



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

UNITY⁷

Department of **Gender & Sexualities**

2023

FREE

ISSN NUMBER: 2522-378X



POWERING YOUR DRIVE

National Distribution Centre
Triq il-Mina tal-Hażna tal-Fjuwil
Has-Saptan
Għaxaq GXQ 1260
T +356 2220 8000
E info.enemed@enemed.com.mt
W enemed.com.mt

“The truth is that this Faculty has grown by leaps and bounds, maybe not in terms of a building, as we still wait for that commitment to come into play, but in terms of students, research, Ph.D. candidates and a collective voice in favour of social justice.”



PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI
Dean

While diversity, equity and inclusion have become the mantra of a number of organisations in Western countries, Malta is catching up on this.



The Department is preparing future researchers, managers and policy makers to analyse society/entities using a gendered and sexualities lens while adopting an intersectional approach. This means that our Department does not stop at sex, gender or sexual orientation, but takes into consideration how these intersect with age, social class, race and ethnicity, disability, nationality and others. Our students, especially those at Master level will also be taught how to use this analysis to come up with evidence-based policies on the basis of this analysis. Malta is moving away from the idea of a one size fits all policy outlook. This Department adopts an intersectional approach in teaching, research and activism. As part of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, it works with other professionals to promote the needs and interests of differently socially located groups in the Maltese community and beyond.

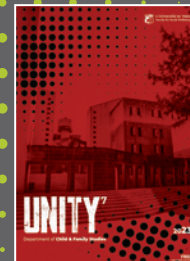
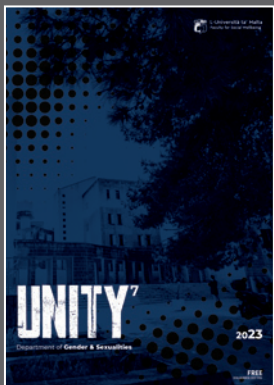
PROF. JOSANN CUTAJAR
Head of Department



“I believe that we cannot remain silent. As individuals and as a University we are duty bound to push for change and be part of the solution.”

CHARLENE FABRI
Editor

UNITY⁷
2023



All the content of this magazine was written by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Charlene Fabri unless indicated otherwise.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing Unity 7 magazine do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Faculty.

Contact us on: socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

COVER STORY

This year's art work concept focuses on the notion of intersectionality and connectedness together with a sense of vision. Moving into our 12th year since the setting up of the Faculty in 2012, this colour palette helps us blend uniqueness and individuality of disciplines and areas of study and yet identify as one organisation with a corporate outlook. The innovative design of having a number of mini-mags, for the first time a magazine completely dedicated to children and packed in a unique way to convey the message of freshness, compactness and a drive to go forward. The personalized and interactive element of the magazine combines well with the theme of **UNITY** of this year, namely that of, 'What does the Faculty mean to you?'



From left to right: Dr Christian Borg Xuereb, Emily Galea & Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane

Emily Galea
Alumnus, Master of Gender, Society and Culture

Emily in her position as President of Young Progressive Beings (YPB), has participated in activism in Malta relating to women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights, and reproductive justice. Through running this voluntary organisation, she has organised numerous protests regarding the prevention of violence against women, and the obtaining of sexual and reproductive rights in Malta.

**SOCIAL COMMITMENT
AWARDEE**

**DR JACQUELINE AZZOPARDI
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
AWARDEE**



From left to right: Dr Gottfried Catania, Elaine Vassallo Pavia & Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco

Elaine Vassallo Pavia

Elaine started her journey within the sphere of social care 15 years ago. Her work ever since was directly aimed to help and assist women and children who have been faced with life challenging situations of domestic violence. Elaine has been part of the team of professionals within The Good Shepherd Sisters - Dar Merhba Bik Foundation.

The Gender and Sexualities Department was set up in 2013 initially to study gender issues. Sexualities, as an area of study, was introduced later on. The Department also offers a BA in Gender and Sexualities in conjunction with Psychology, or Disability Studies or European Studies. This enables students to conduct research from an intersectional perspective. This is needed in today's world as businesses, enterprises, policies and research realise that we need to take into consideration the diversity which prevails in any society. The Department also offers two MA programmes on a part-time basis every other year. One is a Master by research - MA in Gender Studies; the other, MA in Gender, Society and Culture, which is a taught Master. We suggest that those who are not familiar with gender and sexualities studies, or want to learn more about these topics to opt for the latter. The Masters' prepares students to carry out research on their own, and to learn on how to mainstream diversity in research, business and policy. We also have a number of Ph.D. candidates who adopt a gendered and/or sexualities lens to study topics such as money management among couples, gender based violence, online computer games and interactions, institutional management, male-run family businesses and the consequences for female family members; anti-gender groups, disability, and other topics.

socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt
+356 2340 2693

Department of
Gender & Sexualities

Faculty for **Social Wellbeing**

Master of Gender Studies

Full-time/ 1.5 years

Master of Gender, Society and Culture

Full-time/ 1.5 years

Master of Gender Studies

Part-time (evening)/ 3 years

Master of Gender, Society and Culture

Part-time (evening)/ 3 years

Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Sexualities and Psychology

Full-time/ 3 Years

Bachelor of Arts in Disability Studies and Gender and Sexualities

Full-time/ 3 Years

Bachelor of Arts in European Studies and Gender and Sexualities

Full-time/ 3 Years

M.Phil./Ph.D.

Disclaimer: Not all courses listed are offered every academic year

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

 @um.socialwellbeing

 @Facultyforsw



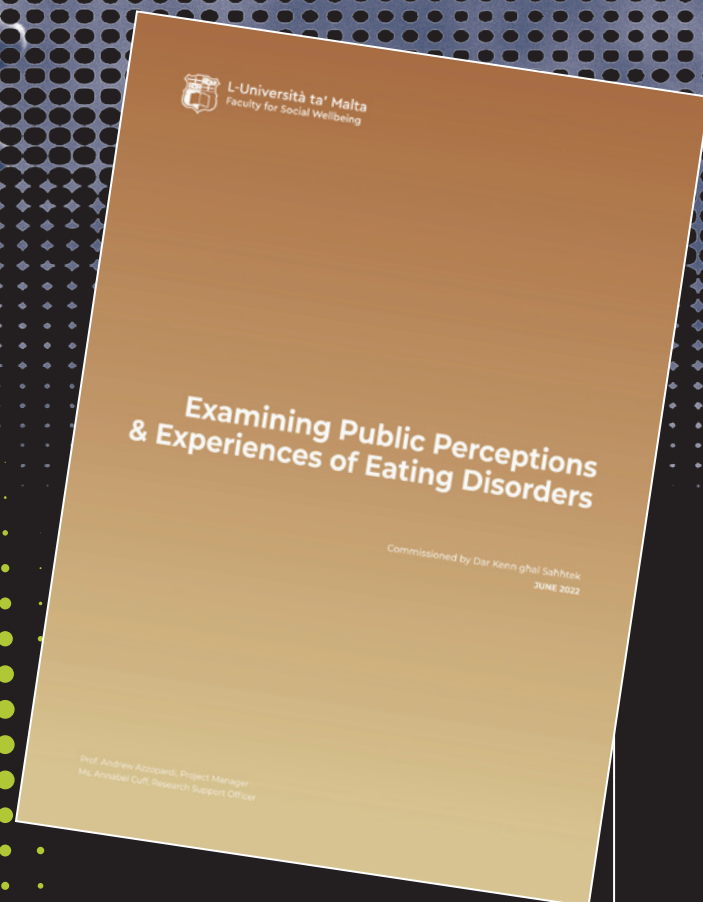
YOUTH TRANSITIONS WITHIN & BEYOND TERTIARY EDUCATION IN MALTA

The study explores how social workers employed in the sectors of Child Protection, Mental Health, Migration, Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence develop the ethical component in their practice.

It retrospectively explores their experience by focusing on how their ethical practice evolved, identifying milestones that impacted this development and reflecting on resources that support this component throughout their career. Given the impact of the context on the individual worker, identified by various authors (Banks, 2016, Hugass, 2010), the study also includes an exploration of the context acting as a background to the individual experience of the social worker.

MARIA MANGION

M.Phil./Ph.D. Candidate



“Circa 1,675 persons between 10 and 16 years living in Malta and Gozo, experience eating disorders.”

Examining Public Perceptions and Experiences of Eating Disorders - Commissioned by Dar Kenn għal Saħħtek (2022)

The full report can be accessed from
<https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/ourresearch/researchprojects/>





podcast 
BI TRASPARENZA




www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

+356 2340 2693

 socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

 [@um.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/@um.socialwellbeing)

 [@Facultyforsw](https://www.linkedin.com/company/@Facultyforsw)



The Masters in Gender, Society and Culture programme through the Faculty for Social Wellbeing provided me with an invaluable platform to delve into the complexities of gender and sexualities. The transformative experience strengthened my passion for activism, equipping me with the tools to advocate for positive change and inclusivity within our diverse communities.

AARON GIARDINA

Master in Gender,
Society and Culture



Studying with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing provided me not only with academic development in a field I'm passionate about, but also invaluable personal growth. I had the opportunity to participate in eye-opening discussions with my peers, some of whom I have built lasting friendships. Such interactions with both fellow students and the lecturers, who are the best in the field, provided profound insights into the intricate dynamics of social structures and the ways in which they intersect with gender identities and cultural norms.

JILLIAN MALLIA

Master in Gender,
Society and Culture

IT ONLY TAKES A POT AND A LITTLE LOVE
TO PROVIDE A HOT MEAL FOR THE POOR AND THE HOMELESS



NOW OPERATING AT THE MILLENNIUM CHAPEL COMPLEX IN PACEVILLE

YOU CAN HELP IN THIS WORTHY VENTURE BY DONATING TO OUR
APS BANK ACCOUNT NO. 36932120016 OR BY REVOLUT TO 9982 9429



PLEASE DONATE NOW

How did the murder of Bernice Cassar leave an impact on society?

Shock, anger, fear, helplessness, resignation and determination are some of the feelings that may have been triggered by the tragic killing of Bernice Cassar: the avoidable death of a young woman.

The graphic images and details of Bernice's death brought the tragic reality of domestic violence into everyone's home. It raised questions as to why this woman, who took all the necessary steps to protect herself, was not given the protection that she deserved. Why was the perpetrator allowed to carry out such a heinous crime? Protesters took to the streets to repeat their messages in loud, angry voices. However, one must not forget that others were shut away in their homes, frightened, resigned and helpless – will this happen to me? Let us not let this tragedy repeat itself!

DR CLAUDIA PSAILA
Academic

During a live transmission of Xarabank a women came begging one of the team members to share an experience during the live transmission. She said that her partner was threatening to kill her. The team member told her to wait for the first break so that I could speak to her. In the meantime, they offered her coffee. During the break she was nowhere to be seen.

She was too tense to wait. She just left.
The following day her partner killed her.
Courageous women report the abusive partner.
He is arraigned in court.
The sitting is adjourned.
The probability is that in the interval he would return to abuse and beat her, now angrier because she reported him.
Another sitting.
Another adjournment.
In the meantime, she is killed.

These abused and battered women cannot wait. Even a day can make a difference between life and death.

In Bernice's case the hearing was adjourned for a year.
A whole year not a day.

Instead of radically changing the system to cut on waiting time, Parliament changed the way the crime is called.

It is now 'femicide'.
A cosmetic change that is no change at all.

PEPPI AZZOPARDI
Stakeholder



The death of Bernice Cassar has evoked many emotions within Maltese society. Fear that this is not the first femicide, and it will not be the last.

Anger that someone who has committed a crime still takes months and years to go through the judicial system to be found guilty. Anger at the thought that her children have lost both parents in an instant, having their world shattered.

Outrage at the idea that her family has not only lost a daughter, a sister and a mother, but they have to keep reopening their wounds every time they have to attend the trial. Families who have been going through the same turmoil can empathise with Bernice's family because it is never an easy journey for a woman to take a stand against violence and abuse. It is time to listen to their voices before it is too late.

AUDREY BEZZINA
Student



Don't touch MY COLA

C.O.L.A. 2024



13.00

PER WEEK



MY
C.O.L.A.

TAX ON
C.O.L.A.

uhm

VOICE OF THE WORKERS

Proposal for
Budget 2024

**FOUNDATION FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE
SERVICES**

Here for you



Youth in Focus



“ We are Youth in Focus


FSWS (Directorate for Alternative Care)

fsws.gov.mt


Why not read a **M.Phil./Ph.D.** with our Faculty?

www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

+356 2340 2693

 socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

 [@um.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing)

 [@Facultyforsw](https://www.linkedin.com/company/facultyforsw)

