing conformity through behavior contracts and incentive systems. Despite insistence on rehabilitation outcomes, arts-inprison programs and their evaluations are thus used "as means to a variety of latent ignoble ends, with 'decorative justice'the function of masking the injustices and painful nature of imprisonment behind claims of fairness, benevolence and care chief amongst these ends" (Cheliotis, 2014, p. 16).

Organizational issues in access to leisure can impede prison's normative missions by affecting individual's preparedness for returning to society (Frey and Delaney, 1996). Access may be limited due to logistic issues such as material costs, program funding, service provider salaries, scheduling conflicts, restrictions to information and resource flow (Finio, 1986; Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Sweeney, 2010; Nugent and Loucks, 2011; Louviere, 2017; Brosens, 2019). Some structural issues can also limit access: problems informing people who speak another language, are illiterate, or are newly detained; exclusion of criminally not responsible detainees; and lack of a culture encouraging involvement in prison life (Brosens, 2019). Overcrowding and understaffing in women's prisons can also limit access to leisure resources and spaces (Nugent and Loucks, 2011; Pedlar et al., 2018). Studies also find that access to leisure in prison varies based on demographics such as gender, race, age, sentence length, and type of crime (Collette-Carrière, 1983; Kratcoski and Babb, 1990; Belknap, 1996; Batchelder and Pippert, 2002; Sempé et al., 2006; Sweeney, 2010; Meek and Lewis, 2014; Crittenden and Koons-Witt, 2017; Martinez-Merino et al., 2017).

Societal Issues

Although leisure is often characterized as encompassing freedom, choice, escape, and satisfaction, leisure opportunities may reflect oppressive social structures such as sexism, colonialism, and racism or aim to exert social control (Rojek, 1995; Yuen and Pedlar, 2009; Yuen et al., 2012). Beyond problems in access to leisure based on gender and race, introduced above, it follows that leisure in prison may rely on gendered and racialized practices to achieve or attenuate normative and coercive missions.

Historically, Canadian prisons have relied on gender, race, and class norms in programming to reform and control

women (Hannah-Moffat, 2001). More recently, authors question stereotypes reflected in leisure mostly or exclusively made available to women, such as gender-responsive or parenting programs (McCall, 2016; Crittenden and Koons-Witt, 2017; Fedock and Covington, 2017; Wendt and Fraser, 2019). Cooking, cleaning, sewing, and hairdressing training are also criticized for enforcing gendered expectations and because upon release such jobs are less likely to pay well, thereby reducing women's chances of successfully reintegrating society (Morash et al., 1994; Pollack, 2009). Women's experiences and involvement in physical leisure may also be gendered, which raises the question of how aptly physical leisure can benefit individuals in reducing coerciveness or increasing normativity. Contrary to sports or weightlifting, dance is not always conceived as a legitimate means of resistance to the coercive prison setting as it expresses sensuality, femininity, and fragility (Jenny and Frigon, 2012). Some women report they would be more involved in physical leisure if available activities reflected traditional notions of femininity (Meek and Lewis, 2014). This normative, gendered potential warrants nuance. Despite hypothesizing that incarcerated women's leisure aimed to "make good girls out of bad" by normalizing behavior, one study found that relational leisure allowed women to develop friendships which in turn fostered resistance to norms (Pedlar et al., 2008, p. 25; Fortune et al., 2010).

Racial and colonial issues can also be present within leisure and either trouble or reproduce coercive and normative missions. Incarcerated men take every decision, down to their choice of leisure, by analyzing how this affects their survival and in light of their race (Richmond and Johnson, 2009). Because traditional Indigenous leisure was historically banned or limited to support the Canadian colonial project, omitting culturally relevant activities such as lacrosse or leg wrestling can be understood as punitive and in continuity with colonialism (Yuen and Pedlar, 2009). However, attempting to curb cultural leisure to prison's normative missions may defeat its spiritual purposes. Despite the spiritual benefits of traditional Indigenous leisure in prison, such practices are often distorted for political and therapeutic purposes according to one study (Desaulniers Turgeon, 2010).

DISCUSSION

In this paper I have tackled incarcerated women's leisure as a component of its environment. Relying on a broad delineation of leisure, which can be positive, negative, or somewhere in the middle, I have argued that its characteristics in prison should be compatible with organizational missions. Indeed, activity and agency may reduce coerciveness, whereas conventional and serious leisure may contribute to normativity. I then argued that incarcerated women's leisure practices have a range of benefits and issues: physical, psychological, spiritual, relational, post-detention, organizational, gendered, and racial. These in turn seem tied to coercive or normative prison missions.

Most of the literature I reviewed emphasized leisure's benefits especially in terms of incarcerated women's physical

or psychological well-being. Problems with access to leisure could thus be interpreted as reflecting an organizational lack of emphasis on well-being. Although Canadian prisons and jails must respect fundamental human rights, ensuring well-being is not their primary mission: protecting society by controlling individuals and favoring social reinsertion is the "paramount consideration" (Corrections and Conditional Release Act, 1992, p. 3.1; see also Loi sur le système correctionnel du Québec, 2002, p. 2). In the province of Quebec, institutional lack of emphasis on well-being is evidenced by ombudsman reports condemning affronts on incarcerated women's basic needs: lack of proper heating in the winter, clean water, and access to the yard (Protecteur du citoyen, 2017, 2019). This makes sense considering the framework used in this paper. Indeed, within the normative prison, humane detention conditions are simply a means an end: transmitting social norms (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007). More coercive prisons are not explicitly concerned with humaneness (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007) although as discussed above, individual benefits of leisure may be repurposed as incentives for compliance. As such, I contend that favoring incarcerated people's well-being through leisure only occurs insofar as this benefits the organization's missions, for instance maintaining internal order or protecting society by producing conventional individuals. I suggest that this would explain why leisure in prison has been or remains suspended in the coronavirus pandemic context.

The argument put forth in this paper remains conceptual and warrants empirical investigation. More studies explicitly considering leisure as rooted in its environment are needed, perhaps in light of prison missions beyond those discussed here (Vacheret and Lemire, 2007; Vacheret, 2013) or within other total institutions such as psychiatric hospitals (Goffman, 1968). The normative prison leisure hypothesis could be strengthened through studies measuring outcomes of in-prison leisure among individuals who have been released. A more nuanced portrait could be achieved through qualitative and quantitative studies relating prison's missions to distinct leisure types, characteristics, and practices. Specifically examining the interplay of gendered and racial norms would also further scientific understanding of leisure's role in prison. Finally, the interactions between individual, organizational, and societal benefits and issues must be examined by considering coerciveness especially. For instance, how do individuals experience problems with access to leisure in prison? Can differential access make women feel like they are being punished? Is some leisure explicitly provided for punitive purposes?

Rethinking incarcerated women's leisure through the lens of normative and coercive prison missions also has implications for practitioners and human rights/social justice advocates. These groups may especially wish to address psychological and relational issues with women's leisure as these seem to contribute to coerciveness. However, attempts to increase access to leisure or to ensure its status as a human right in prison implies grappling with a dilemma. In order to effectively make this case, practitioners and advocates would need to demonstrate that leisure is essential for the organization and not exclusively

for individuals. But is this a desirable argument? Do advocates and practitioners really want to argue for leisure producing conventional, acceptable women, or to argue for leisure which baits women into compliance and subservience? Would that not distort leisure's potential for freedom, choice, satisfaction, and empowerment? Perhaps incarcerated women should decide.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The author confirms being the sole contributor of this work and has approved it for publication.

REFERENCES

- Ambrose, M. A., and Rosky, J. W. (2013). Prisoners' round: examining the literature on recreation and exercise in correctional facilities. *Int. J. Criminol.* Sociol. 2, 362–370. doi: 10.6000/1929-4409.2013.02.34
- Arford, T. (2013). Captive Knowledge: Censorship and Control in Prison Libraries. Available online at: https://search.proquest.com/ncjrs/docview/1431495509/abstract/E5F254C8FE874158PQ/1 (accessed May 21, 2019).
- Auty, K. M., Cope, A., and Liebling, A. (2017). A systematic review and metaanalysis of Yoga and Mindfulness meditation in prison: effects on psychological well-being and behavioural functioning. *Int. J. Offender Ther. Comp. Criminol.* 61, 689–710. doi: 10.1177/0306624X15602514
- Balfour, G., and Comack, E. (eds.). (2014). Criminalizing Women: Gender and (in)justice in Neo-Liberal Times. Black Point, NS: Fernwood Publishing.
- Bartels, L., Oxman, L. N., and Hopkins, A. (2019). "I would just feel really relaxed and at peace": findings from a pilot prison Yoga Program in Australia. Int. J. Offender Ther. Comp. Criminol. 63, 2531–2549. doi:10.1177/0306624X19854869
- Batchelder, J. S., and Pippert, J. M. (2002). Hard time or idle time: factors affecting inmate choices between participation in prison work and education programs. *Prison J.* 82, 269–280. doi: 10.1177/003288550208200206
- Belknap, J. (1996). Access to programs and health care for incarcerated women. Federal Probation 60, 34–39.
- Bilderbeck, A., Farias, M., and Brazil, I. (2014). Psychological and cognitive benefits of Yoga among UK prisoners. *Prison Serv. J.* 213, 36–42.
- Bodin, D., Robène, L., Héas, S., and Sempé, G. (2007). Le sport en prison: entre insertion et paix sociale. Jeux, enjeux et relations de pouvoirs à travers les pratiques corporelles de la jeunesse masculine incarcérée*Revue d'histoire de l'enfance « irrégulière »*. Le Temps de l'histoire. 9, 145–171. doi: 10.4000/rhei.2213
- Bonta, J., and Andrews, D. A. (2016). *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct*, 6th Edn. Routledge. Available online at: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/umontreal-ebooks/reader.action?docID=4741995 (accessed July 17, 2020).
- Brosens, D. (2019). Prisoners' participation and involvement in prison life: examining the possibilities and boundaries. Eur. J. Criminol. 16, 466–485. doi:10.1177/1477370818773616
- Chamberlen, A. (2016). Embodying prison pain: Women's experiences of self-injury in prison and the emotions of punishment. *Theor. Criminol.* 20, 205–219. doi: 10.1177/1362480615595283
- Cheliotis, L. K. (2014). Decorative justice: deconstructing the relationship between the arts and imprisonment. *Int. J. Crime Just. Soc. Democracy* 3, 16–34. doi: 10.5204/ijcjsd.v3i1.137
- Cohen, M. L. (2009). Choral singing and prison inmates: influences of performing in a prison choir. *J. Correct. Educ.* 60, 52–65.
- Cohen, M. L. (2019). Choral singing in prisons: evidence-based activities to support returning citizens. Prison J. 99, 106S-117S. doi: 10.1177/0032885519861082
- Collette-Carrière, R. (1983). Réflexion autour de la notion de services aux femmes dans le système de justice. *Criminologie* 16, 101. doi: 10.7202/017184ar
- Corrections and Conditional Release Act (1992). Available online at: https://lawslois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-44.6/ (accessed October 7, 2020).

FUNDING

This research was possible thanks to graduate scholarships from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Richard McGrath, Ismehen Melouka, and Maude Pérusse-Roy, as well as editor AR and the reviewers for their thoughtful feedback.

- Coulombe, S. (2017). Femmes, prisons et quotidienneté: feuilletons ethnographiques. Available online at: https://papyrus.bib.umontreal.ca/xmlui/handle/1866/20359 (accessed October 21, 2019).
- Crittenden, C. A., and Koons-Witt, B. A. (2017). Gender and programming: a comparison of program availability and participation in U.S. prisons. Int. J. Offender Ther. Compar. Criminol. 61, 611–644. doi: 10.1177/0306624X15601432
- Davila Figueroa, M. S. (2011). Using Leisure as a Coping Tool: A Feminist Study of the Recreational Experiences of Incarcerated Women in a Puerto Rican Prison (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois).
- Desaulniers Turgeon, S. (2010). Entre politique et thérapeutique: usages du rituel de la tente à sudation dans le cadre de la revitalisation culturelle amérindienne au Québec (Montreal, QC: University of Montreal).
- Dewey, S., Muthig, A. J., Colter, R. S., and Brock, K. (2019). Art and mindfulness behind bars: examples from wyoming prison-based courses on memoir and stoic philosophy. *Prison J.* 99, 61S–83S. doi: 10.1177/0032885519861058
- Duwe, G. (2017). The Use and Impact of Correctional Programming for Inmates on Pre- and Post-Release Outcomes. United States: National Institute of Justice. Available online at: https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250476.pdf (accessed January 24, 2020).
- Esposito, M. (2015). Women in prison: unhealthy lives and denied well-being between loneliness and seclusion. *Crime Law Soc. Change* 63, 137–158. doi:10.1007/s10611-015-9561-y
- Fedock, G., and Covington, S. S. (2017). Correctional Programming and Gender. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.89
- Finio, P. (1986). An Anatomy of a Prison Arts and Humanities Program. Prison J. 66, 57–75.
- Firth, C. L., Sazie, E., Hedberg, K., Drach, L., and Maher, J. (2015). Female inmates with diabetes: results from changes in a prison food environment. Womens Health Issues 25, 732–738. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2015.07.009
- Fortune, D., Thompson, J., Pedlar, A., and Yuen, F. (2010). Social justice and women leaving prison: beyond punishment and exclusion. *Contemp. Just. Rev.* 13, 19–33. doi: 10.1080/10282580903549128
- Foucault, M. (1975). Surveiller et punir: Naissance de la prison. Gallimard.
- Frey, J. H., and Delaney, T. (1996). The role of leisure participation in prison: a report from consumers. J. Offender Rehabilit. 23, 79–89. doi:10.1300/J076v23n01_08
- Frigon, S. (2010). La danse en prison, une échappée belle hors des murs??: perspectives des artistes et des détenues. Criminologie 43:179. doi:10.7202/1001774ar
- Frigon, S. (2014). "When prison blossoms into art: Dance in prison as an embodied critical creative performative criminology," in *The Poetics of Crime: Understanding and Researching Crime and Deviance Through Creative Sources*, ed M. H. Jacobsen (London: Ashgate Publishing), 237–262.
- Frigon, S. (2015). Rencontres littéraires en prison ou comment voyager de l'ombre à la lumière. Criminologie 48:123. doi: 10.7202/1029351ar
- Frigon, S. (ed.). (2019). Danse, enfermement et corps résilients [Dance, Confinement and Resilient Bodies]. University of Ottawa Press.
- Frigon, S., and Jenny, C. (2009). Chairs Incarcérées?: Une Exploration de la Danse en Prison. Montréal, QC: Éditions du Remue-ménage.

- Gallant, D., Sherry, E., and Nicholson, M. (2015). Recreation or rehabilitation? Managing sport for development programs with prison populations. Sport Manage. Rev. 18, 45–56. doi: 10.1016/j.smr.2014.07.005
- Goffman, E. (1968). Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates. AldineTransaction.
- Hannah-Moffat, K. (2001). Punishment in Disguise: Penal Governance and Federal Imprisonment of Women in Canada. University of Toronto Press. Available online at: https://www.deslibris.ca/ID/418119 (accessed January 27, 2020).
- Hensley, C., Miller, A., Koscheski, M., and Tewksbury, R. (2003). Student attitudes toward inmate privileges. Am. J. Crim. Just. 27, 249–262. doi:10.1007/BF02885697
- Iso-Ahola, S. E. (1999). "Motivational Foundations of Leisure," in *Leisure Studies: Prospects for the Twenty First Century*, eds E. L. Jackson and T. L. Burton (State College, PA: Venture Publishing), 35–49.
- Jackson, E. L., and Burton, T. L. (eds.). (1999). Leisure Studies: Prospects for the Twenty-First Century. State College, PA: Venture Publishing.
- Jenny, C., and Frigon, S. (2012). "L'expression de soi: corps, danse et enfermement," in *Corps Suspect, Corps déviant*, ed S. Frigon (Sainte-Thérèse, QC: Les éditions du remue-ménage), 291–310.
- Johnson, L. M. (2008). A place for art in prison: art as a tool for rehabilitation and management. Southwest J. Crim. Just. 5, 100–120.
- Kelly, J. R. (1972). Work and Leisure: a simplified paradigm. J. Leis. Res. 4, 50–62.
 Kendall, K. (1993). Program Evaluation of Therapeutic Services at the Prison for Women. Correctional Service of Canada. Available online at: https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/lbrr/archives/rc%20489.t67%20k4%201993%20v.1-eng.pdf (accessed September 24, 2017).
- Kratcoski, P. C., and Babb, S. (1990). Adjustment of older inmates: an analysis by institutional structure and gender. J. Contemp. Crim. Just. 6, 264–281.
- Lee, R. D. (1996). Prisoners' rights to recreation: quantity, quality, and other aspects. J. Crim. Just. 24, 167–178. doi: 10.1016/0047-2352(95) 00063-1
- Leeder, A., and Wimmer, C. (2007). Voices of pride: drama therapy with incarcerated women. Women Ther. 29, 195–213. doi: 10.1300/J015v29n03_11
- Link, A. J., and Williams, D. J. (2017). Leisure functioning and offender rehabilitation: a correlational exploration into factors affecting successful reentry. *Int. J. Offender Ther. Compar. Criminol.* 61, 150–170. doi: 10.1177/0306624X15600695
- Lippke, R. L. (2003). Prisoner access to recreation, entertainment and diversion. Punish. Soc. 5, 33–52. doi: 10.1177/1462474503005 001045
- Loi sur le système correctionnel du Québec (2002). Available at: http://legisquebec. gouv.qc.ca/fr/ShowDoc/cs/S-40.1 (accessed October 7, 2020).
- Louviere, E. C. (2017). Bonds Behind Bars: The Impact of Program Participation on Interpersonal Immate Connections in Louisiana State Penitentiary. Available online at: https://search.proquest.com/ncjrs/docview/1979141227/ abstract/8BC37191F7484631PQ/1 (accessed May 21, 2019).
- Lucas, A., Fiche, N. R., and Concilio, V. (2019). We move forward together: a prison theater exchange program among three universities in the United States and Brazil. *Prison J.* 99, 84S–105S. doi: 10.1177/0032885519861061
- Martin, M. D., and Kaledas, R. J. (2010). Programs and Activities: Tools for Managing Inmate Behavior. Washington, DC: National Institute of Corrections. Available online at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/Library/024368. pdf (accessed March 5, 2020).
- Martinez-Merino, N., Martín-González, N., Usabiaga, O., and Martos-Garcia, D. (2017). Physical activity practiced by incarcerated women: a systematic review. *Health Care Women Int.* 38, 1152–1169. doi: 10.1080/07399332.2017. 1368515
- McCall, J. D. (2016). An Examination of Gender-Neutral and Gender-Responsive Characteristics on Program Participation Among Female State Prisoners (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh).
- McIntosh, M. (1986). The attitudes of minority inmates towards recreation programs as a rehabilitative tool. J. Offender Counsel. Serv. Rehabilit. 10, 79–86.
- Meek, R., and Lewis, G. E. (2014). Promoting well-being and desistance through sport and physical activity: the opportunities and barriers experienced by women in english prisons. Women Crim. Just. 24, 151–172. doi: 10.1080/08974454.2013.842516
- Merriam, B. (1998). To find a voice: art therapy in a women's prison. *Women Ther.* 21, 157–171.

- Middleton, L., Harris, D. A., and Ackerman, A. R. (2019). A mixed-methods process evaluation of the art of yoga project for girls in custody. *Prison J.* 99, 38S—60S. doi: 10.1177/0032885519860852
- Morash, M., Haarr, R. N., and Rucker, L. (1994). A comparison of programming for women and men in U.S. prisons in the 1980s. *Crime Delinq.* 40, 197–221.
- Nugent, B., and Loucks, N. (2011). The arts and prisoners: experiences of creative rehabilitation. *Howard J. Crim. Just.* 50, 356–370. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2311.2011.00672.x
- Ozano, K. A. (2008). The Role of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise in a Female Prison. Available online at: http://hdl.handle.net/10034/84838 (accessed January 10, 2020).
- Pedlar, A., Arai, S., and Yuen, F. (2007). Media representation of federally sentenced women and leisure opportunities: ramifications for social inclusion. *Leis. Loisir* 31, 255–276. doi: 10.1080/14927713.2007.9651381
- Pedlar, A., Arai, S., Yuen, F., and Fortune, D. (2018). *Community Re-Entry*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Pedlar, A., Yuen, F., and Fortune, D. (2008). Incarcerated women and leisure: making good girls out of bad? *Ther. Recreat. J.* 42, 24–36.
- Pollack, S. (2009). "You can't have it both ways": punishment and treatment of imprisoned women. J. Progres. Hum. Serv. 20, 112–128. doi:10.1080/10428230903306344
- Pollack, S. (2016). Building Bridges: experiential and integrative learning in a Canadian women's prison. J. Teach. Soc. Work 36, 503–518. doi:10.1080/08841233.2016.1242523
- Protecteur du citoyen (2017). Rapport annuel d'activités 2016-2017. Assemblée nationale du Québec Available online at: http://publications.virtualpaper.com/uploads/protecteur_citoyen/rapport_annuel_2017/2017-09-12/fr/rapport_annuel_2017.pdf (accessed September 29, 2017).
- Protecteur du citoyen (2019). Rapport annuel d'activités 2018-2019 du Protecteur du citoyen.
- Richmond, L. P., and Johnson, C. W. (2009). "It's a race war:" race and leisure experiences in California state prison. J. Leis. Res. 41, 565–580. doi:10.1080/00222216.2009.11950191
- Ridha, T. (2018). Exploring Prison Theatre in Canada: A Case Study on William Head on Stage. Available online at: https://ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/38449/3/Ridha_Thana_2018_thesis.pdf (accessed January 10, 2020).
- Roberts, K. (2019). A future for UK leisure studies: back to work. *Int. J. Sociol. Leis.* 2, 239–253. doi: 10.1007/s41978-018-0020-z
- Rojek, C. (1995). Decentring Leisure: Rethinking Leisure Theory. London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Rousseau, D., Long, N., Jackson, E., and Jurgensen, J. (2019). Empowering through embodied awareness: evaluation of a peer-facilitated trauma-informed mindfulness curriculum in a woman's prison. *Prison J.* 99, 14S–37S. doi: 10.1177/0032885519860546
- Rubin, A. (2020). Punishment and Society: Jails, Prisons, and COVID-19: A Roundup of the Resources. Punishment and Society. Available at: http://punishment-society.blogspot.com/2020/04/jails-prisons-and-covid-19-roundup-of.html (accessed May 19, 2020).
- Samdahl, D. M. (1988). A symbolic interactionist model of leisure: theory and empirical support. *Leis. Sci.* 10, 27–39. doi: 10.1080/01490408809512174
- Scraton, S., and Watson, B. (2016). Leisure. *Blackwell Encyclop. Sociol.* doi: 10.1002/9781405165518.wbeosl030.pub2. [Epub ahead of print].
- Sempé, G., Bodin, D., Robène, L., and Héas, S. (2006). Le sport carcéral chez les «courtes peines»: Une approche comparative franco-canadienne en prisons pour femmes. Esporte and Sociedade. Resvista digital 4. Available online at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/43941392/Le_sport_carcral_chez_les_courtes_peine20160321-13775-obmph8.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIWOWYYGZ2Y53UL3AandExpires=1552404795andSignature=Brvcw%2Fu4%2FM39txV89LTIVGrcHGs%3Dandresponse-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DLe_sport_carceral_chez_les_courtes_peine.pdf (accessed March 12, 2019).
- Smith, H. P. (2019). A rescue dog program in two maximum-security prisons: a qualitative study. *J. Offender Rehabilit.* 58, 305–326. doi: 10.1080/10509674.2019.1596189
- Snodgrass, J. L. (2019). Women Leaving Prison: Justice-Seeking Spiritual Support for Female Returning Citizens. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Stebbins, R. A. (1982). Serious leisure: a conceptual statement. *Pacific Sociol. Rev.* 25, 251–272. doi: 10.2307/1388726

- Stebbins, R. A. (1997). Casual leisure: a conceptual statement. *Leis. Stud.* 16, 17–25. doi: 10.1080/026143697375485
- Strimple, E. O. (2003). A history of prison inmate-animal interaction programs. *Am. Behav. Sci.* 47, 70–78. doi: 10.1177/0002764203255212
- Sweeney, M. (2010). Reading Is My Window: Books and the Art of Reading in Women's Prisons. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Available online at: https://www.google.com/books/edition/Reading_is_My_Window/QM1KO05wTHgC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Reading+Is+My+Window:+Books+and+the+Art+of+Reading+in+Women%E2%80%99s+Prisons&printsec=frontcover (accessed January 10, 2020).
- Tewksbury, R., and Mustaine, E. E. (2005). Insiders' views of prison amenities: beliefs and perceptions of correctional staff members. *Crim. Just. Rev.* 30, 174–188. doi: 10.1177/0734016805284305
- Todd, T. (1995). Muscle behind bars: should convicts be prohibited from weight training? *Keepers' Voice* 16, 23–26.
- Twaddle, I. K. B., Setpaul, R., Guerrero, V. E. L., Manibusan, A. I., and Riddle, J. A. (2007). Countering correctional discourse: development of a feminist support group for women prisoners in guam. Women Ther. 29, 215–237. doi:10.1300/J015v29n03_12
- Vacheret, M. (2013). "La peine d'emprisonnement," in *La pénologie: Réflexions juridiques et criminologiques autour de la peine*, eds E. Jimenez and M. Vacheret (Montreal, QC: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal), 51–62.
- Vacheret, M., and Lemire, G. (2007). Anatomie de la prison contemporaine. Montreal, QC: PUM.
- Walakafra-Wills, D. V. (1983). Developing Comprehensive Activities' Programming for Inmate Recreational Needs in County Jails - A Human Systems Recreation Dynamics Approach. Available online at: https://www.ncjrs.gov/ App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=92302 (accessed January 24, 2020).
- Wendt, S., and Fraser, H. (2019). Promoting gender responsive support for women inmates: a case study from inside a prison. Intl. Inl. Prisoner Health 15, 126–137. doi: 10.1108/IJPH-03-2018-0011
- Wesely, J. K. (2019). When gender goes to the dogs: perceptions of masculinity and identity change among male participants in a prison-based animal program. J. Offender Rehabilit. 58, 696–719. doi: 10.1080/10509674.2019. 1648354

- Wiebe, R., and Nesbitt, B. (2000). The Visionary Legacy of Ron Wiebe: An Unfinished Conversation. Ottawa, ON: The Correctional Service of Canada.
- Williams, D. J. (2009). Deviant leisure: rethinking "the good, the bad, and the ugly." Leis. Sci. 31, 207–213. doi: 10.1080/01490400802686110
- Williams, D. J., and Walker, G. J. (2009). Does offender gambling on the inside continue on the outside? Insights from correctional professionals on gambling and re-entry. J. Offender Rehabilit. 48, 402–415. doi: 10.1080/10509670902979561
- Woods, D., Breslin, G., and Hassan, D. (2017). A systematic review of the impact of sport-based interventions on the psychological well-being of people in prison. *Mental Health Phys. Activ.* 12, 50–61. doi: 10.1016/j.mhpa.2017. 02.003
- Yuen, F. (2011). "I've never been so free in all my life": healing through Aboriginal ceremonies in prison. Leis. Loisir 35, 97–113. doi: 10.1080/14927713.2011.567060
- Yuen, F., Arai, S., and Fortune, D. (2012). Community (dis)connection through leisure for women in prison. Leis. Sci. 34, 281–297. doi: 10.1080/01490400.2012.687613
- Yuen, F., and Pedlar, A. (2009). Leisure as a context for justice: experiences of ceremony for Aboriginal women in prison. J. Leis. Res. 41, 547–564. doi:10.1080/00222216.2009.11950190
- Zhao, Y., Messner, S. F., Liu, J., and Jin, C. (2019). Prisons as schools: inmates' participation in vocational and academic programs in Chinese prisons. *Int. J. Offender Ther. Compar. Criminol*, 63, 1–28. doi: 10.1177/0306624X1986 1051

Conflict of Interest: The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Copyright © 2020 Marcoux Rouleau. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.