

UNITY

OCTOBER 2018
ISSUE 2



L-Università
ta' Malta

FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING

FREE

ISSN NUMBER: 2522-378X

My Journey: Achieving through different paths will replace the current secondary school model with personalised, relevant and quality education for all students

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It's time to improve on what we have, and try to build an education where children enjoy going to school everyday.

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REACHING Out

LARA ELLUL

EDITOR



WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF OUR FACULTY MAGAZINE, UNITY. A CORE MISSION OF OUR WORK, WHETHER ADMINISTRATORS, ACADEMICS OR STUDENTS IS THAT OF REACHING OUT.

At the end of the day, what matters is that we have better communities and as a Faculty we strive to put our energy and effort into contributing to Society's advancement. UNITY is another loop to share the immense work that is being done in this Faculty, which keeps growing in numbers and importance. The Faculty has become known to everyone through our vast and ongoing awareness campaigns.

This magazine will provide you with a taster of the immense work that is going on in our Faculty whether it is the 80 events we organised this year, the exponential growth in our last year's freshers' with 400 new students joining the ranks at all levels, an estimated 4,000 men

and women hours in Faculty meetings, we reached the 1,000 student mark, Our Academics published almost 130 papers in this last year, there is a growing number of MPhil/PhD students, it is estimated that more than 1,000 people attended the events we organised, Our Academics delivered circa 13,000 hours of lectures, tutorials and practicum/placement meetings and visits, and it is likely we spent 500 hours on contributions to the media.

The material that you will find in this edition of UNITY will provide for a good understanding of what it means to be part of this Faculty and offer some valid pointers that will make you, our current students, or you, our prospective students,

informed about the work that is going on. This magazine is also an important loop with our stakeholders whom we value immensely and who walk the talk with us.

The ethos of our Faculty is based on the collective, on being together because together we are stronger. So there you go, UNITY it is!

My appreciation is extended to all the colleagues who sat on the Editorial Board; Alison Darmanin, Dorianne Cortis, Rosette Farrugia Bonello, Renita Agius, Sarah Jane Mifsud and supported by the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi.

Enjoy,
Lara
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COVER STORY

Adrian Edwin Callus, Naomi Mintoff, Denise Refalo Cutajar, Aldo Sciberras together with Dante, the Labrador, feature in the cover photo of this second edition of UNITY. The photo symbolises a collective effort to attain personal and individual objectives. Apart from that the Cover Photo wants to convey the importance of having different students, engaged in diverse disciplines, working together. Dante on the other hand symbolise the need to give value to the simple things in life, that really take us forward. The even tempered, kind, intelligent and trusting characteristics of Dante are all qualities that inspire all of us within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

**UNITY IS A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE FACULTY FOR
SOCIAL WELLBEING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA.**

**FOR FUTURE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS
MAGAZINE OR DURING OTHER FACULTY EVENTS PLEASE
CONTACT LARA.ELLUL@UM.EDU.MT.
YOU MAY WANT TO LINK UP WITH US THROUGH
WWW.UM.EDU.MT/SOCIALWELLBEING**

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"Our mission is that of promoting social wellbeing across society through knowledge and action, together with our stakeholders and service users. Our Faculty aims to promote wellbeing across society. We are committed to pursuing and promoting scholarship that responds to social trends and knowledge gaps. In doing so, we partner with stakeholders while privileging the voice of service users. Our Faculty is a catalyst for public debate, informing policy and service development. We give priority to engaging students and to building their capacity for reflexivity and critical thought."

From the Faculty for Social Wellbeing - Strategic Plan 2018-2020

DEAN'S WELCOME



Life is about living

THE PRIVILEGE OF LEADING THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING IS SECOND TO NONE. THIS FACULTY HAS MANAGED TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT ARE OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING IN LIFE.

All of us, myself included, the Deputy Dean, the Heads of Department, the Faculty Officer, Academics, Administrative staff, MPhil/PhD candidates and students have a common objective - that through scholarship, community engagement, mentoring and lecturing we contribute towards guaranteeing a fair society.

But being good students, administrators and academic staff entails that we live to the full, notwithstanding we all get our share of disappointments, displeasures and frustrations in life.

A little bit about me.

Like many others I have a life that is weaved around my work. My passion remains lecturing and researching notwithstanding I am humbled by this opportunity to lead this magnificent Faculty, focused primarily on the applied social sciences. As far as my private life goes, I am married to Sue, who is a Primary School Headmistress and I have two children, or should I say three?

Let me explain.

My oldest son is Karl, who is 22 years old and is studying journalism. He is impassioned about making things right and calling a spade

a spade. Claire, my 19 years old, on the other hand, is studying sports and an athlete herself. For her, life is about commitment that she says, "*will help bring out the best in oneself*". Then there is Dante, our third 'son'. He is the family dog, a Labrador breed (seen on the cover photo of this magazine greeting some of our students that turned up at 'his' alley). He is our pride and joy and reminds me that life is about savouring the simple moments, whether they are the daily walks, the chasing of a cat in the park, the weekly swims in the summer or the lovely food he gets to munch.

Apart from that my other side-line is broadcasting. I have been anchoring a current affairs programme called *Għandi xi Nghid*, for these last 10 years with Radju Malta. Every Saturday morning, I hit the air waves trying to understand the issues that this country is facing and attempt to analyse them together with a knowledgeable panel. This hobby of broadcasting is complimented with a regular column I have on The Malta Independent. In a way, in the silence of my office at home, I try to write about major concerns that I see unravelling around me. In my writing I'm always attempting to give solutions and not simply list out the hitches.

One other pastime I have is watching Southampton FC. A regular visit to St Mary's Stadium is on my schedule every year. Supporting this small team that sits on the South Coast of GB is not an easy one especially knowing that challenging for trophies is not something that often comes our way. But that is who I am, keen to stand shoulder to shoulder with the underdog! My craving for the colours doesn't go away especially knowing that we've had some great players in our ranks over the years. Footballers like Matt Le Tessier, Gareth Bale, Kevin Keegan, Peter Shilton, Theo Walcott, Ryan Bertrand and Adam Lallana should ring a bell, just to mention a few.

Finally, I hope you enjoy all the material that we have prepared for you in UNITY. As always we invite you to study or to keep studying with us. With so many disciplines and over 35 courses, I am pretty sure that you will find a programme to your liking.

In any case, as my life motto goes, '*fejn tfittxuni ssibuni*' (whenever you need me I will be there for you) – I'm just an email or a call away.

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UNITY IS IN ITS SECOND EDITION AND WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO INFORM THE READER ABOUT THE TOTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING.



PROF. ALFRED VELLA

RECTOR

RECTOR'S Welcome

The various departments of the Faculty concern themselves with issues and realities that touch society intimately, but also those realities that concern individuals themselves closely and personally. Perhaps this is one reason why the Faculty appeals to so many students, causing its enrolment number to grow rapidly in a short span of time. The role of this publication is to showcase and promote the varied coursework on offer but also to celebrate the numerous activities which staff

and students participate in, bringing to life the precepts of the art and science of studies that relate to the understanding and influencing the wellness of individuals and society. I augur the Faculty well for the coming year and may this publication inspire even more students to join in its endeavours, especially by taking up master and doctoral level studies.

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PROFESSOR SAVIOUR ZAMMIT

Pro-Rector for Research & Knowledge Transfer



“When I am running I feel free and it helps my mind focus. For me the ‘finish line’ symbolizes the small achievements we need to work towards so that our life can be whole”

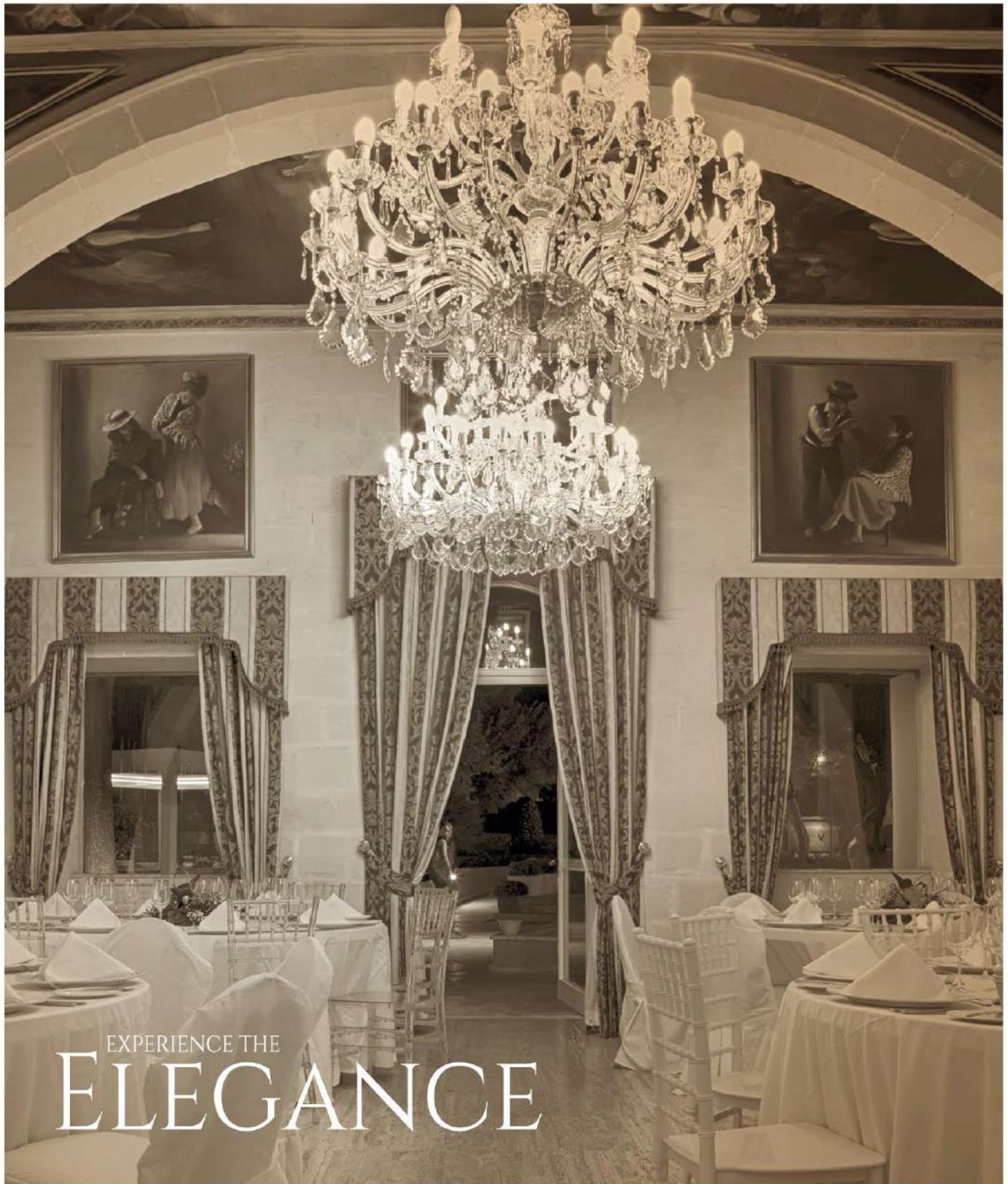
JANET RICHARD
B.Psy (Hons)
ATHLETE

Foto Domingo
DOMINIC BORG

“Art for me is the biggest expression of emotions. It’s an opportunity to come in touch with my feelings but also has a message that I would like to convey. Art is the story that accompanies me”

NICOLE ZAMMIT
B.Psy (Hons)
ARTIST





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The Faculty for Social Wellbeing

SOME HISTORY

The ethos of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing was manifest from its inception. After much reflection and debate, the name for the 14th Faculty of the University of Malta was selected. The Faculty's gaze was to be directed outwards, at society, with a view to enhancing social wellbeing. The proposal for the setting up of the Faculty was approved by the Senate of the University on the 21st June 2012 and by the Council on the 19th July of the same year. The Faculty came into being on the 1st August 2012 following my appointment as the first dean.

The initiative to set up the Faculty had come from the then Rector, Professor Juanito Camilleri who, in the spring of 2012, approached various existing departments, institutes and centres with a 'social wellbeing' focus to explore the possibility of bringing these academic structures together. This initiative was

received well and after meetings with all the relevant stakeholders Rector put the proposal for the setting up of the Faculty to Senate and Council. The departments and unit which formed part of the Faculty when it was first set up were the following:

Department of Counselling, Department of Criminology, Department of Family Studies, Department of Psychology, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Department of Youth and Community Studies, and the Disability Studies Unit, which later became a department.

In November 2013, the Department of Gender Studies was set up and the Department of Gerontology became part of the Faculty in 2015.

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Our Leaders

LEADING WITH DECORUM

Each one of the nine Heads of Departments and the Faculty Officer are responsible for running their respective Departments. What we have seen in the past is what I would call a 'diaspora' of disciplines that slowly and surely started living together serenely and appreciating the greatness of collegiality within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. However, what our Faculty has been working on in these last two years is building on that and looking at the beauty of intersectionality, that is, of finding commonality in the diverse disciplines each Department specialise in. Increasingly we have noticed many more academics coming from different departments working with each other and achieving some very important research outcomes. This has helped our Faculty move from strength to strength. Each one of us is indebted to our team of academics and administrators who share our passion of working towards having an inclusive society.



1
HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY
PROF. MARVIN FORMOSA

5
**HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY
AND SOCIAL WORK**
DR NATALIE KENELY



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HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES
DR CLAIRE AZZOPARDI LANE

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES
DR JOSANN CUTAJAR

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES
DR CLARISSA SAMMUT SCERRI

6

7

8

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES, DEAN
PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, DEPUTY DEAN
DR GRETA DARMANIN KISSAUN

FACULTY OFFICER
MS ALISON DARMANIN

9

10

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY
PROF. SAVIOUR FORMOSA

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING, SENATE REPRESENTATIVE
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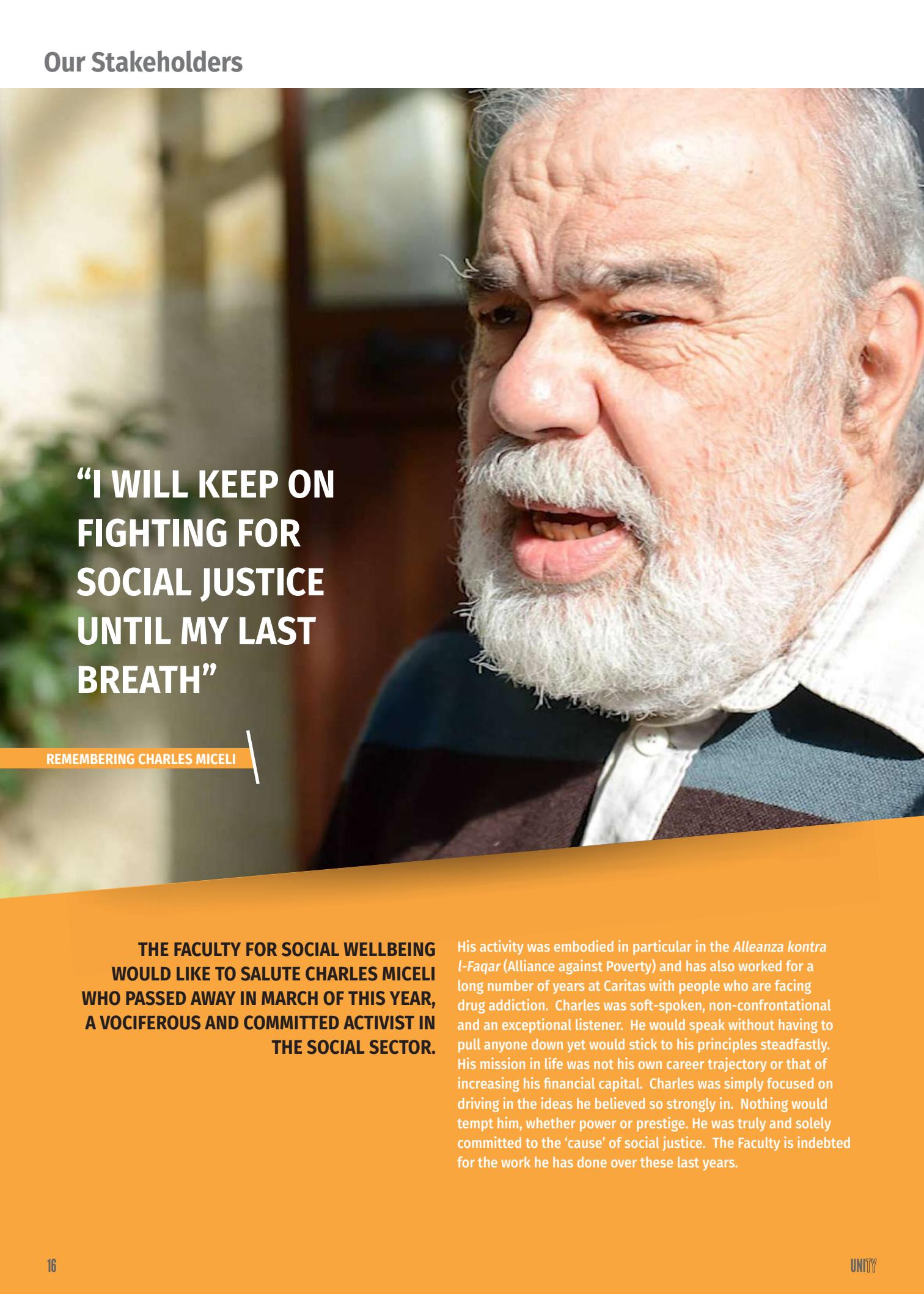


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Our Stakeholders



**“I WILL KEEP ON
FIGHTING FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE
UNTIL MY LAST
BREATH”**

REMEMBERING CHARLES MICELI

**THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING
WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE CHARLES MICELI
WHO PASSED AWAY IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR,
A VOCIFEROUS AND COMMITTED ACTIVIST IN
THE SOCIAL SECTOR.**

His activity was embodied in particular in the *Alleanza kontra I-Faqar* (Alliance against Poverty) and has also worked for a long number of years at Caritas with people who are facing drug addiction. Charles was soft-spoken, non-confrontational and an exceptional listener. He would speak without having to pull anyone down yet would stick to his principles steadfastly. His mission in life was not his own career trajectory or that of increasing his financial capital. Charles was simply focused on driving in the ideas he believed so strongly in. Nothing would tempt him, whether power or prestige. He was truly and solely committed to the ‘cause’ of social justice. The Faculty is indebted for the work he has done over these last years.

Department of Counselling



AFTER GRADUATING WITH A BA (HONS.) IN CRIMINOLOGY IN 2008 I ENROLLED AS INSPECTOR WITHIN THE MALTA POLICE FORCE.

Along the years, I have often been faced with victims of crime, situations that have inspired me to take my studies to the next level and hence my decision to read a Masters course in Counselling.

I have now just completed my Masters degree program, which even though was intensive, has instilled in me counselling skills and given me the opportunity to realise a long-sought ambition to set up a Victim Support Unit (VSU) within the Malta Police Force. Through the VSU, the Malta Police Force is today in a better position to support victims of crime, hence contributing towards a more effective criminal justice system.

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DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING

The Department of Counselling strives to educate and equip future counsellors with the necessary skills to provide a sound counselling service in the Community. The courses offered provide students with the opportunity to work with clients in a variety of settings, whilst also providing the opportunity to research specialised areas of counselling.



ANTONIO ZERAFA

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MALTA GAMING AUTHORITY

**DURING MY EXPERIENCE READING FOR A
BACHELOR DEGREE IN CRIMINOLOGY STUDIES
AT THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING I HAVE
ACHIEVED A NUMBER OF SKILLS THAT I AM
CURRENTLY FINDING VERY USEFUL IN MY WORK
AT THE MALTA GAMING AUTHORITY'S CRIMINAL
PROBITY SCREENING DEPARTMENT.**

During my time at the Faculty, the criminology studies course nurtured both my investigative and analytical skills that are undoubtedly proving to be of benefit to my profession. Furthermore, my experiences within the Faculty have also impacted on my academic ambitions and contributed immensely to my decision to pursue an MSc degree that I am currently reading at the University of Portsmouth.

Head of Department
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DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

The Department's mission is to excel in research and teaching in the field of criminology, including forensic sciences, spatial forensics, forensic medicine, corrections and policing, inter-generational transmission, terrorism, cybercrime, social policy issues, and related areas of study. It also serves as a resource centre for the provision of experts and expertise in the various fields of its activity, namely, the Courts of Justice, the Corradino Correctional Facilities, the Police Force, the Planning and Environment Authorities, and the security and safety agencies amongst others.

Department of Disability Studies

AS A DISABLED PERSON I FOUND THE MA IN DISABILITY STUDIES OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES VERY INTERESTING AND ENGAGING.

It gave me the opportunity to discuss issues at an academic level, about which I had a personal experience. This added to my understanding of my own position in society and gave me insight of the political and societal attitudes that are in play and how I can contribute to the transformation of society. The areas covered were very broad, but there was still the opportunity, both in coursework and in the dissertation, to research areas which were of specific interest to me. I found the course extremely useful in gaining employment in the disability sector in Malta and am now the Executive Director at the Commission for the Rights for Persons with Disability.



RHODA GARLAND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRPD



Head of Department

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

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES

The mission of the Department of Disability Studies is to promote teaching, research, and community engagement in the area of disability by examining this phenomenon from different standpoints, namely, the theoretical, policy and legislative, personal, and socio-political perspectives. The courses offered by this department were designed by a group of disabled and non-disabled academics from different disciplines.



CHARLOTTE BUSUTTIL

FAMILY THERAPIST AND A GESTALT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

**READING A MASTERS IN
FAMILY THERAPY AND
SYSTEMIC PRACTICE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES
HAS BEEN SUCH AN ENRICHING
EXPERIENCE FOR ME.**

Really and truly it was a journey that helped me understand who I am. The course has given me the opportunity to be more reflexive in my clinical practice and personal life. I have learnt to view situations in the broader context. Recognizing that each particular experience is part of a larger system helps me to understand the full meaning of that respective situation. This course offered me the possibility to continue to reflect on my own family of origin and how this at times resonates with individuals and/or families I meet in practice. This has come along with the need to deal with various emotions, yet by reflecting on the impact of my own experiences, I managed to grow in competence and therapeutic experience.

Head of Department
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THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES

The department has as its core mission the interdisciplinary study of the family. The department promotes research on all aspects of family life especially within the Maltese context; it offers Postgraduate courses and consultative services to family scholars, practitioners, and policy makers on research, training, and policy relevant to important family issues.

**“EVERY SESSION
IN MY MASTERS
PROGRAM WAS
A REFLECTIVE
OPPORTUNITY
BASED ON REAL
LIFE.”**



KRIS VELLA GRIMA

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENT | LEAP

**SOME PEOPLE, AS SOON
AS THEY HEAR THE WORD
'UNIVERSITY' FEEL TROUBLED,
ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE
NON-TRADITIONAL LEARNERS.
WELL THAT WAS MY FEELING
INITIALLY.**

For many years I thought that Uni is a space for ‘the anointed ones’. There were moments where I felt it was an unattainable objective to pursue my tertiary studies. Apart from that, I initially approached tertiary education with a preconceived idea that academia and reality would never converge. All of this was dispelled as soon as I took the plunge and started studying with the Department of Gender Studies. Every session in my Masters program was a reflective opportunity based on real life. The tutor’s role was to facilitate learning rather than applying the traditional ‘one-sided’ pedagogy. This gave us students’ ample space for reflective and creative thinking. Lecturers recognized and valued us and our experiences. May this approach be adopted by other Faculties.

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DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

We teach gender studies from an intersectional perspective, taking into consideration social class, ethnicity, race, sexual identity and sexual orientation among others. In true ‘gender mainstreaming’ strategies we teach, supervise, and collaborate with other departments, centres and faculties. We work hard to raise awareness and bring about change to do away with the barriers that affect access to education, housing, finance, employment, equal pay among others. Our activism based on issues deriving from the research carried out by academics and graduates focus on but are not limited to gender based and domestic violence, social policy, Community development, health, political or media representation.

Department of Gerontology



ROSETTE FARRUGIA BONELLO

DEPUTY DIRECTOR | INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGEING UNITED NATIONS-MALTA



STUDYING WITHIN THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING HAS BEEN A DEFINING TIME IN MY LIFE. I HAVE READ FOR A BACHELOR IN PSYCHOLOGY, AND THE BROAD RANGE OF MODULES OFFERED ENABLED ME TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF PSYCHOLOGY.

I also had the opportunity to spend a semester at Clarion University, Pennsylvania, USA. Following that, I enrolled for a post-graduate programme in Gerontology and Geriatrics and later I was accepted at Stirling University, Scotland to pursue my M.Sc. Degree in Dementia Studies. Today, I occupy the post of Deputy Director at the International Institute on Ageing, United Nations-Malta. Studying for a degree is not a walk in the park, but the support offered to students is unprecedented and in terms of a career it is a great investment.

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DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY

The Department of Gerontology is considered to be one of the leading international centres for the study of gerontology and geriatrics. It brings together academic experts from a wide range of disciplines, and its teaching and research have made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of older persons, later life, and ageing.

**I STILL VIVIDLY RECOLLECT THOSE DAYS AFTER I HAD JUST
COMPLETED MY UNDERGRADUATE BA IN SOCIOLOGY.
I WAS CONVINCED I WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THE
UNIVERSITY BENCHES.**

It was only following a serious knee injury, which stopped me from practicing my favourite sports, football, that I reconsidered my decision. Having more time on my hands I moved on to enroll in a course with the Department of Social Policy and Social Work to compliment my work with Caritas Malta, Caritas Europa and now as Chief Executive of the Housing Authority. The degree I choose to read was social policy oriented. Looking back I realise how worthwhile, useful and at the same time rewarding that decision was.

LEONID MCKAY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HOUSING AUTHORITY

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Policy and Social Work is responsible for social policy and social work education and research at the University of Malta, and offers vibrant, exciting, demanding, and relevant undergraduate and postgraduate courses for a range of students, from those coming straight out of sixth form, to mature students returning to study, to advanced professionals seeking to further their studies.

Department of Psychology

GRADUATING WITH A FIRST DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY AS A MATURE STUDENT HAS BEEN A LIFE ALTERING EXPERIENCE.

The dedication of the Department of Psychology staff, both administrative and academic was key to ensure my enthusiasm would not subside. Today that same energy and enthusiasm serves me well in everyday life and in my daily commitments. Graduating at University has served a twofold purpose; first, by widening my own knowledge and secondly, it has made me appreciate that knowledge makes individuals and society flourish.

RAY CALLEJA

PRODUCER FOR CULTURAL EVENTS



Head of Department / Deputy Dean
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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The mission of the Department of Psychology is to teach and conduct research in general psychology by means of its team of qualified and dedicated lecturers. The department aims to train undergraduate and postgraduate students in the scientific understanding of the human mind, human behaviour, relationships and mental health.



**I WAS AMONG THE FIRST
GROUP OF GRADUATES
OF THE BA IN YOUTH AND
COMMUNITY STUDIES AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
IN 2000.**

Having qualified and worked as a teacher and science coordinator, I was anxious to acquire a formal qualification in youth studies as I had been actively involved as a volunteer with Zghazagh Azzjoni Kattolika (ZAK). My involvement with the Department of Youth and Community Studies was cemented when I joined the Faculty as a part-time lecturer in 2001 and as a full-time assistant lecturer in 2008. When I assumed my present post as Chief Executive of Aġenzija Żgħażagħ in 2011, I continued to work in the Faculty as a visiting lecturer.

My long-term engagement with the Department of Youth and Community Studies is not only evidence of my commitment to its ongoing work and development but also of the positive, indeed vital role, that it plays in educating the Youth Workers and also contributing to the development of youth policy, youth work and youth service provision in Malta.

Head of Department / Dean
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DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

The Department of Youth and Community Studies conducts research and lecturing within the areas of youth studies, community studies and youth justice amongst other. The undergraduate, postgraduate and MPhil/PhD studies lead to academic/vocational qualifications. The Department is highly involved in public debates on issues that concern young people and community development and also offers consultancy to the Government and NGOs.

Our Academics



DR RUTH FALZON

SENIOR LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING

RESEARCH IS PART OF MY WORK

IF ONE IS NOT EXCITED BY EXPLORING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING TO MANKIND, THAN PERHAPS THE ACADEMIC LIFE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.

A research I am currently carrying out is using the Collaborative AutoEthnography Writing (CAEW) methodology. CAEW might seem like an oxymoron as, one may ask, 'but, how can one write about individual experiences in a group?' Yet, in a research 'messy' way, it works. In fact, my colleagues and I are writing about a common experience which, over informal coffee breaks and lunches, led us to voice a concern for the benefit of our clients.

We came up with a research question that we are working around. As a group of five professionals, we are aware that this methodology is still snubbed by some and might be considered as lacking 'rigour' or 'scientific validity'. Notwithstanding, we decide to move on and this is turning into such a positive learning experience. In a world where employment and other spheres of life teamwork is being considered the best way forward, we feel

that this teamwork should also be reflected in research and find the synergy cognitively stimulation and emotional challenging. We value the excitement and the benefit of exploring and analysing new research findings within a group. So this writing celebrates my and my colleague's excitement of working in groups. Carrying out CAEW-based research is intriguing especially knowing that we can influence the quality of human experiences.

SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES

**ARE YOU STILL UNSURE WHAT DIRECTION YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOUR CAREER?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING AN ARRAY OF SOCIAL RELATED AREAS OF STUDIES?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO OPEN A WHOLE MELANGE OF AREAS THAT YOU CAN SPECIALISE IN?**

**THAN THIS IS THE
COURSE FOR YOU.**

The concept behind this intra-faculty BA (Hons) Social Wellbeing Studies degree is that students are free to design their own programme by registering for a number of elective study-units on offer by the various departments within the Faculty. During this course, students will be exposed to a wide

range of key facts, concepts, principles and explanatory frameworks which bring together opportunities for conceptual achievement as well as active engagement in society. Focusing on social wellbeing, students benefit from exposure to issues and trends on social inclusion across the life course.

FACULTY OFFICE

THE FACULTY OFFICE IS THE 'ENGINE ROOM' OF ANY FACULTY. IT IS THE PLACE WHERE ALL THE WORK OF THE NINE DEPARTMENTS AND THE DEAN'S OFFICE CONVERGE TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE GIVEN THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE AND SUPPORT.

It is the role of the Faculty Officer, Ms Alison Darmanin, together with her team of administrators, to make sure that firstly, there is the smooth running of the administrative operations, secondly, provides liaison with the central administration, especially with the Registrar's Office and finally, coordinates all the administrative work that goes behind every student's course program, whether it is their progression, requests for extension, applying for suspension of studies, managing the disciplinary boards, administering the PhD committee, overseeing the Faculty Board, coordinating visiting lecturers and the list goes on indefinitely.

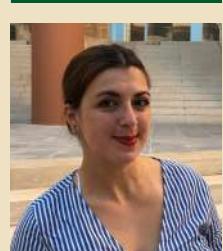


The efficiency of the Faculty Office depends on the serenity that exists with and between all nine departments. One very important element why a Faculty works like clockwork is because the Faculty Office is committed to an attitude of collegiality, a willingness to support the departments and a pledge to the Faculty's mission.

Faculty Officer
Ms Alison Darmanin

 alison.darmanin@um.edu.mt
 +356 2340 2672

OUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



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- British Psychological Society, 2017

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Our Students

BETAPSI



BETAPSI IS A UNIVERSITY OF MALTA ORGANISATION FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS. ITS PRIMARY AIM IS TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY.

It is also intended to safeguard students' rights. Betapsi organises a series of activities and events, both educational and recreational, which psychology students and enthusiasts alike are welcome to attend and participate in. In doing so, Betapsi provides the groundwork to help prepare students for the workplace.

Additionally, one of Betapsi's mission is to increase mental health awareness amongst the Maltese population through social media sources, specifically the Betapsi Facebook and Instagram page.

www.facebook.com/BetapsiMalta/

betapsimalta@gmail.com

THE CRIMINOLOGY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION WAS SET UP TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR STUDENTS.



By working with the Department of Criminology, we provide a way for students' to have their thoughts and concerns heard. We also provide a platform to allow expression of ideas and opinions on issue's relating to criminology, not only at University, but also around the whole of Malta, such as taking part in the campaign against domestic violence or discussions on addiction.

We also aim to provide our students with options and information for life after University by communicating with relevant companies and organisations. This lead to us hosting a criminology careers day, allowing both students and prospective employers to meet and talk to one another. We also collaborate with other student organisations in order to provide more memorable experiences, such as the interactive murder mystery event 'Doctor Death', or the 'Carpe Noctum Ball'.

Should you wish to, we can be contacted through our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CSAUOM>) or come speak directly to any of our executive members.

**Studenti
Harsien
Soċjali**



Studenti Harsien Soċjali (SHS) is the organisation representing the students within the Department of Social Policy and Social Work. It strives to ensure that the students' rights are maintained and their interests are well represented. It also creates a link between the students and the academic and administrative staff within the Department and Faculty, to further reach its goal of representing students. SHS also aims at ensuring that the voice of the social work and social policy students is heard on campus and that awareness is raised about the Social Work and Social Policy fields.

SHS's values revolve around social justice and ensuring the well being of society, reminiscent of the values upheld by professionals in the field. The activities of the organisation in the past include creating workshops to guide the students in their academic life, as well as workshops tackling relevant issues within Maltese society. The organisation has also organised social events to bring the students together and also closer to the SHS.

www.facebook.com/studentiharsiensocjali/

shs.uom@gmail.com



“Social wellbeing is about interpreting individual needs, while trying to understand them and collectively moving forward.”

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean

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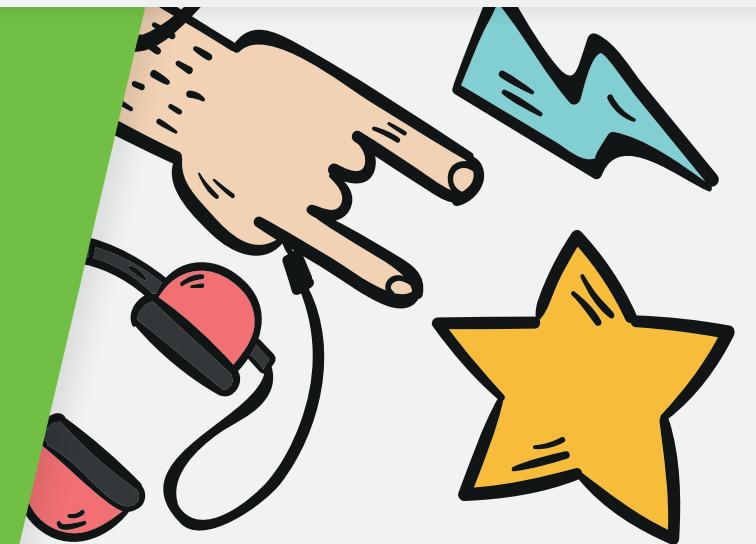
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CLAIRE AZZOPARDI

Students' RESEARCH

Public respite care for older persons in Malta: An evaluation

Roberta Sultana | *Master of Arts in Ageing and Dementia Studies*

This study attempted to evaluate the publicly-funded residential respite care service for older people in Malta.

Giving fathers a voice: The father's experience of his wife going through perinatal mental health difficulties

Elena Felica | *Masters in Counselling Psychology, University of Malta*

This study explored the lived experience of four first-time fathers whose wives passed through mental health issues during pregnancy or the first year postpartum.

The fallibility of memory: Investigating its reliability in eyewitness testimonies

Rebekah Mifsud | *Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)*

This dissertation investigated factors affecting eyewitness memory.

War of the Worlds? Maltese Catholic LGBTI individuals, narrate stories of integrating sexual and religious identities

Joanne Vella | *M.TCouns (Melit.); B. Psych (Hons) (Melit.)*

This research explored journeys undertaken by four Maltese LGBTI Catholic individuals, in integrating religious and sexual identities.

The influence of counsellors' religious and spiritual identity on their counselling practice: A phenomenological exploration

Antonella Mizzi | *Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling*

This research explored how the religious and spiritual dimension of a counsellor's identity influences counselling practice

The national flag: An agent of prejudice?

Joseph Muscat | *Bachelor Of Psychology (Honours)*

This study explored significant effects on the prejudice towards foreigners expressed by Maltese individuals when exposed to the Maltese national flag taking into consideration their nationalistic and patriotic tendencies.

Dr. Fluffy: Friend, foe or something more? Implications of animal assisted therapy in the counselling setting

Antonella Grasso | *Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling*

This study was intended to explore the lived experience of adults in relation to animals' impact on their wellbeing.

The facilitations and constraints faced by members of the Arab community when attempting cultural integration in Malta

Lucy Chetcuti | *Bachelor Of Psychology (Honours)*

This work attempted to analyse how Arab individuals residing locally find themselves between two different cultures, with differences demanding negotiation in the unique local environment.

The Outlook of Maltese University students on non-consensual marital sex

Robert Anthony Bonnici | *Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology*

The research investigated the attitudes of Maltese University Students towards marital rape.

The Relationship between implicit racial attitudes and the cross-race effect

Victoria Bamber | *Higher Diploma in Psychology*

This study sought to explore the relationship between implicit racial attitudes and one's ability to recognise other-race faces within the Maltese context where such other-race faces are being met with increasing frequency.

The experiences of siblings of disabled children

Janet Vella Gera | *Master of Arts in Disability Studies*

This study examined the experiences of seven siblings of disabled children, aged eight to twelve.

Against all odds: The resilience of children who live in families with low-income and are obese

Mary Lisa Gilson | *Master in Psychology (Clinical.) Melit.*

This work explored the resilience of children who live in families with low-income and are obese.

Workforce retention within child protection services: The perspective of social workers employed in this service

Elaine Marie Shead | *Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology*

This study aimed to explore and describe the factors which influence social workers in Malta in their decision to continue working in child protection services (CPS).

Understanding the complex interplay between substance use, offending behaviour and victimisation amongst women in Malta a grounded theory study

Petra Scicluna | *Master in Psychology (Forensic) Melit.*

Guided by a career approach conceptual framework, the aim of this research is to develop an understanding of the complex interplay between victimisation, substance abuse and offending behaviour among women in Malta.

LIST OF ACADEMIC COURSES

2018/19

STUDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE REGARDING ADMISSIONS 2018.

■ COMMON DEGREE

Course Coordinator – Dr Ruth Falzon

Contact : 2340 3259

<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/ruthfalzon>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES

(Full-Time)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHSWSFT-2018-9-0>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES

(Part-Time)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHSWSPTD-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING

Head of Department – Dr Dione Mifsud

Contact : 2340 3518

<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/dionemifsud>

MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSCULTURAL COUNSELLING

(Full-Time)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMATRCFTT6-2018-9-0>

MASTER IN COUNSELLING

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMCOUPET0-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

Head of Department – Prof. Saviour Formosa

Contact : 2340 3722

<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/saviourformosa>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN CRIMINOLOGY

(Full-Time Malta)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHCF4-2018-9-0>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN CRIMINOLOGY

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHCPTE4-2018-9-0>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN CRIMINOLOGY

(Part-Time Evening Gozo)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHCGPTE4-2018-9-0>

MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY

(Part-Time by Research)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMACRIPER6-2018-9-0>

MASTER IN PROBATION SERVICES

(Full-Time)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMPPRSFTT1-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES

Head of Department – Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane

Contact : 2340 3689

<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/claireazzopardilane>

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UHDCADPTE-2018-9-0>

MA IN DISABILITY STUDIES

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMADBSPET2-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES

Head of Department – Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri

Contact 2340 3625

<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/clarissasammutscerri>

MASTER IN FAMILY THERAPY AND SYSTEMIC PRACTICE (DIRECT)

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMFTSPET2-2018-9-0>

MASTER IN FAMILY THERAPY AND SYSTEMIC PRACTICE (PART 2)

(Part-Time Evening)

<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMFTSPET3-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

Head of Department - Dr JosAnn Cutajar
Contact : 2340 3808
<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/josannicutajar>

MASTER OF GENDER STUDIES

(Full-Time by Research)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMGDSFTR4-2018-9-0>

MASTER OF GENDER STUDIES

(Part-Time by Research)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMGDSPET4-2018-9-0>

MASTER OF GENDER, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

(Full-Time)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMGSLFTT6-2018-9-0>

MASTER OF GENDER, SOCIETY AND CULTURE

(Part-Time Evening)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMGSLPET6-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY

Head of Department – Prof. Marvin Formosa
Contact : 2340 2237
<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/marvinformosa>

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

(Full-Time Day)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UHDGEGFT-2018-9-0>

MASTER OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

(Full-Time)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMGGFTT6-2018-9-0>

■ DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Head of Department – Dr Greta Darmanin Kissuan
Contact : 2340 2312
<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/gretadarmaninkissaun>

BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY (HONOURS)

(Full-Time)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBPSYHIFT-2018-9-0>

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGY

(Full-Time)
<https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UHDPSYFT-2018-9-0>

HIGHER DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGY

(Part-Time Gozo)

■ DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL WORK

Head of Department – Dr Natalie Kenely
Contact : 2340 3732
<https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/nataliekenely>

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL POLICY

(Full-Time)

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL POLICY

(Part-Time)

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL WORK

(Full-Time)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHSWKFT-2018-9-0

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN SOCIAL WORK

(Part-Time Day)

MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK

(Preparatory Programme)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UHPPMASWKPD-2018-9-0

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

(Full-Time)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMSWKFT7-2018-9-0

■ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Head of Department – Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
Contact : 2340 3359
www.um.edu.mt/profile/andrewazzopardi

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN YOUTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES

(Full-Time)
www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHYTHFT-2018-9-0

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN YOUTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES

(Part-Time Evening)
www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/UBAHYTHPTE-2018-9-0

MASTER OF ARTS IN YOUTH JUSTICE

(Part-Time Evening)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMAUTJPET6-2018-9-0

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT

(Part-Time Evening)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMACDVPET7-2018-9-0

MASTER IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

(Part-Time Evening)

www.um.edu.mt/courses/overview/PMYTHPET9-2018-9-0

■ MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY / PHD

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

SOCIALWELLBEING@UM.EDU.MT



FACULTY CALENDAR

- September 2018 **Let's Toast the Faculty**
- October 2018 **Freshers' Meeting**
- November 2018 **Remembering Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi**
- November 2018 **Faculty National Conference**
- November 2018 **Faculty Post-Graduate Ceremony**
- November 2018 **Faculty Undergraduate Ceremony**
- February 2019 **Research Festival**
- February 2019 **Dean's Award Ceremony**
- February 2019 **Dean's Forum**
- April 2019 **Stakeholders' Forum**
- May 2019 **Faculty Seminar**

The following are some Faculty statistics that you might find interesting

We organise circa 80 events during an academic year

We have circa 400 new students

We have circa 350 students graduating this year

We spent an estimated 4,000 hours in Faculty related meetings

We reached the 1,000 student mark

We published 130 papers in these last 15 months

By the end of 2018, the Faculty alone, would have managed to rake in close to a quarter million Euros in research

We have over 50 resident academics and another 250 visiting lectures, casual lecturers, dissertation and placement supervisors

We have 23 administrative staff

PhD/MPhil – circa 30 candidates

We have 10 research officers

We have 2 PhD graduates this year

Cluster FOR MIGRATION

IN AN INCREASINGLY INTEGRATED WORLD, MIGRATION PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO COMMUNITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ALIKE.

"The mission of the University of Malta Cluster for Migration is to offer a dialogical space in which researchers from different academic disciplines can work towards understanding all the evolving aspects of international migration, including that of belonging across generations. Our long-term goal is to thereby contribute to an equitable, more sustainable and more inclusive society that brings benefits to migrants and their families, communities of origin, destination and transition, as well as their sending and receiving countries. The aims of the Cluster for Migration are to facilitate collaboration between the University of Malta entities and individual academics interested in the areas of migration, to synergise, promote and facilitate research, education, dialogue and training initiatives relating to migration and to seek support for its work and strengthen relevant initiatives under the University framework." (Excerpt from the draft Statute)

jamie.bonnici@um.edu.mt



DEAN'S AWARDS LIST

ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS EVENTS THAT THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING ORGANISES ANNUALLY IS THE DEAN'S AWARDS CEREMONY. THIS OCCASION IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT THE STUDENTS WHOSE RESULTS ARE NOTHING SHORT OF EXCELLENT. THE STUDENTS WHO RECORD THE BEST RESULTS ARE PLACED ON THE DEAN'S LIST, A PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE DEDICATION TO THEIR COURSE OF STUDIES.

socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

DEAN'S FORUM

The second edition of the Dean's Forum is an experience for all those students and lecturers who wish to create new friendships based on the pursuit of knowledge and want to engage in research, argumentation and public speaking. It is an opportunity for students and lecturers from different departments to bring their heads together and develop a convincing argument.

This debating society will take the form of a competition with cash prizes to be won.

If interested contact marija.grech@um.edu.mt

Our Administrators



CHARMAINE AGIUS AND MARICA GALEA

FREC ADMINISTRATORS

Seeing through THE RESEARCH ETHICS

DURING THIS LAST ACADEMIC YEAR CHARMAINE, WHO IS FROM HAD-DINGLI AND MARICA, WHO IS FROM TARXIEN BUT RESIDENT AT PEMBROKE, HAVE BEEN MANAGING FREC, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND BUSY COMMITTEES THERE ARE IN THE FACULTY.

Dr Katya Degiovanni for these last two years has chaired this Committee that has a representative from every Department. In this coming year Dr Trevor Calafato will be taking over as Chair of FREC.

We caught up with Charmaine who has been working at the UM for these last 9 years and Marica who has been at the UM for this last year.

Charmaine, apart from FREC told us that she is the sole administrative staff for the Department of Gerontology. The same applies for Marica who manages all the day to day work of the Department of Gender Studies.

When I asked them what are the main duties of FREC, Marica told us that; *"The main responsibilities are receiving and processing ethics proposals, attending FREC meetings and liaising with students following feedback they get from their proposal. Proposals with sensitive data then go to UREC (University Research Ethics Committee). After reviewing proposals, UREC will contact us and we will then contact the students via e-mail informing them about UREC's decision."* Charmaine adds that; *"The main challenge is the huge amount of ethics proposals received. Since I am also the secretary of the Department of Gerontology, time is limited when it comes to focusing on both roles."*

Another difficulty is that sometimes time is wasted replying to students' queries. The information requested is usually available on the website but unfortunately students do not read thoroughly through it."

Even though it is a lot of work both Charmaine and Marica manage some free time. Charmaine is passionate about music, watching television and reading a good book whilst Marica spends her free time listening to Italian music, meeting friends, cooking, reading, going for walks and swimming.

On behalf of the Faculty we would like to thank Charmaine and Marica for their sterling work. Come this academic year, Charmaine will still be at the helm of FREC supported by Josienne Falzon and Shirley Gilson.

research-ethics.fsw@um.edu.mt

European Observatory ON FEMICIDE (EOF)

BARBARA STELMAZEK

RESEARCH OFFICER EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON FEMICIDE



DR MARCELINE NAUDI

SENIOR LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

Social Wellbeing Observatory

THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING, THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, WILL BE SETTING UP AN OBSERVATORY TO MONITOR WELLBEING IN MALTA AND GOZO. THIS OBSERVATORY WILL MONITOR FLUCTUATIONS IN WELLBEING OVER TIME IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT.

The mission of the Observatory would be to advance high-quality social science research, by encouraging and supporting interdepartmental, intrafaculty and interfaculty research and also reach out to other organisations outside the UM. The central activity of the Observatory would be to create and maintain a national composite Wellbeing Index, namely in the areas of life satisfaction, socio-cultural competence, self-esteem and psychological wellbeing. The working group that set out and delineated the mission of this Observatory was made up of Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean, Dr Gordon Sammut, Dr Sue Vella and Dr Anne Marie Callus.

jamie.bonnici@um.edu.mt

IN JANUARY 2018, THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA STARTED HOSTING THE EOF WHICH CAME OUT OF THE 2014-2017 COST ACTION ON FEMICIDE ACROSS EUROPE, A TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK OF VAW RESEARCHERS.

Recognising the need to address femicide in Europe with targeted research, the EOF aims to create collaborative knowledge and data sharing, and capacity building activities geared toward improving political will and taking necessary technical steps to prevent femicide.

The Observatory is in the process of bringing together NGOs, academics, governments, existing national observatories and European monitoring bodies and others to find common solutions to femicide prevention. This would involve the gradual building up of a sustainable Europe-wide network via country data collection / research groups, supported by thematic groups on data harmonisation and collection, and prevention. A core result of the project would be a European database that supports quantitative and qualitative research on femicide with the aim of femicide prevention.

The EOF is currently led by the University of Malta with Dr Marceline Naudi as Scientific Coordinator, and Ms Barbara Stelmaszek as Research Officer. It is supported by an Advisory Board consisting of nine previous Cost Action core group members from research institutions in Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. The countries involved in the COST Action Femicide across Europe were as follows: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

marceline.naudi@um.edu.mt

ON BEING FAR & Away During Sabbatical Leave

**HAVING SPENT 25 SOLID YEARS OF
TEACHING I WONDERED HOW LIFE WAS
GOING TO BE LIKE “WITHOUT” MY
DEAR STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES.
THE TIME AROUND MY LAST LECTURE
IN MAY 2016 DID FEEL LIKE I WAS
UNDER THE EFFECT OF AN ACADEMIC
‘EMPTY NEST SYNDROME’.**

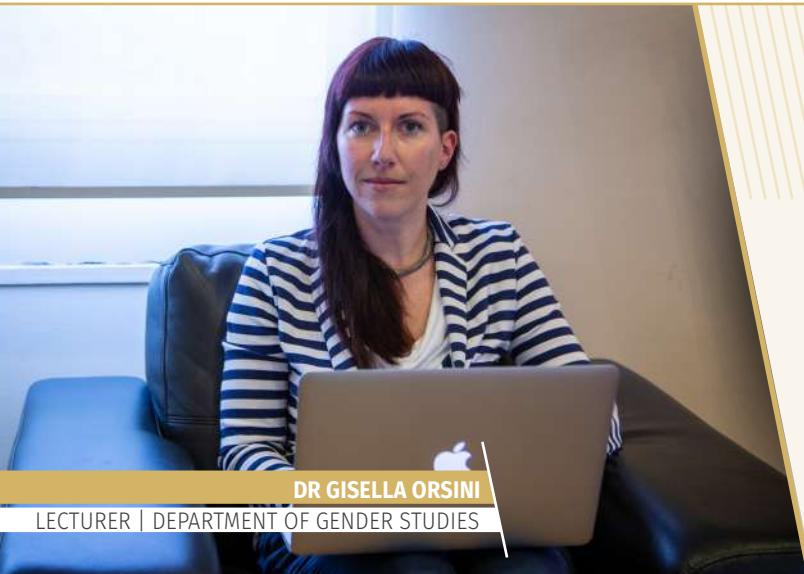
Summer soon arrived and I decided to tackle pending work on journal articles that I had started but never finished. They were all stacked neatly inside a folder named “Publications in Progress”. This time I decided to focus on one article at a time and see it through. In October I immediately realised what a difference Sabbatical Leave makes to the flow and productivity of writing. I spent time reading and exploring new ideas. Much of the time I worked from home. Rather than spend a long stretch of time abroad I travelled for short trips to different locations. In 2017 I went on six academic trips in connection with two COST Actions (Budapest, Ljubljana, and Paris), writing workshop (Bristol), a conference (London) and an Erasmus teaching assignment (Tubingen). Now I’m back, after what has been an amazing and rejuvenating experience. The nest is full again and I’m happy it is!

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DR JOANNE CASSAR

SENIOR LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



DR GISELLA ORSINI

LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

A total of 10 women from the Philippines aged between 27 and 56 have been interviewed. The interviewees' clients are all Maltese (men and women) aged between 79 and 95. While their needs and biographies differ greatly, all of them share a similar situation: they are all taken care of by a foreigner with whom they also share their most intimate space - their home. In this way, the “exiled home” of the older person becomes a home of inclusion, in which

two different cultures meet and integrate, and where the public/private dichotomy characterising working and private life disappears.

Nevertheless, these “exiled homes” also remind us how, in a global economy where people can now easily purchase a wide range of services for their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, the work of the live-in carer is more than “just a job”. As

pointed out by one of the interviewees, her work entails the provision of “tender love and care”.

While on the one hand the contribution of foreign carers towards the wellbeing of the elderly is essential, new questions arise on the impact of such a phenomenon on the lives of the migrant workers and the families they have left behind in their Homeland.
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EXILED HOMES

DURING THE PAST YEAR I HAVE CONDUCTED A QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF “EXILED HOMES”, AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ARTISTIC PROJECT SUPPORTED BY VALLETTA 2018 FOUNDATION AIMING TO UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE NARRATIVES OF FILIPINO LIVE-IN CARERS LIVING AND WORKING IN MALTA.

LOSING A SOCIAL WORKER, A FORMER STUDENT AND A FRIEND

I SPOKE WITH DR NATALIE KENELY, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK ON THE LOSS OF CHRISTA FORMOSA, A FORMER SOCIAL WORK STUDENT FOLLOWING A SERIOUS CAR ACCIDENT IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.

Dr Kenely says, how she remembers Christa with fondness; “She was full of energy, cheerful, always with a smile in class and with a kind and loving word for her fellow colleagues.” Dr Kenely says that Christa was thirsty to learn and motivated to grow and develop as a social worker. A particular situation she remembers was when, “She ran into my office telling me how she was enjoying her placement at Agenzia Sappoart and all excited about discovering her love for the area of disability.” The other major achievement for Christa that Dr Kenely recalls was when she saw the relief on Christa’s face when she submitted her dissertation, “and celebrated with her colleagues shouting out ‘I did it, I did it!’” Christa was a bubbly fun-loving person who wanted to live her life to the full. She loved

life and was so happy when she graduated as a social worker. Dr Kenely says how she still, “Thinks of her often and my heart goes out to her parents and brother, her friends and her social work colleagues with whom I lived those few hours of hope on that Saturday, and with whom I shared the pain and disbelief when such a beautiful soul was snatched away.”

Christa is gone but she lives on in the legacy of the friendships she had with her friends, in the lives of the people she touched through her work, in the memories we all have of her. Dr Kenely concludes by saying, “Christa you taught me to be really present in the moment with my loved ones...and to never take life for granted.”

ONE OF OURS

Sarah-Lee Borg graduated as a social worker in November 2016, and passed away just a short year later on Christmas Eve 2017. Sarah-Lee was an exemplary student. She was committed to her learning, always very enthusiastic to grow and develop personally and professionally. She had an infectious smile which would light up the classroom, especially during the early 8am lectures! She went on to become a very kind and hard-working social worker and we have no doubt she touched the people she worked with and left an indelible mark in their lives. She is sorely missed.





Faculty for So

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ta' Malta





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.edu.mt

w: www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

wellbeing



@FacultyforSW

Our Students



YASER TEEBI

Master of Gerontology & Geriatrics

PROFESSORIAL LECTURE SERIES (PLS)

The Faculty as from this academic year will be organising a Professorial Lecture Series. The objective of the PLS is for all the Professors engaged with the Faculty to inform their colleagues, friends and the general public about their current scholarship endeavors. This series will also serve as an Inaugural Lecture for all newly promoted Professors. The PLS will offer a networking opportunity for Faculty staff and with people external to the alma mater thus providing an excellent opportunity to begin or strengthen collaborations.

lara.ellul@um.edu.mt

VLOG

The Faculty has set up a Vlog channel to broadcast brief snippets on current issues from the academics' point of view. It will also serve as alternative method of communicating our research findings and democratizing our knowledge. This tool will be available for all those academics who are interested in informing the students, their colleagues and the general public on new research findings and to give informed opinions on current affairs.

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Our Students



ALEX DIMITRIJEVIC

MPhil/PhD CANDIDATE
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

The world's oldest **PREJUDICE**

MISOGYNY IS ARGUABLY THE WORLD'S OLDEST PREJUDICE, FOUND IN SOME FORM OR OTHER, IN EACH AND EVERY SOCIETY.

My research looks into the origins of misogyny, how it is maintained and perpetuated and if the arguments against gender equality from the past are still being used today. It also tries to analyse and understand the role of men, both as supporters and opponents of emancipation of women. Ultimately, my research is an attempt to answer the question: 'what can men do and how can they participate in the movement for gender equality?'

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WHY NOT JOIN THE EVER GROWING NUMBER OF MPHIL/PHD CANDIDATES IN OUR FACULTY?

The Faculty invites potential MPhil/PhD candidates to submit a proposal in the following areas: Counselling, Disability Studies, Family Studies, Gender Studies, Gerontology, Dementia, and Geriatrics, Migration Studies, Psychology, Queer Studies, Social Policy, Social Work, Social Wellbeing Studies, Youth Studies and Community Studies.

Please contact andrew.azzopardi@um.edu.mt for more information.

Our Academics

DR DEGIOVANNI IS A WARRANTED ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND ALSO AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TEACHER. HER PHD FOCUSES ON FEMALE CAREER TRANSITIONS, AND HER RESEARCH CENTERS ON CAREER TRANSITIONS, FINANCIAL LITERACY AND AVIATION PSYCHOLOGY.



DR KATYA DE GIOVANNI

SENIOR LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

In touch with the **GRASSROOTS**

Dr De Giovanni is currently the Director of the Cottonera resource Center (CRC) and she says that, *“My main role is to keep contact with all the stakeholders in the Cottonera Area. Following the feedback of the citizens, together with my colleagues, I try to create pathways for people residing in that area in order for them to further their studies and to get better life opportunities.”*

Dr Degiovanni says that the Centre benefits from the work of the Faculty by means of the research studies published. The Centre is also available to house any courses which are deemed relevant for the Faculty. In fact, it will be hosting the

Department of Psychology Students' Conference in November 2018.

She continues to say this about the Center; *“In the centre we aim to continue offering mentoring programmes, lifelong learning courses and the Xjenza Manija summer school on a regular basis. We also aim to continue offering our counselling and legal advice clinics under supervision. Moreover, we would like it to be a Centre for both national and international training schools and small scale conferences attracting people to the beautiful three cities and their surroundings.”*

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DR ANNE-MARIE CALLUS

HEAD | ACCESS DISABILITY SUPPORT UNIT

Its main work is providing course and examination access arrangements for students with disability or learning difficulties, as well as ensuring that they are included in other aspects of life on campus. In order to fulfill this function, the ADSC has two Working Groups: the

first focuses on arrangements for students at the University of Malta, including Junior College; the second focuses on MATSEC examination access arrangements. The ADSU is the administrative arm of the Committee. It is the contact point for those who require access arrangements

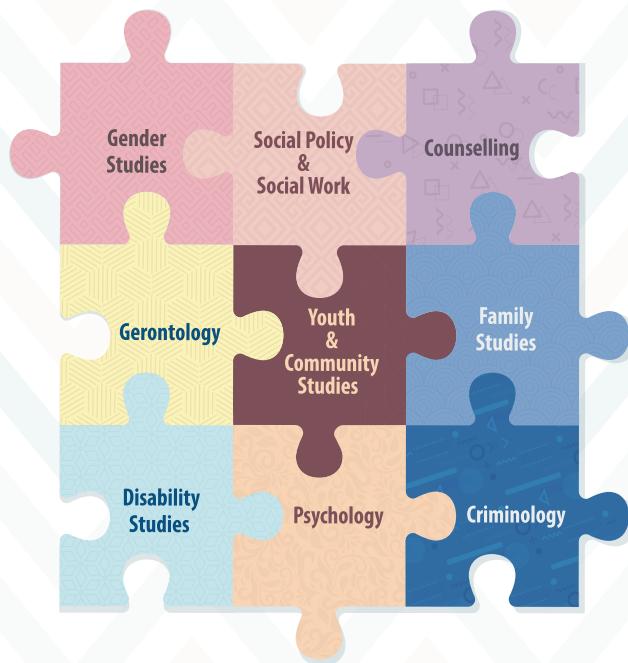
INCLUSION

I AM A MEMBER OF THE ACCESS - DISABILITY SUPPORT COMMITTEE (ADSC) AND HEAD OF THE ACCESS DISABILITY SUPPORT UNIT (ADSU). THE ADSC IS A JOINT COUNCIL AND SENATE APPOINTED COMMITTEE WHOSE ROLE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA IS INCLUSIVE FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS.

on Campus, coordinates and administers the work of the Committee and its working groups, and liaises with other offices within the University to ensure accessibility on Campus.

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Our Faculty



Our Academics



DR SUE VELLA

SENIOR LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL WORK

PROF. ANGELA ABELA

PROFESSOR | DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES

Research on

COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS IN MALTA

**PROFESSOR ANGELA ABELA
AND DR SUE VELLA FROM
OUR FACULTY, TOGETHER
WITH PROFESSOR SUZANNE
PISCOPO FROM THE FACULTY
OF EDUCATION, RECENTLY
COMPLETED A QUALITATIVE
STUDY ON THE EXPECTATIONS
AND LIVED EXPERIENCES OF
COUPLES IN MALTA.**

Participants spoke of the contextual factors that have a bearing on the quality of their relationship, concurring that the pursuit of work-life balance, the influence of mass media and digital technologies, consumerist pressures and a perceived ease in dissolving a marriage today were all significant forces. Participants also spoke of the values they hold in their long-term relationship, again concurring around respect, communication, trust, love, fidelity, reciprocity and companionship. Sharing these relational qualities with one's partner made a crucial difference to the way couples handle differences and manage conflicts, and enables them to withstand a variety of life challenges. The qualitative

study built upon, and corroborated, their previous quantitative work which examined life and relationship satisfaction among a nationally representative, stratified sample of 2,469 respondents.

The three team members make up the National Centre for Family Research (NCFR) which is chaired by Professor Abela. The NCFR is an entity within the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFSW), which funded this research and provided administrative support. The full reports may be found at <http://pfws.org.mt/resource-category/family-reports/>

The team's findings were presented in February 2018 during an international colloquium held in Malta on Couple relationships in the 21st century: Evolving contexts and emergent meanings. The conference was organised by the NCFR and the PFSW, in collaboration with the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations.

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PROF. SUZANNE PISCOPO

PROFESSOR | FACULTY OF EDUCATION



PLAYING LOUD AND PROUD

Our Administrators

ELENA MALLIA IS AN ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY. SHE HAS BEEN WORKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA FOR THIS LAST YEAR.

We caught up with Elena.

Elena told us that, *'The university of Malta is not only a great opportunity for students but also for the employees that work here. I choose to work here because I like the collegiality and the positive feeling of the University.'* When we asked her what she likes and finds most challenging at her place of work she told us; *'What I like best is to interact with others as communication is a key factor at the work place.'* 'She continues to say that, *I also like the fact that I work in such an ambitious and busy department, the largest one in our Faculty. The challenge makes it easier to love 'ones' job.'*

On the other hand, what takes up most of Elena's time, when not at work, is her passion as a Wind Band musician. Elena says that music is an essential part of her life, especially band music. The equality within the band, the uniforms, the sense of the collective are what keeps Elena doing what she loves doing most in her free time.

The society that she is recruited with is the Ghaqda Muzikali Sant' Elena better known by the enthusiasts as Tal-Bagri. Elena told us that she has been playing the clarinet since she was 10 years old and has always been extremely dedicated to her musical studies; *"To be completely honest initially I wanted to play the trumpet but being a very petite girl no one believed that I could be playing an instrument traditionally associated with strong men"* she said with a disappointing look on her face. She continues to say that, *"Then I turned my gaze towards the clarinet, an instrument I fell in love with immediately. Apart from that it has a special significance for me since my grandpa used to play this same instrument."*

Naturally, like all people who are committed, time management is something that needs to be juggled with especially now that she is working full-time. It has been claimed that Joseph P. Kennedy (1888-1969), father of U.S. President John F. Kennedy or possibly Norwegian-born American football player and coach Knute Rockne (1888-1931) coined the saying, *"When the going gets tough, the tough gets going."* Well, whoever it was that came up with this saying doesn't trouble me - what matters is that this phrase fits to perfection for Elena.





WWW.TDM2000MALTA.ORG

TDM 2000 is a local voluntary N.G.O which main aim is to increase youth participation & wellbeing on a local & international level. This is done through the organisation of a number of activities such as:

- Erasmus + Exchanges, courses & seminars**
- Social Policy & Social wellbeing**
- Career Based Opportunities**
- Culture & Entertainment events**



AN ERASMUS EXPERIENCE CAN BE A GAME CHANGER

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN EUROPEAN FUNDED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES SINCE 2004.

Through the organisation I run, TDM 2000 Malta, I have written and managed programmes for non-formal exchanges, volunteering, networking and training courses for youth workers and career-based opportunities such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Erasmus People in the Labour Market, Erasmus Plus Sport, Youth Guarantee work placements and Grundtvig Adult Learning. From the experience I have acquired over the past 15 years I feel that the opportunities being offered by the Key Action 1 of the Erasmus Plus programme, (2014 – 2020), are amongst the most appetising for Maltese youths who are involved in areas related to social wellbeing. Projects funded under this action are targeted at educators, volunteers, students, trainees and youth in general and can prove to be very significant in their aid to develop youth.

Although the planned benefits of such projects include the sharing of knowledge, developing of new methodologies and learning of the realities that exist far away from our Maltese shores, the benefits reaped by Maltese

CARLY ZARB

BA SOCIAL WORK (Hons)

SOCIAL WORK FOR WELLBEING

FOR THESE PAST FOUR YEARS, I WAS READING FOR A DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK WITHIN THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING.

My experience within the Faculty was very fruitful and enriching as I had the opportunity to study not only theory but also experience hands-on practice. I was also given the opportunity to explore two areas close to my heart during my dissertation study. My thesis focused on exploring the experiences of people with disability whilst they are engaged in performing arts media. The study concluded that there is an evident link between disability, performing arts and social work. This is because the study suggests that the performing arts methods have a positive impact on the holistic development of people with disability through the various skills one is able to gain whilst engaged within these arts forms.

Moreover, the data I gathered also highlighted a link between disability, performing arts and integration which enhances engagement and empowerment.

As a matter of fact, I also had the opportunity to observe similar outcomes, yet, from a different sphere during my experience as a social policy officer within the University organisation Terra di Mezzo (TDM) 2000 Malta. TDM2000 is a member of an international voluntary organisation with the main aim of increasing active youth wellbeing in society on a local and an international level. Through the diverse activities offered by the organisation I was able to understand the importance of social work in integrating lesser opportunity background youths. Through cultural events, performances and sports activities we, as an organisation, were able to create many enriching opportunities during my experience as a university student which in turn helped me in the research I carried out in my dissertation.



Our Students

DUNCAN MUSCAT

MA YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

youths who undergo an Erasmus experience is not always so evident in the initial setting out of an Erasmus project. Through my experience in non-formal learning I can relate to an uncountable number of times where even a simple one-week experience in an international environment can act as a game changer where personal development is concerned.

I believe my experiences in European funded educational programmes have given me a great deal in my personal development and social wellbeing.

For more information visit: www.eupa.org.mt

www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en

KIMBERLEY RIOL

B.Psy (Hons)

SPORTS FOR WELLBEING

THE PAST TWO YEARS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY IN THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING HAVE BEEN BOTH BENEFICIAL AND ENLIGHTENING.

I believe that I am now learning how to understand and support individuals who are in need whilst sharing ways to help them to cope with the hardships of life. This solid foundation has sustained me in my journey towards selecting a dissertation topic, titled: 'Table for one: An interpretative study about isolation and loneliness in elderly females.' where, next year, I will be reading and researching on the coping mechanisms the elderly turn to when trying to cope with these hardships.



Although my topic tackles the wellbeing of elderly persons I am also very interested in youth empowerment and integration of persons coming from diverse backgrounds for a more sustainable and healthy society. Being a national Rugby player and having experience in the field of sport

I have found many opportunities to use sports as a medium towards integration and wellbeing of both youth and elderly alike. Recently I have also joined the Senate recognised organization of TDM 2000 Malta where an Erasmus Plus funded sports project, namely #Getval, is giving me the opportunity to put my passions into practice. The organisation is currently working tirelessly to promote social wellbeing through sports for differently-abled people in cooperation with the athletes and volunteers at Special Olympics Malta with the aim of sharing the right values in sports being provided by TDM 2000 Malta and the Erasmus Plus Programme and the support of the professionals working for these two organisations I have the opportunity to apply what I am learning in the degree I am reading for.

For more information visit: www.sportvalues.eu/getval www.tdm2000malta.org

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES



- At FSWS we care about people
- We care about the children and families, we are here to serve
- We care about our employees
- We want our professionals to be the best because the children and families we are here to serve deserve only the best
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Foundation for Social Welfare Services
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Santa Venera SVR9034
Tel: +356 2258 8900

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- **Youth Workers**

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- Graduate in the pertinent fields of the profession listed here
- Fluent in English and Maltese
- Work/internship experience is preferred, but not required
- Capable of working as a team
- Good interpersonal skills

Interested individuals are to express their interest by sending their applications together with relevant documentation via email to recruitment.fsfs-headoffice@gov.mt or via registered mail

Applications are to be addressed to:

Director Human Resources

Foundation for Social Welfare Services
212, Cannon Road
Santa Venera SVR9034
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Foundation for Social Welfare Services
www.fsfs.gov.mt

Our Stakeholders



ALFRED GRIXTI
CEO - FSWS

FSWS IS THE PLACE TO BE

2018 HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR THE FOUNDATION. OVER THESE LAST MONTHS WE HAD TWO MAJOR EVENTS WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 25TH WE LAUNCHED OUR ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017. THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS LONG BUT IT IS TOTALLY FREE FROM UNNECESSARY PADDING AND REFLECTS THE INTENSE WORK THAT THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN AS THE LEADER IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE SECTOR.

The report is a just and factual reflection of the commitment all the employees have shown to the social welfare cause. It is not just about having a very professional layout but this report manages to embody the right balance between the narrative, the statistical reporting and the images that are a reflection of the hard work all the team at the Foundation put in.

As I said in my message for this report; *“2017 was a watershed year for the FSWS. Indeed, while we continued giving our core business services to our roughly 12,000 service users we also did a great deal of extra-curricular work.”*

This is why the FSWS is indeed the most exciting, the most enjoyable and, professionally, the most rewarding place to work at if you want to truly make a career out of any of the social care professions. We simply get it done. Indeed, last year we supported 13,800 clients through our professional interventions. We have the broadest spectrum of services, all under one organisation from child-protection to domestic violence, from youth services to hospital services, from community

development work to working with migrants and victims of human trafficking and this to mention but a few. We are also very active on the international scene where our very good international contacts create opportunities for our front-line managers and workers to travel, meet fellow professionals and learn from best practices abroad and in return we share our expertise.

Over and above, we now have in place a very good collective agreement which we signed on Friday, July the 27th. Our salaries and working conditions are the best in the social care sector which reflect the high level of professionalism of our staff. Moreover, the salaries and conditions of work are designed and intended to compliment a unique mix of recruitment and retention incentives which are specific to the FSWS only.

Thus, if you want to make a career out of your profession and if you want this career to pay you well, why not consider joining the FSWS – you are all welcome because the FSWS is the place to be!

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Our Academics

BEHIND THE SCENES



DR GOTTFRIED CATANIA

LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

An eye **FOR DETAIL**

**DR GOTTFRIED CATANIA
SPECIALISES IN
ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY,
WHICH IS THE STUDY OF HUMAN
BEHAVIOUR IN THE WORKPLACE.
GOTTFRIED HAS BEEN INVOLVED
IN TEACHING AND LATER IN
LECTURING AT UNIVERSITY FOR
QUITE SOME TIME NOW.**

He says, "After my Bachelor's graduation in 1993, I spent a few years teaching Personal and Social Education in a state secondary school. I became disillusioned with this over time, mostly because I felt that many students did not appreciate learning and moved on to other jobs." Over the years he was also involved in the delivery of training to various state and private organizations. After completing his Master's degree he started reading his PhD at Loughborough University. Gottfried's PhD thesis examined the financial advisors' perceptions of ethical and effective behaviour in their profession, using a mixed methods approach. This is when he realized that sharing the knowledge he is accumulating is something he is keen on doing and applied for a full-time post at University.

When we asked him what are the principles that guide him he said, "*I believe that respect for oneself and others*". He continues to explain that for him his family and his faith take him forward. Gottfried also values relationships and adds, "*I believe, in striving for the truth at all costs*".

We asked him about photography and how it began to feature in his life. "*It started*

off with my interest in nature. I have always been fascinated by the intricate beauty of wild flowers, insects, and small animals which I used to encounter during my outings in the countryside. In my late teens, I bought a camera in order to document this beauty, and started learning the technical details related to how to take a good picture. This led to me widening my interests to shooting other subjects such as landscapes, portraits, and still lifes, and eventually entering competitions and exhibitions locally and abroad, which I did for quite a few years.

Three personalities he would like to have photographed would be; Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking and Ludwig van Beethoven and iconic structures he would choose to capture with his lens would be buildings and bridges designed by Santiago Calatrava and Antonio Gaudi.

He says that a good photographer needs to have an eye for composition and is ready to seek out original angles blended with an understanding of the qualities of light.

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Our Academics

BEHIND THE SCENES



DR CLAIRE AZZOPARDI LANE

HEAD | DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES

FAIR PLAY

DR CLAIRE AZZOPARDI LANE IS THE NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES. APART FROM LEADING, LECTURING AND SUPERVISING STUDENTS SHE ALSO CONTRIBUTES HER SCHOLARSHIP TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND FACULTIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. SHE FOCUSED HER PHD STUDIES ON THE 'SEXUALITY OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY' IN A 'MALTESE CONTEXT' AT THE RENOWNED TIZARD CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT IN THE U.K..

knowledge to current students, knowing that they will be the future professionals working in the field."

Dr Azzopardi Lane states that the "Most important principles and values for me are certainly commitment, determination, discipline, loyalty and integrity".

When you speak with Dr Azzopardi Lane you cannot ignore the passion she has for sports; "Sport is the balancing medium in my life. I came across sport late in life, but when I found this medium it became such an integral part of my life that I can't imagine it not being part of my daily routine. I am also a culture vulture and enjoy going to such events in my free time". One particular experience she recalls was

when, "I lost count of the laps on the bike during a race and ended up doing one less - just to be disqualified after the race! Didn't feel funny at that time!" She considers the Gozo-Malta swim crossing in jellyfish infested seas back in 2009 as one of the toughest challenges she had to endure! She recounts this about the event; "I got stung 9 times and my right arm had got paralysed in the last kilometer - I was determined to finish the race and that is what I did using a single arm stroke".

Like everything else in her life, Dr Azzopardi Lane is guided by the motto in life, that fair play is what makes a person a good athlete and a good person.

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Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Scholarship

The Faculty in collaboration with the Research Innovation & Development Trust (RIDT) will be offering an MPhil/PhD scholarship in the area of Criminology Studies during this academic year. The Scholarship is dedicated to former Head, Department of Criminology and Deputy Dean of the Faculty who passed away two years ago.

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Our Academics

BEHIND THE SCENES



An Academic WITH A PASSION FOR THEATRE

I WASN'T EVEN TEN WHEN I FIRST TASTED THEATRE. DRESSED UP AS A BUTTERFLY SPREADING MY WINGS IN THAT CAVERNOUS SPACE THAT DOES NOT FORGIVE. NOT THAT I HAD ANY SPEAKING PART AT THE TIME BUT IT LOOKED SO IMPORTANT TO ME. LOOKING BACK, I FIND THAT MY LOVE FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS STARTED EVEN BEFORE THAT.

As a young man I used to conceive characters in my mind, giving them name and purpose. That probably explains why I moved beyond the acting and concentrated more on the writing bit as I grew older. I find solace in writing and the Maltese language, with all its richness it is the perfect medium to express my inner thoughts. Because that is what it's all about for me. Some scripts are written not to be performed...some words uttered not to be listened. Whether others find pleasure in my writing is not important. My narrative is life's fatigues, the stories of those left by the wayside, those marginalised, those whose mental health problems destroyed their inner self. Maybe my training as a neuroscientist gives me a clearer understanding of how the brain may err and the fallout that it brings. Maybe it's all about my upbringing. Whatever the reason, writing is my escape from all the nonsense that life brings.

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Our Students



“In the walkabout we had in Haz-Zebbug I met this lovely old woman. Her energy, her deep gaze and her joy for life teach me a lesson every time I think of her.”

CHARITY KAMAU
Masters in Gender studies



Perspective on Wellbeing: A reader

DR SUE VELLA, DR RUTH FALZON AND PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI HAVE EDITED THE FIRST FACULTY BOOK, *PERSPECTIVE ON WELLBEING: A READER* (BRILL PUBLICATIONS) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SERIES EDITOR, PROF. ROGER SLEE.

This text deals with an increasing interest in wellbeing, in both academic and policy circles in Malta. The book makes it clear that any endeavor to contribute to the enduring, complex and burgeoning literature on wellbeing must be undertaken with a serious dose of humility. The objective at hand is to entice undergraduates to embrace and appreciate the many dimensions of wellbeing, some of which feature in this collection of essays which we offer as an undergraduate reader. Through this collaborative venture, we hope that expertise from across the Faculty's departments may serve to help students discern those dimensions of wellbeing that interest them the most.

19 authors contribute 12 chapters that deal with an array of social wellbeing matters. This initiative has been supported by the Research, Publications & Scholarship Committee led by Dr Anne-Marie Callus. It is due to be published during academic year 2018/19.
socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt





Disability Equality Training



- The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) provides Disability Equality Training to various public and private organisations.
- The training mainly covers disability etiquette and the dos and don'ts when interacting with persons with disability.

For further information,
kindly contact us on



2226 7600



crpd@crpd.org.mt



www.crpd.org.mt



STOP VIOLENCE

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CARMEN MANGION MPhil/PhD CANDIDATE
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

There needs to be **TIME FOR EVERYTHING**

WE CAUGHT UP WITH CARMEN MANGION WHO IS READING AN MPHIL/PHD WITH THE FACULTY. CARMEN IS A SENIOR EXECUTIVE AT THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA.

She deals mainly with student affairs. Recently she was appointed by the Rector to help facilitate the educational journey of refugees within the University. She is also the liaison officer of KSU, the main student union on campus.

This is what Carmen said about her work, *"I am very lucky because through my work I meet with a lot of students with various problems. I try, to the best of my ability, help*

students holistically, both in their academic and life journey." In 1998 she resigned from University and for 10 years worked with the Tabgha Foundation and Youth Fellowship coordinating various activities both in Malta and abroad for young people. She was also involved in a project called ACTS, a project which was held in most of the secondary schools in Malta and in countries like France, Israel, Sicily and the UK.

Carmen read a BA (Hons) in Theology and a Masters' course in Theology. This eventually led her to consider pursuing her studies at MPhil/PhD level. Her research is a qualitative longitudinal study which mainly focuses on the processes young people in tertiary education have to go through as they navigate their transitions during their journey from adolescence to adulthood. Her research will be constructed on the various stories narrated by the participants focusing on the areas of

education, employment, family and relationships, leisure, social media and spirituality. Her work is being supervised by Professor Marilyn Clark and Professor Howard Williamson.

We were curious to understand how Carmen manages to find time for everything, *"One thing in my favour is the fact that I don't sleep a lot. I start the day quite early and when I don't I split the night – I wake up at about 2 am, work for a good 2 solid hours and then go back to sleep! Planning is crucial, but I am very careful not to be so overburdened that I miss on the joy of life! I try my best to find balance and live life to the full."* Carmen ends by giving us a life tip *"I try to do as many different things as possible. I try to juggle my commitments and my hobbies. However, I am currently very aware that I need to live unhurriedly so as to be able to savour the true meaning of life. Benigni was truly wise...life is beautiful!"*

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Konnekt THE DOCUMENTARY

The Faculty through its Community Engagement Sub-Committee led by Dr Andrea Dibben will be launching the first ever documentary with Caritas Malta, Konnekt. This video documentary will deal with one of the main issues that the Faculty and Caritas Malta are particularly concerned about; namely, 'loneliness'. The aim of this documentary is to help foster understanding about this complex phenomenon.

*This high level production will be launched via a national conference.
This initiative is being supported by Corporate ID Group*

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COMING SOON



Star Kids - Reaching Out: **IMPROVING THE LIFE CHANCES OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

DR MARIA BROWN

VISITING LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES

EARLIER DURING THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, THE MALTA COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (MCA) FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEAN, PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI, ENTRUSTED THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING WITH THE EXECUTION OF SELECT PHASES OF THE PROJECT; STAR KIDS - REACHING OUT: IMPROVING THE LIFE CHANCES OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN.

Star Kids is a project funded by European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020. Its design entails an action research project aimed at enhanced inclusion and employability prospects of children aged 5-17 years, who are in care and/or benefitting from LEAP Centres in Malta and Gozo.

The project comprises two phases. Phase 1 targets community profiling and a needs analysis using a mixed-methods design. Research instruments include focus groups with children, parents/guardians and professionals, as well as a children's questionnaire. The findings obtained from Phase 1 inform Phase 2, which comprises the development of targeted training programmes in Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Overarching learning objectives include

improved educational experience and achievement, as well as enhanced career opportunities and general life trajectories.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dr Maria Brown and Ms Ann Marie Cutajar comprise the Star Kids research team. An interdisciplinary team of academic experts is supporting the execution of deliverables. Project partners include The Church in Malta, the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, the Ministry for Education and Employment and the Commissioner for Children.

The expected completion will entail that delivery in various Community contexts is expected to start in 2019.

maria.brown@um.edu.mt



WHY NOT STUDY WITH US? **#SOCIALWELLBEING**

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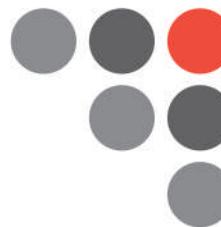
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SOCIAL WELLBEING





Malta Council for the **VOLUNTARY SECTOR**



Tenth Anniversary (2008 - 2018) of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) is this year celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its foundation. As any other organisation MCVS is not simply celebrating the time passed but the goals achieved, goals which are not simply targets of a group of individuals but needs arising from the sector and for the sector.

Services provided by Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

- Gives consultation to Voluntary Organisations on the setting up and management of the organisation and its volunteers
- Supports Voluntary Organisation in capacity building through training and volunteer support
 - Training Initiatives Support Scheme (TIS)
[www.http://maltacvs.org/training-initiatives-scheme/](http://maltacvs.org/training-initiatives-scheme/)
 - Youth Voluntary Work Scheme (YVWS)
[www.http://maltacvs.org/youth-voluntary-work-scheme/](http://maltacvs.org/youth-voluntary-work-scheme/)
- Provides funding support for projects
 - Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS)
[www.http://maltacvs.org/small-initiatives-support-scheme/](http://maltacvs.org/small-initiatives-support-scheme/)
 - Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme (VOPS)
[www.http://maltacvs.org/voluntary-organisations-project-scheme-vops/](http://maltacvs.org/voluntary-organisations-project-scheme-vops/)
- Facilitates funding for VOs by public entities and other fund operators through the one-stop-shop portal www.vofunding.org.mt
- Also promotes funding for VOs through the Mobile App VO Funding Malta.
- Provides the possibility of matching Voluntary Organisations to volunteers and to the corporate sector through the matching portal
[www.volontarjat.org](http://volontarjat.org)

Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

Volunteer Centre, 181, Melita Street, Valletta VLT 1129.

Tel: 22481110 • Email: mcvs.msdc@gov.mt

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MaltaCouncilVoluntarySector/>

Web: <http://maltacvs.org>



Aġenzija Żgħażagh strongly focuses on engaging with and consulting young people on their views, concerns and aspirations and in promoting their democratic participation and intercultural and social awareness. It mainstreams youth related issues and further develops youth services, programmes and initiatives that enable young people achieve their potential. The agency promotes and safeguards the interests of young people and manages and implements national youth policy.

For more information please contact

Aġenzija Żgħażagh

St Joseph High Road, Santa Venera SVR1013, Malta

Tel: 00356 2258 6700

Email: agenzija.zghazagh@gov.mt

Facebook: Aġenzija Żgħażagh



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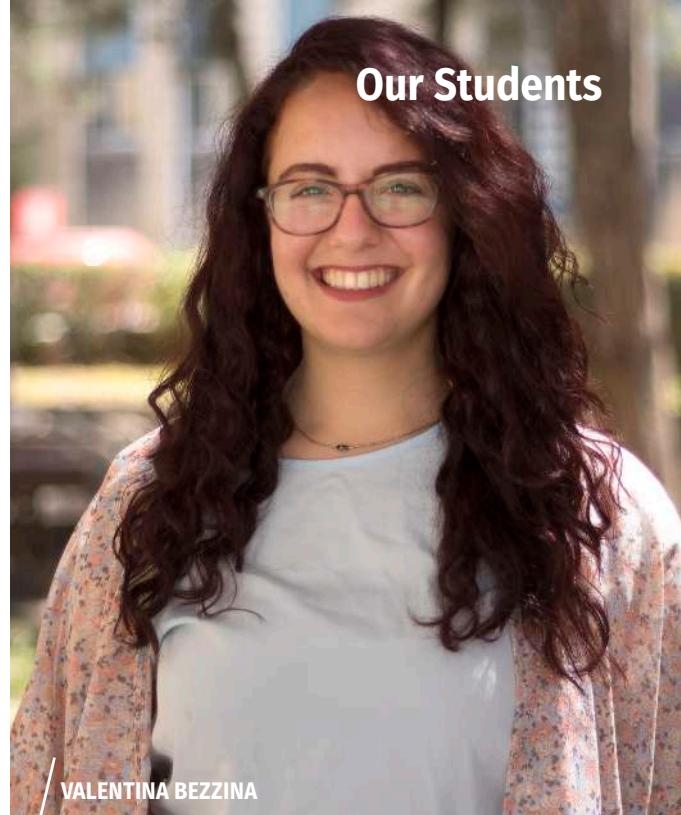
www.agenzijazghazagh.gov.mt



Our Students



/ YASER TEEBI



/ VALENTINA BEZZINA



/ KATIA MIFSUD



/ CLAIRE ATTARD



/ FLORENCE ELIZABETH APAP



/ KAREN DECELIS



/ ETIENNE GATT

STUDY, OBSERVE & VOLUNTEER

Our Students

ORIGINALLY, I STARTED THE COURSE WITH THE THINKING THAT I WANTED TO DELVE DEEPER INTO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN BRAIN. I BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE ME TO SPECIALISE IN WORKING WITH YOUNG ADULTS. I SAY ORIGINALLY BECAUSE I EVENTUALLY ENDED UP WORKING IN RESEARCH RATHER THAN PRACTICING AS A PSYCHOLOGIST.

In fact, I am currently employed with a Biopharmaceutical Industry as a Clinical Research Assistant. The UM helped lay out the basics needed to understand the elements that contribute to psychology and which area I would want to specialise in. The degree was a stepping stone to be able to apply for a Masters programme and focus on my career path.

For me the course acted not only as a learning curve for my education but also as a tool for discovering the world we live in and the plethora of emotions that make up human behaviour.

I highly recommend taking this degree if one wants to pursue a career working directly with people in a clinical setting

or in research. Each year lays out the foundations of all the different psychology areas, allowing 'you' time to gain an understanding of which field of psychology interests you most. There is a lot of studying you need to do and taking time to absorb the information helps with your own progression throughout the course.

Volunteering also complimented well with my studies. It helps to start gaining an understanding of the workplace environment. This also allows you to be able to network. It is also good to appreciate all the mentoring you can get. Lastly, it teaches you the confidence required to be able to speak up which is an important skill in this career path.



KAY CASSAR
BPSY GRADUATE



SAMANTHA PACE GASAN
SOCIAL POLICY GRADUATE

A lesson **FOR LIFE**

WE ALL HEARD THE PHRASE “LIFE IS TOO SHORT”. WE THINK WE BELIEVE IT, BUT SOMETIMES LIFE HITS YOU HARDER THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT IT COULD.

The 21st of March of this year, started off on a better note than most other days. I was excited that for the first time, my colleagues were wearing odd socks as a representation of diversity to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.

Little did I know that on that same morning I was going to be rushed to the ER, where I later learned that I had to make what probably is one of the biggest decisions in my life, that of deciding between having just a few hours to live or undergo a high risk open heart surgery. I had to face it and I did not shy away from the operation. I wanted to live because I knew I still had so much to contribute to our society.

Regardless of my optimism, the first few days after the surgery, were devastating. I could not remember even minor things, let alone content

learnt in lecture rooms. All types of negative thoughts started rushing through my head. I thought I would never be capable of performing as well as I did before, both academically and professionally. I started losing confidence in myself. I would struggle with being positive, and I would not believe the reassuring statements from others.

I was scared stiff and I admit, I still am at times. As the weeks rolled by, I considered dropping out of the Masters Degree in Creativity and Innovation course. Somehow my gut feeling would not settle to quitting because as the saying goes, 'what goes around, really does come around'. I was surrounded by people who loved me, and were willing to help me through this ordeal. It was not a matter of quitting, but rather for me to let go and realise that this time round I was the one who required support.

“Music is a language for me. When I produce or play music the feeling is that I am giving birth to an idea, to a feeling I would like to share with others.”

CLAUDE SPITERI BELCHER

B.Psy (Hons)

Known in the scene as Noyark

Artist/Producer/Remixer



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Young children's EXPERIENCE OF THE DEATH

My doctoral thesis inquiry starts out as a sensory ethnographic study of young children's experience of the death of their parent, challenging a widely held assumption that "childhood is the kingdom where nobody that matters dies" (St. Vincent Millay, 1969, p.203). As the writing unfolds however, it becomes an example of the deconstitutive transformation the serendipity of emotive research affords, on methodology, method and the 'in-between' researcher.

This research follows five children's experience of their grief by combining ethnography and autoethnography in an effort to respectfully inquire into the problematic nature of the 'unmediated world' (Tedlock, 1983, p. 323). In all its phases, from being with children experiencing such loss to being with myself while writing, I seek to apply 'Deep Listening', which skill I use therapeutically on a daily basis in my profession as psychologist. From a research perspective this involves listening with all the senses in an effort at 'reframing how we learn, how we come to know and what we value as knowledge' (Brearley & Hamm, 2013, p.259).

Body mapping is used in an innovative combination with word clouds and poetic practices resulting in a new method which serves as a bridge between embodied experience and externalised communication. This equips children with resources with which to voice their experience, communicating their understanding of grief.

What results is a troubling and problematizing of methodology in emotive research that attempts seeing 'the nakedness of the now' presented 'in the twilight between the Underworld and the world of daylight' where 'absence is a sign of presence' (van Manen, 2006, p.718) and '[d]arkness is the method' (van Manen, 2006, p. 719).

roberta.attard@um.edu.mt

DR ROBERTA ATTARD

LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING



DR SANDRA SCICLUNA

SENIOR LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

Grounded RESEARCH

I HAVE TWO ON-GOING, BUT VERY DIFFERENT RESEARCH PROJECTS, AT PRESENT. THE FIRST ONE IS ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND MIGRANT WOMEN. THIS IS AN EU DAPHNE – JUSTICE FINANCED PROJECT.

The research consists of looking at migrant women's experience of GBV. We have collected the voices of migrant women's experience of the journey, the destination and the type of help received with regards to violence. We have also looked at the help available in Malta for these women. There are a variety of migrant victims: those who come to Malta with a promise of legitimate work; those who come to Malta to escape war, those who come to Malta for a better life and so on. This research has led to the creation of two short courses: one to train migrant women to help others in danger of abuse and an on-line course for professionals to raise their awareness on migrant specific issues.

The second research is on radicalisation of prisoners. This is an Erasmus+ funded project. In this project we look at the variables that can lead to radicalisation of the so called 'normal' individuals once they enter prison. The factors that make prisoners vulnerable to indoctrination, that result in massacres once they are released from prison. Both projects are being done with the assistance of colleagues within the Department of Criminology.

sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt

The GBV research is in collaboration with Dr Trevor Calafato, Prof. Saviour Formosa, Dr Janice Formosa Pace and Ms Isotta Rossoni. The radicalization research is being carried out in collaboration with Dr Trevor Calafato.



“Even though I might not be the regular student in terms of age, I believe that starting my studies at a later stage in life gives me an edge in terms of maturity. Nonetheless I have integrated well with my colleagues and I enjoy my studies immensely.”

DENISE REFALO CUTAJAR
BA (Hons) Social Work



**“Coaching for me is not just about self-
fulfillment but a chance to show children
that sports puts you on the same level
playing field. Football for me is the
language of inclusion.”**

MALCOLM LEE ATTARD
BA (Hons) Youth & Community Studies

Don't be afraid



TO SEEK HELP

JAMIE IS AN ALUMNI OF THIS FACULTY. SHE READ A B.PSY (HONS). SHE SAYS THAT, "I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE, SO STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY SEEMED TO BE THE MOST NATURAL COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE".

Jamie is currently working as a Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. She is involved in a number of projects ranging from gender related research to coordinating the Cluster for Migration, to working on a project that the Faculty is developing with a school for students with challenging behaviour. She considers psychology as an extremely interesting subject and feels that pursuing the Bachelor of Psychology course can open the door to a variety of different career opportunities. Jamie gives this advice to prospective students; *"Don't be afraid to ask for help. Prior to applying to study at the UM, I made an appointment with the Student Advisor and he was very helpful in guiding me through the application process."* She also appeals to current students saying that, *"Remember that self-care is just as important as getting good grades. If the stress of exams and assignments (or anything else) is getting to you, then you might consider making use of the University's excellent counselling services."*

jamie.bonnici@um.edu.mt

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Faculty has developed a number of ways how to keep in touch with students, academic staff, administrative staff and stakeholders. Apart from the SMS Alert and email data base, the Faculty also publishes the **Digest** every week (on a Wednesday) to provide information on forthcoming events and the **Connect Newsletter** at least four times a year to give information on the initiatives that the Faculty is involved in.

socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

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As a visually impaired woman I have always taken a great interest in human rights, particularly disability and education. After starting my activism with NGOs, the Degree in Youth & Community studies gave me a wider and more professional understanding of various aspects within our community. My role within the Equal Opportunities Compliance Unit at CRPD has combined my passion for disability rights together with my professional growth.



Solange Bonello

BA (Hons.) Youth & Community Studies (Melit.)
Assistant Manager, Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability



Massimo Borg

B. A. (Hons.) Social Work (Melit.)
Social Worker, Aġenzija Sappor

"A positive and enriching experience!"

Through various roles at Aġenzija Sappor, such as community services, day services and working in the Children and Young Adults section, and participation in training both locally and abroad; I had the opportunity to further develop the knowledge gained from my Social Work degree.

This profession, as well as lecturing social work and medical students have given me various opportunities for further self-development, a rewarding career in the social welfare sector and advocate for inclusion and empowerment of persons with disability.

the disability and elderly sectors



Marthese Muscat

M.A. in Gerontology and Geriatrics (Melit.)
Practice Nurse, Dementia Care, St. Vincent De Paul

“Elderly have a wealth of knowledge and life experiences”

As a visually impaired woman I have always taken a great interest in human rights, particularly disability and education. After starting my activism with NGOs, the Degree in Youth & Community studies gave me a wider and more professional understanding of various aspects within our community. My role within the Equal Opportunities Compliance Unit at CRPD has combined my passion for disability rights together with my professional growth.



Alicianne Fenech

M.A. in Gerontology and Geriatrics (Melit.)
Allied Health Practitioner – Occupational Therapist,
Department of Active Ageing and Community Care

“Enabling me to work within a team of professionals”

My initial contact with older persons is in their own homes. My role is to intervene when the ability of the older person to manage their daily activities is disrupted by health-related challenges and/or environmental barriers. My intervention, aims to assist the person regain the necessary skills and compensate for these challenges, to regain their full potential. DAACC is committed towards enabling me to work within a team of professionals. Results are only possible through the hard work, dedication and efforts of interdisciplinary team members.



Memoranda OF UNDERSTANDING

THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING SIGNED A NUMBER OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AN ARRAY OF SOCIAL PARTNERS.

The MoUs have the purpose of formalising an already strong relationship with respective stakeholders and also reciprocally committing to a number of tasks that will bring the entities closer together and at the same time induce the required changes needed in the community.

Every MoU was signed for a period of 3 years and includes collaborations ranging from research to training, from seminar participation to conference organisation, amongst other.

The Faculty signed MoUs with; the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) through San Gorg Preca College, Msida Educational Hub (MEH); Agenzia SUPPORT; the Commission for

the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD); Agenzia Zghazagh; the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, Malta Communication Authority and Responsible Gaming Foundation.

A number of other MoUs are being negotiated with private and state entities.

In the meantime, various Departments, namely, the Department of Youth and Community Studies and the Department of Family Studies, have also negotiated MoUs that are specifically tailor-made for their respective disciplines.

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Community Engagement **PAR EXCELLENCE**

ANALISE GRECH MUSCAT, MARIELLA SPAGNOL, MICHAELA SCERRI, MICHELA VASSALLO GATT AND VALERIYA BONKOVA ALL CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY, ARE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ASSISTANTS GIVING A SERVICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF DR KRISTINA BETTENZANA AND DR GRETA DARMANIN KISSAUN.

They have created a group that was specifically recruited to pilot a programme at Mater Dei Hospital, the MHPT (Mental Health Psychoeducation Team).

The programme involves providing low intensity training and psychoeducational sessions twice a week at the psychiatric unit.

The five assistants are in charge of the planning, coordination, organization, collecting and analysing data, launching and running of the programme. As part of the programme, assessments such as neuropsychological tests, self-report measures and admission questionnaires are carried out and followed by written psychological reports that are formulated and based on these assessments. Assessments are carried out upon admission to the Unit as well as 6 weeks after discharge as part of the follow up process.

The team have started this venture on a voluntary basis since January 2018 in collaboration with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and supported by the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi. This project is exemplary in converging the expertise of academics, the willingness to learn of former and current students and the link of academia with the community.

kristina.bettenzana@um.edu.mt



“Being a national team goalkeeper and playing with one of the most prestigious football clubs in Malta takes hours of physical and mental preparation. If we put our mind to an objective, we can achieve it as long as we are ready to listen to those around us .”

ANDREW HOGG

B.Psy (Hons)

NATIONAL TEAM GOALKEEPER





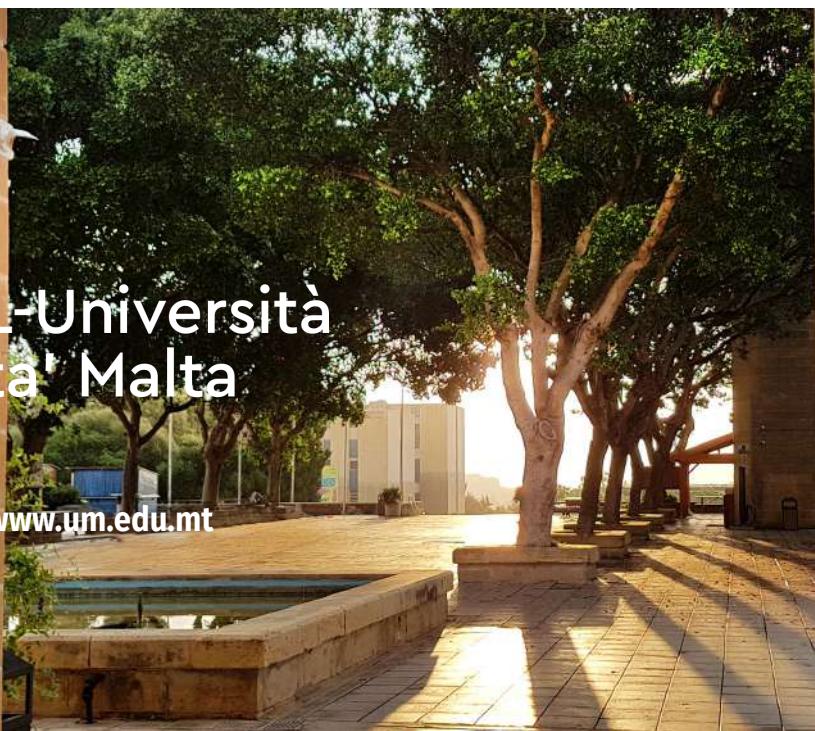
**“It is in the conversation that we have with our elders
that we can plan a better future for us and our Community”**

LUANNE GRIMA



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Our Academics

RELIGION IN THE CONSULTING ROOM:

HOW EASY IS IT FOR SECULAR THERAPISTS TO BE WITH RELIGIOUS CLIENTS?

IN A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS THE RELIGIOSITY GAP, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ARE FAR LESS LIKELY TO BE RELIGIOUS THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

Given that religious and spiritual beliefs often offer an important meaning structure, it has been recommended that therapists explore their clients' religious worldviews thoroughly to gain an empathic understanding and avoid bias.

However, research suggests that the extent to which psychologists perceive the relevance of such an exploration in therapy is linked to the degree to which spirituality

is personally relevant. This qualitative study sought to understand therapists' feelings and experiences around working with religious clients, with the intention of facilitating reflexivity around potential challenges. Open-ended interviews were carried out in the UK with seven therapists who do not subscribe to an organised religion. Each interview was analysed in depth, and general themes were identified.

All participants viewed religion as an institutionalised system of meanings that dictated people's worldview rather than facilitated personal responsibility. Despite providing a community element, participants felt strongly that religion was imbued with hypocrisy: it presented a facade of goodness but was very often

controlling and oppressive, particularly of women. When religion was positive, this was an exception rather than the rule. Participants expressed difficulty around the perceived differences between the goals of therapy and those of religion when working with religious clients. Indeed, they mirrored findings from another study, whereby they attempted to change what they perceived as unhelpful religious beliefs in their clients.

Data suggests that these meanings might be pre-reflective and not within therapists' immediate awareness, indicating that training needs to help enhance awareness and address potential implications of such beliefs.

marlene.cauchi@um.edu.mt



DR MARLENE CAUCHI
LECTURER | DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING



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'CONNECT' IS THE RADIO SHOW ANCHORED BY DR ALBERT BELL FOCUSING ON THE SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE FACULTY.

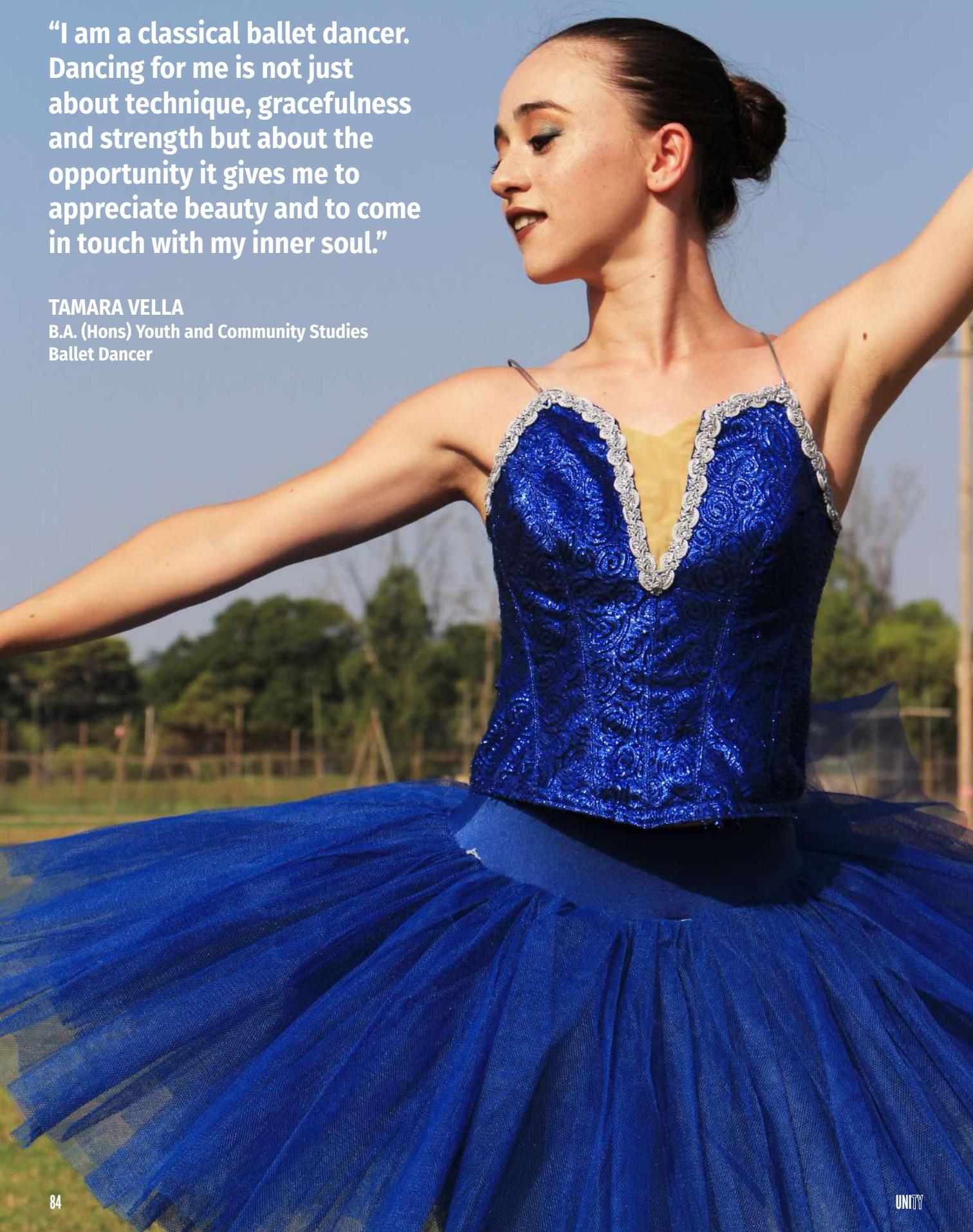
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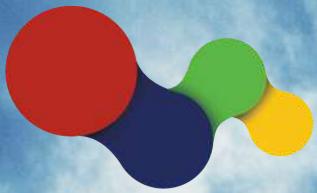
albert.bell@um.edu.mt



“I am a classical ballet dancer. Dancing for me is not just about technique, gracefulness and strength but about the opportunity it gives me to appreciate beauty and to come in touch with my inner soul.”

TAMARA VELLA
B.A. (Hons) Youth and Community Studies
Ballet Dancer





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Whoever met him, left with a very positive outlook on life itself as Jerome transmitted hope and courage to everyone especially to those who were at their most vulnerable and weakest point in their life. His signature smile says it all! The "Smiling with Jerome" initiative was founded on the 6th of October 2017, the day that Jerome died and it was taken so that help, in any possible form, could be transmitted to everyone in need. It was transformed into a proper "Foundation" in early 2018.

Smiling with Jerome also has a group named TRUE HEROES whom the majority are patients of a young age who are diagnosed with serious disability or illness. Events are organised throughout the year, free of charge.

Through this Foundation, we will do our best to put a *Smile* on each face that we meet.

Smiling with Jerome Foundation

Founders: Kenneth & Josette Frendo

• Smiling with Jerome
• smilingwithjerome@gmail.com
• 9987 2002
• "Kyrios", 43, Triq ir-Rand, Attard ATD1300
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