

Nancy Niemi from Yale University, USA – Semester 1 2018.

Where you have come from and what do you teach?

I am from New Haven, Connecticut, USA. At Yale University, I direct the Faculty Teaching Initiatives Program and the Center for Teaching and Learning. I teach Education Theory and Practice across all disciplines. I also teach Sociology, particularly about different kinds of social stratification.

What interested you in the Erskine Programme/Why did you want to come to UC?

The Erskine Programme fascinated me because it was so different – its focus on teaching is rare for an international program, and I appreciate the dedication to excellent pedagogy and to the fruits that come from mixing scholars and instructors from all parts of the world.

What have you been doing at UC?

I have been teaching Gender & Leadership as part of Management 304: Management Skills for a Diverse Workforce. I also have been contributing to and will teach one session of the Management Department's Doctoral Workshops on Teaching and Learning. I am also in the middle of meeting with a host of different people who run and coordinate student and faculty teaching and learning initiatives on campus. I'm so grateful to Erik Brogt and Sarah Wright for inviting me and for facilitating all the learning I'm doing.



Nancy and her husband Michael enjoying the view on the way to Akaroa.

What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?

There's so much that it's hard to pick just one thing. I love Christchurch – the City has so much history and truly integrates its natural beauty with everyday life. I walk to UC everyday through Hagley Park, and say hello to the magpies and marvel at the oak trees, as well as all the other vegetation that's new to me. I also like going to different supermarkets and looking (and eating!) the food that local folks enjoy. Speaking of local people, I have found everyone at the University and in the City to be extraordinarily friendly – I feel so welcome.