



Foreword

Andrew Azzopardi (Chair of the UM Platform for Migration)

The *Mediterranean Journal of Migration* is another loop in the initiatives of the relatively new and innovative Platform for Migration, set up only a few years ago, within the University of Malta. This Platform is a melange of scholars who come from diverse entities, namely Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools and who share a common interest in having a better understanding of the complexities surrounding migration.

This Journal is an attempt at another space to converge the different angles and optics of these nuances and slowly but surely craft an understanding of the multifarious narrative and demography of what is happening. This would in turn help us predict and construe possibilities which could lead us to more effective policy making and scholarship. I am hopeful knowing well enough that the Platform and the Journal are becoming a staple contributor in this debate.

The focus here is indeed the Mediterranean region, which remains an amorphous area in terms of migration research, not clearly delineated or defined, with specificities of its own. Indeed, the Mediterranean basin, whilst experiencing land migration, has also repeatedly acted as a stage to tragedies related to sea migration. It is therefore pertinent to try and bridge this gap and provide a space whereby research related to migration and belonging within this area is explored and shared.

Whilst welcoming research regarding migration in the Mediterranean indiscriminate of where the authors and researchers might be based, the fact that the University of Malta is the home of this journal has an important historical value. Due to its geographical position, Malta has for thousands of years been home to various conquerors and their people, a safe port for sea farers and an important trade route; all of which have left an inextricable mark on the Maltese identity. Migration remains a highly controversial and important topic for the local community up to this day, as it takes different shapes and forms in the contemporary world.

All in all, the *Mediterranean Journal of Migration* is a tool that will help us peel another layer in the democratising of knowledge. I am hopeful knowing well enough that the Platform and the journal are becoming a staple contributor in this debate. Kudos to the editorial team led by Professor Helen Grech and closely supported by Maria Giulia Borg, the Platform's Research Support Officer.