



L-Università ta' Malta  
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

OCTOBER 2019  
ISSUE 3

# Unity

FREE

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**PHILIP GRUPPETTA**  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS MALTA, BOWLER

**Different is Normal**

A campaign by the Commission for the Rights of Persons  
with Disability to make persons with disability visible.

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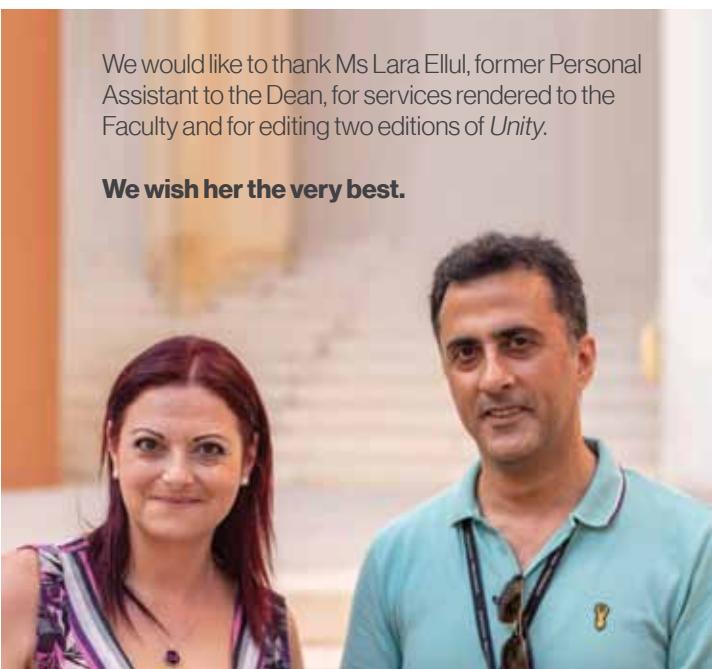
# EDITORIAL

*This has been a truly fantastic year on so many levels. We have continued to strengthen the Faculty's social engagement without losing sight of our core business, namely, that of scholarship, with an ongoing increase in research, teaching and mentoring. Added to this is supporting our students in their practicums and placements, an essential component in most of our courses. This third edition of Unity will seek to give a glimpse of what is happening in our Faculty and the different building blocks that make us such an eclectic community entirely focused on contributing to making this a better society to live in.*



We would like to thank Ms Lara Ellul, former Personal Assistant to the Dean, for services rendered to the Faculty and for editing two editions of *Unity*.

**We wish her the very best.**



## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Mr Nico Agius** | Administrator | Department of Criminology

**Prof. Andrew Azzopardi** | Dean

**Dr Olga Bogolyubova** | Lecturer | Department of Psychology

**Ms Dorianne Cortis** | Administrator II | Faculty Office

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**Ms Sarah J. Mifsud** | Administrator | Department of Psychology

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Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects  
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# Unity

ISSUE 3

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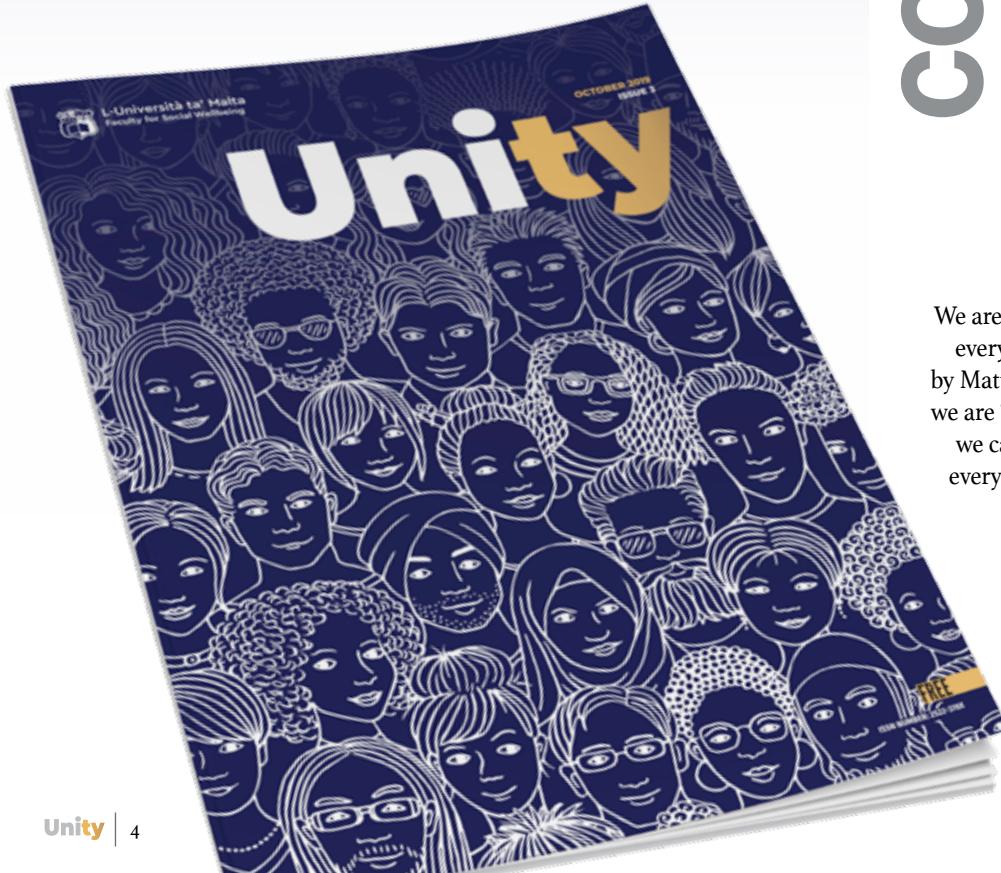
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### COVER STORY

We are as good as we can see the story in every individual narrative. The design by Matthew Borg attempts to convey that we are 'in this together' and the only way we can move forward is if we celebrate everybody's individuality as part of this jigsaw puzzle called 'Society'.

Contact us on  
[social.wellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:social.wellbeing@um.edu.mt)



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PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI  
DEAN'S WELCOME

# Passing on the BATON

*I am so proud that we are in our third edition of Unity, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing magazine. This has been an incredibly eventful year on so many fronts, whether it is scholarship, teaching, an exponential increase in research funds, a constant intake in the number of students, more agreements with social partners, a stronger presence in the community and an ongoing commitment to contribute to the wellbeing of our society.*

Our role as academia is to remain steadfast and stand up to that which is not working in our community. It is our role and our duty to provide policy makers and social operators with the empirical data so that social policy decisions can be taken in the most appropriate way. It is now our turn to pass on the baton. It is for our students at every level and at every age to take on the ills of our society, to reach out to those who are at the margins and to make sure that no one is left behind.

## WHO IS ANDREW?

*“ What takes my mind of work is Dante my lab. The walks in the park, the time we spend in the alley playing with the ball or the mischievousness he acts out as I am watering the plants is second to none. It distracts me from all that might be pulling me down. My other pastime is following my favourite football team, Southampton FC. a team that has hardly won anything, true, but one I enjoy watching nonetheless. Southampton as a place has its particular magic and also reminds me of a favourite story my mother used to tell me before going to bed - of the great ship the Titanic. ”*



# Rector's WELCOME

The third issue of *Unity* is here to continue to serve as the outreach showcase of the work and endeavours of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. The Faculty caters for a large number of students doing undergraduate programmes in a diverse range of fields which impact personal and societal wellbeing and, increasingly, is also delivering master and doctoral level programmes in its areas of expertise. It is gratifying to recall and put on record here the recent Faculty project on loneliness in Malta aimed at providing much needed data that shall generate essential information to inform national policies and strategies to counter this silent, serious and pervasive condition. This and several other projects undertaken by the various departments within the Faculty embody the essence of academic enterprise at the University of Malta and serve to inspire the rest of us.



## REGISTRAR PRO-RECTORS

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MS VERONICA GRECH

Pro-Rector for Academic Affairs  
PROFESSOR JOSEPH CACCIOTTOLO

Pro-Rector for International Development and Quality Assurance  
PROFESSOR GODFREY BALDACCHINO

Pro-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer  
PROFESSOR SAVIOUR ZAMMIT

Pro-Rector for Student and Staff Affairs and Outreach  
PROFESSOR CARMEN SAMMUT

Pro-Rector for Strategic Planning and Enterprise  
PROFESSOR TANYA SAMMUT-BONNICI

# MUSINGS

*Education is my profession. But I am also a social scientist. And so, I have a deep and natural attraction to the work and remit of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing (FSW). It has gone from strength to strength in a very short time, and is now one of the faculties on campus with more than 1,000 registered students. If we wish to find a unit at the University of Malta to suggest an outreach and community engagement programme that is 'fit for purpose', then it is hard to avoid looking at the FSW.*

FSW is 'in your face': the faculty's offerings are well marketed through mainly social media (but also posters on our roads); and its programmes are formally discussed in stakeholder fora on a regular (I believe annual) basis. Moreover, different research methodologies are not just taught at and by the faculty; they are operationalised in various ways to deliver 'intelligent data' to the academics and administrators running the FSW, and thus equipping them with the information they need to plan better and long-term. FSW is also aggressively human: the concern for the person, in whichever shape or form, is paramount. This is a pivotal commitment by the FSW, and goes against the regrettably all-too-common tendency to pigeon-hole individuals into categories of this disability or that deficiency. A timely stance, considering that the 21st century Maltese has become gripped by the ailments of modernity and smart phone technology, as have others in many other countries and urban areas: loneliness within a crowded community; less tolerance for those who are not like us; an unwillingness to interact with those who have different opinions. I

support the good work being delivered by the (mainly young) members of the Faculty. They have established themselves as an integral component of the UM community - and no doubt will feel better ensconced within the institution when they migrate to their new institutional space, and the cohesive physical identity that it will (finally) offer to the faculty, over the next few years. The scope and impact of FSW staff will also increase in tandem with the expansion of their academic portfolios: in these days, publications and citations can be easily trawled via Google Scholar. I will close with a personal, but indicative note. When I was contesting for the position of Rector early in 2016, I was having one-on-one meetings with all the university's deans. These meetings were mainly meant to identify concerns and challenges, and to gather ideas for strategic action. However, only one Dean expressed any interest in my own health and wellbeing (and sanity: did I know what I was doing?) during such meetings. Quite appropriate that such a person was no other than the Dean of the FSW, don't you think?

## WHO IS GODFREY?

*"I enjoy walking and hiking in winter; swimming in my own super pool (Marsaskala Bay) in summer. Astronomy has been a life-long hobby. Bormliz to the bone. No pets. And I try and read The Economist every week. Favourite drink: a cold lager. I love writing and I try and edit at least one scholarly book per year."*

# UM

Explore your possibilities...  
[um.edu.mt](http://um.edu.mt)

# FACES

DR GRETA DARMANIN KISSAUN, DEPUTY DEAN

*The Faculty for Social Wellbeing prides itself on its ever-increasing enrolment numbers. Yet the theme of the magazine this year is Faces. This theme underscores the emphasis our Faculty places on the importance of the individual as opposed to merely being concerned with numbers.*

Although all our departments are essentially different they all aim to produce excellent researchers, critical thinkers and reflexive practitioners. They also converge on some fundamental values: Fostering an understanding of diversity, ending discrimination, encouraging individuals of different abilities to achieve educational goals, fighting loneliness. These values are important if our aim is to counter the dominant

negative forces at work in our society on a global level today. Forces that foster a survival-of-the-fittest mentality and discriminate against minorities. Perhaps one of the reasons for the exponential increase in our student numbers is that the word has spread: individuals from all walks of life can come to our Faculty knowing that will find a sense of belonging and a celebration of individual differences.

## WHO IS GRETA?

**“ With so little time left, due to my commitment as Head of the largest Department within the Faculty together with my duties as Deputy Dean, I find solace in my family, which is the comfort zone that I look forward to at the end of a long day. I am also an avid reader, I love swimming, watching cult movies, teaching, boating and travelling, especially to my beloved Greece. ”**



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# Florence Apap

**B.A. (HONS) IN SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES**

*"This course gives me capital that will accompany me in my life voyage. Education is not the only skill I need to be able to tackle what life throws at me but is surely one of the biggest resources that will help me face the music."*

# Community RESILIENCE

*Capital cities serve as easels for national imagination. Different interest groups vie with each other to project their interests, visions and agendas onto the physical, social and economic landscape.*

Valletta is no exception and, particularly in the wake of Valletta as a European City of Culture for the year 2018, these conversations are more important than ever. My work with the Valletta community has a dual dimension. On the one hand I am interested in understanding the debates, power structures and interactions between public interests, private interests and the community of residents identifying as "Beltin". On the other, I am particularly intrigued in utilizing this information for the benefit of the Valletta community in order to aid in community resilience and develop stronger and better organised social networks.



## WHO IS ANDREW?

*“One of my foremost passions in life is playing guitar, which serves both as a stress reliever and a creative outlet. When I’m not playing guitar, you can find me staring hypnotically for hours on end in front of my PlayStation 4 engaing with role playing games with intricate stories. Alternatively, I will chew anyone’s ear off who is unfortunate enough to ask my opinion on anything under the sun, particularly English and American politics. A good cigar and quiet time in nature never go amiss.”*



DR ANDREW CAMILLERI



# Maali Boukadi

MASTER IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

*“The life choices we make today will ensure we are better people tomorrow – it’s a question of attitude. Being a student is so exciting, knowing I will have much more capital to influence change.”*



### **Open letter on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing**

I would like to share with you my journey within the social sector, which started through the degree programmes offered under the auspices of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

Following the completion of my Bachelor of Arts degree in Youth and Community Studies, I decided to proceed for a Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Whilst working with young people and advocating for their rights sounds quite hip and appealing, the interrelated fields of Gerontology and Geriatrics provided me with the opportunity to overcome numerous stereotypes and assumptions I owned regarding older persons.

Unfortunately, society still deems persons older persons as vulnerable individuals, sometimes perceived as a burden on society, especially in the popular discourse of population ageing. Nevertheless, there is no question that our value as human beings reached far beyond our productive and employment status. Every individual, irrespective of age, has his/her own experiences, ideas and valuable contribution towards society. In fact, contrary to popular belief, many older persons lead energetic and active lives.

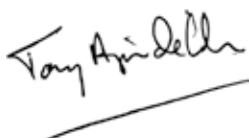
The National Strategic Policy for Active Ageing responds to the challenges brought about by an ageing population, while ensuring that every older person lives a dignified life. Active ageing is the belief that older persons can still contribute and enjoy life after they reach pensionable age, and even experience autonomy and empowerment if entry in long-term care is eventually required. They may still engage in employment, participate in voluntary activities, practice a hobby or sport, or even attend lectures by the University of Third Age. Even within care homes for older persons, the government has launched a wide range of programmes and initiatives that promote active ageing; hence, shifting the ethos of ageing welfare from a medical to a social model.

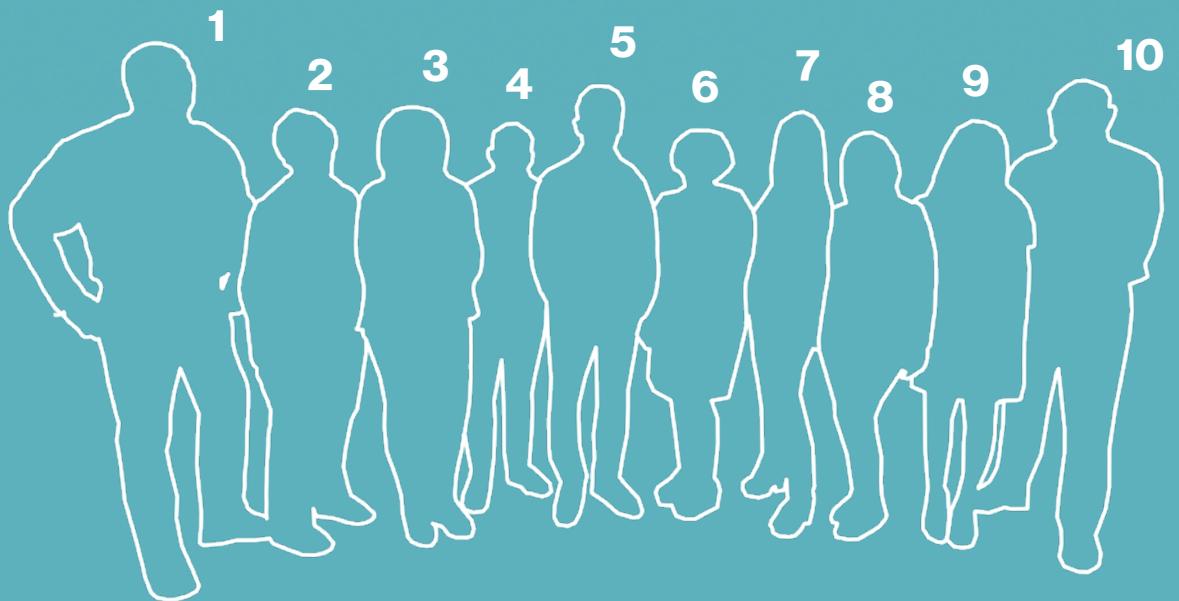
Through my role as Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, I get to meet stakeholders so that, together, we develop ideas into innovative projects that leave a positive impact on the wellbeing of older persons, their families, caregivers and employees within the sector. I get to practice what I learnt throughout my University years, and focus on the implementation of evidence-based policy.

Both the disability and ageing sectors are full of opportunities for individuals studying within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, and I certainly encourage current and prospective students to explore these sectors when considering their career paths.

I for one, would opt to work in this sector again, if I had to.

Kind regards,









## Empowering People Rewarding Careers

With over **500 employees** and offering a variety of services, the Agency has a wide spectrum of career opportunities including:

- **Social Workers**
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- **Support Executives**
- **Support Workers**

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SAPPOR**

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**The Ministry for Education and Employment's social media platforms - facilitating an ongoing dialogue on education and related issues.**

We encourage your comments - your ideas and concerns are important to help ensure that our initiatives, campaigns and events are reaching their target audiences, whilst also ensuring that any suggestions are taken on-board.

# DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING

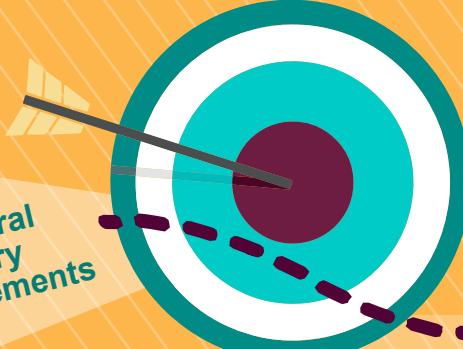
Dr Dione Mifsud  
Head of Department

## GETTING STARTED

### COURSES

Department set up  
in 2012

150 alumni at  
Masters level



Master in Counselling Part-Time	4 years
Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling Full-Time	2 years
Post-Graduate Certificate in Counselling Supervision Part-Time	1 year
M.Phil./Ph.D.	

## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

- Foundation for Social Welfare Services
- Aġenzija Saport
- Government, Church, and Private Schools
- Community Centres, Parishes and Local Councils
- Private Practice
- NGOs and Government Departments



# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

Prof. Saviour Formosa  
Head of Department

GETTING  
STARTED

General Entry Requirements

23 Years and Over

## COURSES

B.A. (Hons) in Criminology  
Full-Time/Part-Time

3/5  
years

3  
years

Diploma in Policing  
Part-Time

Master in Probation Services  
Full-Time

3  
years

2.5  
years

Master of Arts in Criminology  
Part-Time

M.Phil./Ph.D.

1100 Alumni

Department set up  
in 1993

## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Malta Police Force

Correctional Services Agency

CPD

AFM

Planning Authority-Enforcement-PA

ERA

Department of Probation & Parole

Insurance Agencies

Security Companies

FIAU

Banks

Malta Gaming Authority

NSO



# DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES

Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane  
Head of Department

## GETTING STARTED COURSES

Higher Diploma in Community  
Access for Disabled People  
Part-Time

1 year  
Diploma in Community Access  
Part-Time

1 year  
Certificate in Community Access  
for Disabled People  
Part-Time

3 years  
Master in Disability Studies  
Part-Time

M.Phil./Ph.D.

Department set up in  
2012

40 Students

5 students with a disability  
graduated from our courses

General Entry  
Requirements

OR

23 Years and Over



## MAIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Agenzia Sappo

Educational Settings

NGOs

CRPD

Health Services

Private Companies

# Research **ETHICS**



*Are you about to start working on your dissertation? If the answer is Yes, then you should also start thinking about submitting the E&DP (Ethics and Data Protection) form! Ethics and data protection issues are an integral part of your research. Everyone starting a new study shall go through this process. This process follows principles adapted from the "Golden Rules to Ethical Research Conduct" (2013).*

These principles are there to ensure that all research complies to all legal, regulatory and ethical requirements, and most importantly to respect the integrity and dignity of persons. Considering that most of the research conducted by our Faculty involves direct participation of humans, FREC needs to ensure that researchers follow the "Do no harm" principle and respect the rights of individuals to privacy and personal data protection.

Going through FREC might be considered scary or terrifying by some. However, this is the voice of the few that either do not read the FAQs, the University's Research Code of Practice and/or the University's Research Ethics Review Procedures provided by UREC.

Investing time going through guiding principles and standards of good practice in research across your areas of study tends to result in a smoother process. This process is not there to hinder or stop any research from taking place, as long as this follows the ethical and data protection requirements. To help further, the FREC of our Faculty dedicated a webpage which aims to provide details about the process one is to go through. Also, there are three persons dedicated to the administration of this committee which aims at solving most of the issues related to this running committee and the individual forms. Thus, one cannot emphasise enough the use of the email dedicated to FREC.

*Contact us on [research-ethics.fsw@um.edu.mt](mailto:research-ethics.fsw@um.edu.mt)*

## WHO IS TREVOR?

**“** Martin Luther King, Jr. said “If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, keep moving.” Movement helps to distract, distress and keep focused. The academic life is quite stressful, at least mentally. To cope with such stress, while ensuring a healthy living I spend quite some time doing some physical activities. Frequenting a gym helps, but in the last years found that running helped me push not only my physical limits but also mental ones, achieving results which I would have never imagine. My latest craze and extreme sports that could (and hope it will) become a more integral part of my agenda is skydiving. Tried it once so far but the magic, the thrill and the adrenalin experienced is awesome. So if I can walk, I aim to run and if I can run, I aim to fly.”

## Congratulations are due to Joseph Dimech

We would like to congratulate Dr Dimech for being awarded a Ph.D. in the area of Gerontology. Dr Dimech's title of his research is “Models of Moral Reasoning in End-of-Life Clinical Decision-Making for Persons in End-Stage Dementia”. This is our 4th Ph.D. graduate since the Faculty has been set up just 7 years ago. We now boast of over 30 candidates who are at some stage reading for an M.Phil./Ph.D. with our Faculty. If interested in reading an M.Phil./Ph.D. please contact us on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



## OUR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES



# DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES

Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri  
Head of Department

First Degree as per  
Course Bye-Laws



## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

FSWS

NGOs

Government Departments

NSO

Office of the Commissioner for Children

NAO

Graduates with a Master in Family Therapy are eligible to apply for a warrant in Psychotherapy

## GETTING STARTED

## COURSES

Master in Contemporary Family Studies  
Part-Time



Master in Family Therapy & Systemic Practice  
Part-Time



Master in Family Therapy & Systemic Practice (Top-Up Degree)  
Part-Time



## M.Phil./Ph.D.

Set up in 2008 as the Centre for Family Studies

Became a department in 2012

45 students with a Master in Family Therapy

25 students graduated in the Master in Family Studies

385 undergraduate & postgraduate students serviced by the department

5 Ph.D.s



[socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



Faculty for Social Wellbeing - University of Malta

# DEPARTMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

Dr Marceline Naudi  
Head of Department

## COURSES



**Master of Gender Studies**  
Full-Time/Part-Time

**Master of Gender, Society & Culture**  
Full-Time/Part-Time



**M.Phil./Ph.D.**

General Entry Requirements

Bachelors degree with  
Second Class Honours  
or Category 2

Plus an interview

Set up in 2013

30 Alumni with a  
Master

10 M.Phil./Ph.D.s

Academic staff support  
30 organizations in the  
community

## MAIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community Centres

Aġenzija Żgħażagħ

Government Agencies

Legal Aid

Private companies and NGOs



[socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



Faculty for Social Wellbeing - University of Malta

# DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY & DEMENTIA STUDIES

Prof. Marvin Formosa  
Head of Department

General Entry  
Requirements

OR

23 Years and Over

## GETTING STARTED

### COURSES



**Higher Diploma in Gerontology & Geriatrics**  
Full-Time



**Master of Arts in Ageing & Dementia Studies**  
Part-Time



**Master of Gerontology & Geriatrics**  
Full-Time

**M.Phil./Ph.D.**



Department set up in  
**1990**

**131 Foreign and  
198 Maltese  
Alumni**



[socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



Faculty for Social Wellbeing - University of Malta

### MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Active Ageing & Community Care

Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disability & Active Ageing

Public, Private & Church Care Homes

Government Entities

Hospitals

University



Betapsi is a non-governmental organisation that represents sixth-form and University psychology students.

Betapsi does not merely target psychology students but rather aims to infiltrate the whole student body as well as the Maltese population. The organisation aims to equip students with psychological knowledge by means of educational events, works on making our knowledge more extensive and increasing the impact we strive to make by doing research and making our voice heard on a governmental level, if need be, by means of the Social Policy Commissioner and to improve our skills by keeping in touch with local professionals, in the hands of the External Relations Officer. Moreover, Betapsi also expands the students' boundaries by organising student trips and exchanges which serve both educational as well as leisure purposes, and organises leisure events which allow students to build relationships with each other in a laid-back context. Betapsi also collaborates with other University organisations and professionals such as the Willingness team in order to create fun and interesting debates, conferences and events which serve to educate and entertain all students.

## Criminology Students Association

*Criminology Students Association is an independent organisation; by students for students. CSA raises awareness of criminology and issues relating to criminology in Malta and overseas. Whilst increasing and enhancing the public's knowledge about the interesting world of criminology, CSA also works hard to improve the welfare of the students studying criminology at The University of Malta.*

Furthermore, CSA also highlights the importance of all the interdisciplinary fields that cover the study of criminology. Criminology plays a major role in the criminal justice system, in the victim sector and within society as a whole. Criminologists are able to psychologically, legally and socially contribute immensely to help both criminals and victims with their reintegration and reformation leading to bettering communities; it is a rewarding career path to take! Do not hesitate to contact us, we would be happy to help with any queries! We look forward to hearing from you



CSA



**Studenti Harsien Socjali (SHS) is the student organisation within University which represents students studying Social Policy or Social Work within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.**

One of the main objectives of our organisation is to safeguard the rights of such students, and act as a mediator between these same students and the academic and administrative staff at University. SHS aims to organise activities which integrate students at University while also encouraging them to be actively involved in campaigns and events related to Social Policy and Social Work, in order to instil a sense of community. SHS also exists to highlight the importance of a healthy society and the need of empowered social workers and creative policy-makers who will make a better tomorrow.

# Platform for Migration



The Platform for Migration aims 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. The long-term goal of the Platform is thus to contribute to an equitable, more sustainable and more inclusive society that brings benefits to migrants and their families, communities of origin, destination and transit, as well as their sending and receiving countries. The Platform is made up of almost 40 members and is growing steadily, with members from various disciplines including the social sciences, health sciences, economics, linguistics, education, international relations, and law.

## Why not study with us?

Contact us on:

 [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)

 [www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing](http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing)

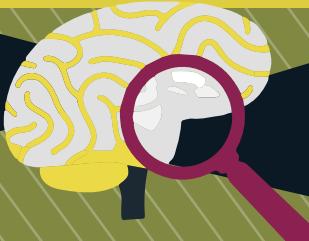
 [www.instagram.com/facultyforsw/](http://www.instagram.com/facultyforsw/)



# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Dr Greta Darmanin Kissau  
Head of Department

## GETTING STARTED



General Entry Requirements with Special Course Requirements

## COURSES

B.Psy.(Hons)  
Full-Time



B.Psy.(Hons) in Gozo  
Part-Time



Higher Diploma in Psychology  
Full-Time



M.Sc.(Melit.) in Addiction Studies  
Part-Time

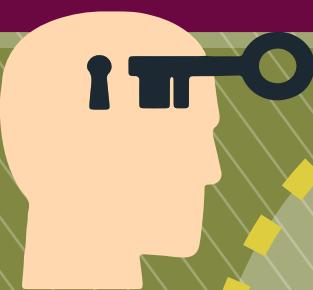


M.Sc.(Melit.) in Psychological Studies  
Part-Time



Master of Psychology in Neuropsychology/  
Clinical/Counselling/Educational/Forensic/Health  
Full-Time

M.Phil./Ph.D.



## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR B.Psy.(Hons) GRADUATES

Psychology assistants within various NGOs & Government Departments

Foundation for Social Welfare Services

Various HR & Recruitment services

PSCD Teachers

Learning Support Educators (LSEs)

Psychology Assistants with the Department of Health at our hospitals

Department set up in 1987

2000 Alumni

In 2001, the 1st group of M.Psy. students graduated

The department trained approx. 80 psychologists in the areas of Clinical, Educational, Counselling, Health, Forensic & Neuropsychology

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK

Dr Natalie Kenely  
Head of Department

General  
Entry  
Requirements

OR

23 Years  
and Over

## GETTING STARTED COURSES

B.A.(Hons) in Social Work  
Full-Time/Part-Time



B.A.(Hons) in Social Policy  
Full-Time/Part-Time



Master of Social Work  
Full-Time



Master of Social Work  
Part-Time



Master of Arts in Social Policy  
Part-Time



M.Phil./Ph.D.

## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

Foundation for Social  
Welfare Services

Richmond Foundation

Agenzija Sapport

MEUSAC

Government Agencies

Various NGOs and  
Government  
Departments



Social Work Courses  
offered since the 1980s

Estimated to have  
over 1000 alumni

700 hours of practical  
placement



Department set up  
in 1998



socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt



Faculty for Social Wellbeing - University of Malta

# DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi  
Head of Department

## GETTING STARTED



## COURSES

B.A.(Hons) Youth and Community Studies  
Full-Time 3 years

B.A.(Hons) Youth and Community Studies  
Part-Time Evening 5 years

Master of Arts in Community Action  
and Development  
Part-Time Evening 3 years

Master in Youth and Community Studies  
Part-Time Evening 3 years

Master of Arts in Youth Justice  
Part-Time Evening 2 years

M.Phil./Ph.D.

## MAIN OPPORTUNITIES



Aġenċija  
Żgħażgħ  
Foundation for  
Social Welfare Services  
Various NGOs and  
Government Departments

23%  
Youth Population  
in Malta  
100,000  
Young People  
in Malta

500  
Alumni Since  
1993

# ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

These people are the spine of our Faculty. We, students, Research Support officers and academics owe the success of our work, studies and research to this team ably led by Ms Alison Darmanin, Faculty Officer



## OUR FACULTY

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has its own Vlog whereby academics share their ideas about research and react to issues around social wellbeing that would have made headway on the national agenda. You can access all Vlogs either via our Website: [www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing](http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing) or our FB Page: [www.facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing)

FACULTY  
Vlog



THE FOOD  
FACULTY



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eat good food!



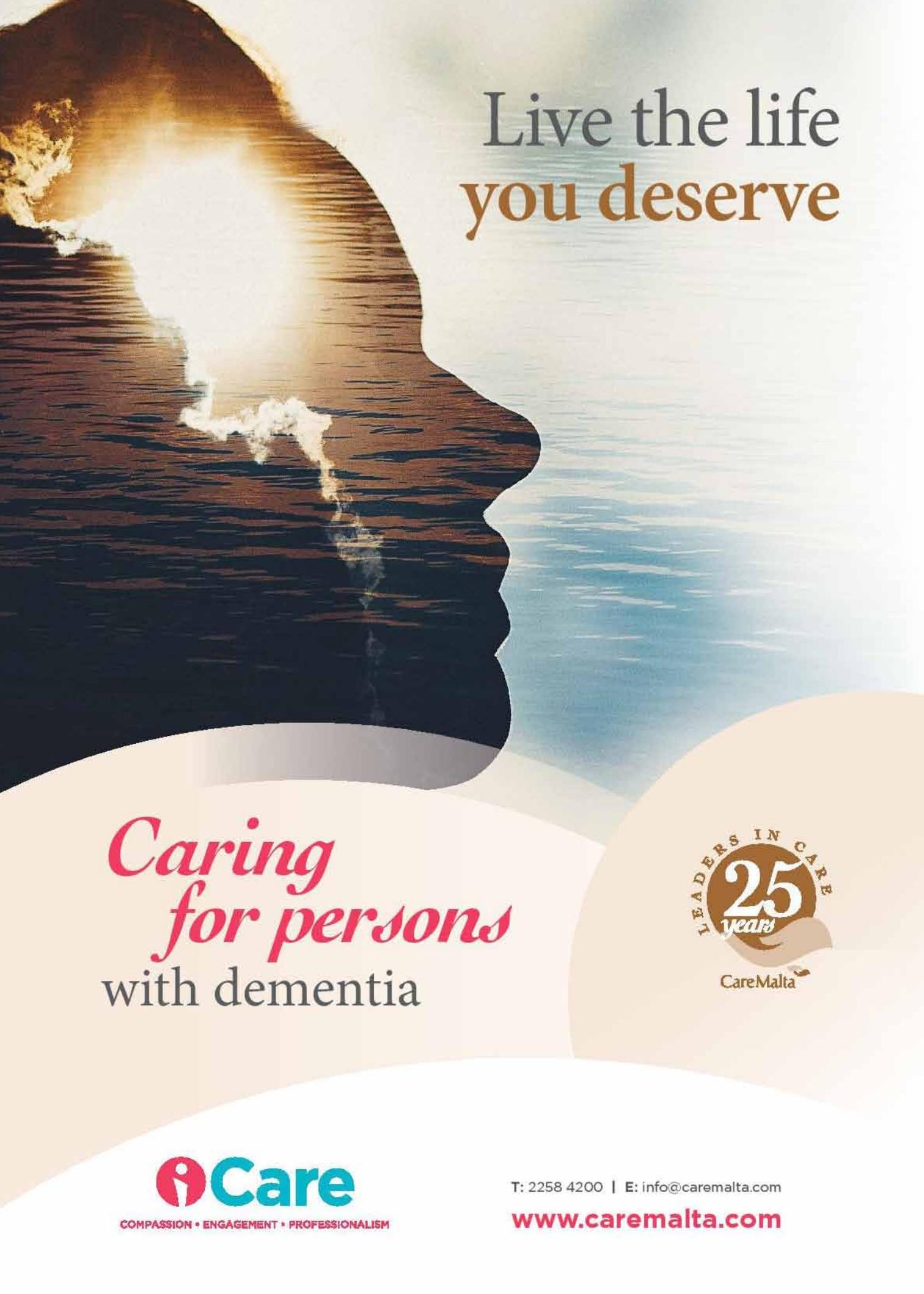
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foodfaculty@catermax.com



## IL-MADUM SABIH...IŽDA L-FAĆĆATA TAD-DAR TIEGħEK MHIX KAMRA TAL-BANJU!

Id-djar fil-qalba tal-ibliet u l-irħula tagħna huma parti mill-wirt kulturali ta' pajjiżna. Inkunu qeqħdin nuru nuqqas ta' rispett lejn dan il-wirt meta fuq il-faċċata tad-djar tagħna nużaw madum li estetikament joħnoq l-uniformità u d-dehra kemm tad-djar, kif ukoll tat-triq.

Jekk ser tirraġa l-faċċata tad-dar ħalli l-ġebla naturali li hemm. Jekk ser tiżbogħha uža kuluri li huma tradizzjoni u ġuri, li jirrespettaw il-karattru tal-ibliet u l-irħula tagħna. Jekk tgħix f'żona ta' konservazzjoni urbana ħu parir professjoni qabel ma tagħmel xi xogħlijet f'darek.



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# B.A. (HONS) SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES

*The BA (Hons) in Social Wellbeing is an innovative degree reflecting an ever-changing modern civilisation. It is similar to a degree in Liberal Arts and may be referred to as a degree with a liberal choice of studies in social welling. According to Forbes magazine, one of the most well-respected business magazines, a degree in liberal arts is an excellent academic degree choice.*

An honours degree in Social Wellbeing gives students the possibility to become aware of several possible helping professions. It prepares students with awareness, knowledge, attitude and skills on different professions and disciplines, which will then also allow them to work more effectively in transdisciplinary teams, the Rolls Royce of effective teamwork. B.A. (Hons) in Social Wellbeing graduates have a strong base to either immediately start working in a people-related

environment or continue to study towards a helping skills profession. The Faculty believes that an undergraduate with exposure to so many disciplines prepares well-rounded students more prepared to adapt to the 21st Century. The students' management of the study programme itself is a learning experience in itself and helps students become more versatile in taking sound informed decisions. Such a degree allows students to explore a variety of disciplines and areas of studies. This versatility is becoming more important as job expectations adapt to new knowledges, to demographic changes and to technological advancements.



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The aim of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector is to support the development of a more effective and efficient voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo through the delivery of a range of support and capacity building services including information, advice and training. We also aim to support the development of a more influential and cohesive voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo by facilitating networking and partnership within the sector, and between the same sector and the private and public sectors.

### **Mission Statement**

To support the development of a more effective and efficient voluntary and community sector in Malta and Gozo through the delivery of a range of support and capacity building services including information, advice and training.



#### **SMALL INITIATIVES SUPPORT (SIS) SCHEME**

The Small Initiatives Support Scheme encourages creation of projects in areas such as training, events, publications and other initiatives related to the voluntary sector.



#### **YOUTH VOLUNTARY WORK (YVW) SCHEME**

The Youth Voluntary Work (YVW) Scheme allows young people to express their personal commitment through local and overseas voluntary service.



#### **TRAINING INITIATIVES SCHEME (TIS)**

The Training Initiatives Scheme helps volunteers to improve their skills to undertake the voluntary work skilfully, ethically and efficiently.



#### **VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS PROJECT SCHEME (VOPS)**

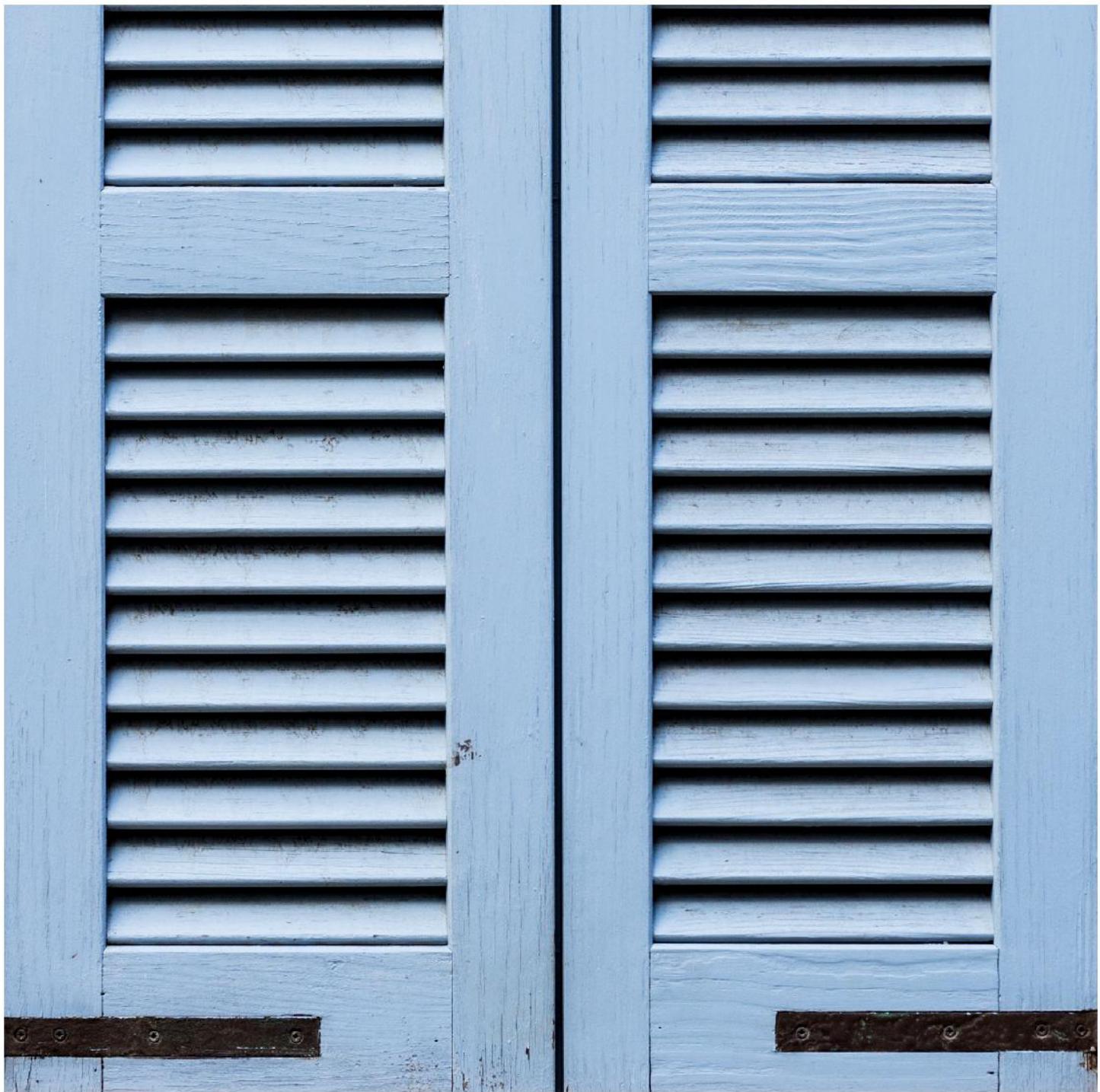
The Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme is designed to assist applicants looking for funding on projects that can make a real difference to their local communities.



#### **CIVIL SOCIETY FUND (CSF)**

The Civil Society Fund provides financial assistance to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for the purpose of facilitating their affiliation with and participation in European groupings, associations, federations, confederation networks, and training related to EU Policy/Programmes.





## **MATERJALI HAWN HAFNA ....IŽDA FUQ BINI ANTIK FTIT HUMA ISBAĦ MILL-INJAM**

Id-djar fil-qalba tal-iblet u l-irħula tagħna huma parti mill-wirt kulturali ta' pajiżna. Inkunu qeqħdin nuru nuqqas ta' rispett lejn dan il-wirt meta għall-aperturi, bibien u galleriji fuq il-faċċati tad-djar tagħna nużaw materjali li estetikament iħassru d-dehra kemm tad-djar, kif ukoll tat-triq.

Jekk ser tbiddel l-aperturi, bibien jew galleriji tal-faċċata tad-dar tiegħek ikkonsidra li tuża materjali tradizzjoni bħalma hu l-injam. Jista' jkun li l-investment fil-bidu huwa oħla minn alternattivi oħra, iżda jekk tieħu l-siebhom regolarmen, dawn iservu għal hafna u ħafna snin kif nistgħu naraw fl-iblet u l-irħula tagħna. Jekk tgħix f'żona ta' konservazzjoni urbana ħu parir professjoni qabel ma tagħmel xi xogħlijiet f'darek.



## Keith Demicoli

*“Following a heartbreakingly story on loneliness in 2016, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing defied my self-perception and embarked on a very practical solutions-based approach to create a movement of considerate people. It is a constant driving force to use a ‘wellbeing-lens’ whenever we see something broken or disturbing. There is nothing more meaningful in life than making a lasting social contribution. The Faculty for Social Wellbeing is proving to be true to its name.”*

## Our Faculty SOME STATISTICS

- 9 Departments
- Over 1000 students
- Over 30 M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates
- Over 30 courses offered per year
- 2 Inter-Faculty Degrees
- Over 50 resident academics
- Over 300 casuals/supervisors/placement tutors
- Over 20 administrators
- Over 12 Research Support Officers

# Faculty Research Magazine



Corporate Dispatch

## Societas.Expert

Societas.Expert is a new initiative by the Faculty. It is the first Faculty Research Magazine published in collaboration with Corporate Dispatch. The Magazine is intended for academics, students, alumni, stakeholders and the general public. The first edition was issued in October 2019 and the theme is 'We are in this together'.

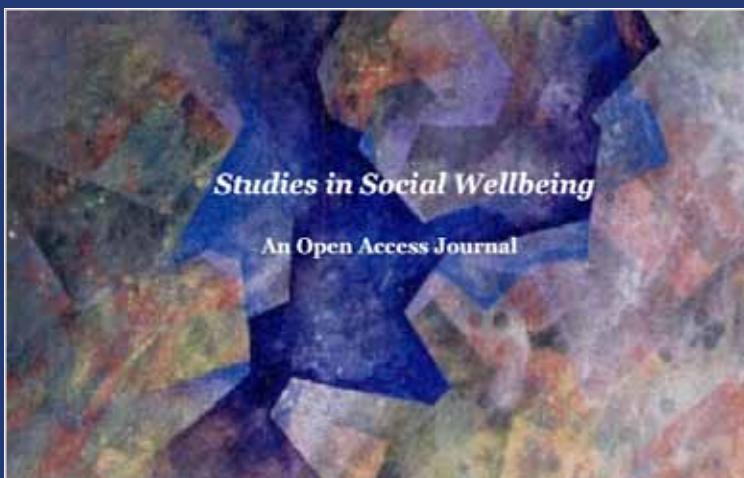
A free copy can be requested by sending an email on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



# FACULTY EVENTS

- Faculty Board
- Let's Toast the Faculty
- Freshers' Welcome Event
- Faculty Doctoral Committee
- Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Memorial Lecture
- Pre-drinks for Under/Postgraduate Graduands
- Staff Christmas Lunch
- Staff Easter Lunch
- Faculty Freshers' Away Day
- Team Building Events
- College of Heads of Departments
- Coffee with the Dean
- Faculty on the move!
- European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry 2020
- Dean's Forum
- Dean's Award Ceremony
- Stakeholders Meeting
- Faculty Seminar
- Brown Bag Seminars
- Community Engagement Event
- Professorial Lecture Series

## Faculty Journal **STUDIES IN SOCIAL WELLBEING**



Academics from the Faculty for Social Wellbeing set up a peer-reviewed, online, international and open-access journal, *Studies in Social Wellbeing*, which will provide a space for scholars and practitioners to publish work related to social wellbeing. The Journal is aimed at scholars with an interest in social wellbeing and welcomes co-authored articles from authors from different disciplines and using different types of methodologies, particularly research that crosses disciplinary boundaries. The Journal aims to cover a broad range of topics from areas related to social wellbeing and welcomes submissions from practitioners presenting their research or reflecting on their practice, as well as inviting contributions from postgraduate students.

For more information contact [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES



Join Us

- 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
- If you think you are one of the best and you have what it takes ...

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Foundation for Social Welfare Services

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Applications are to be addressed to:  
**Director Human Resources**  
Foundation for Social Welfare Services  
212, Cannon Road  
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Tel: +356 2258 8900

# A JOB OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES HAS VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- **Psychologists**
- **Social Workers**
- **Youth Workers**

## Requirements:

- Available for Full Time
- 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](mailto: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  
Tel: +356 2258 8900



# Dorianne Cortis

ADMINISTRATOR II

*"It is a privilege that I can contribute to keeping this tradition alive..."*



# Director of Therapeutic & Community Services, FSWS

**CLAIRE SAMMUT**

*Reaching out to vulnerable families in their communities is a core priority for the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). The Foundation's Community Services adopt an outreach model to ensure that families receive the support they need, when needed, and within their own communities.*

Over the first six months of the current year, the three principal community services in Malta have been consolidated under a single directorate, namely Home Based Therapeutic Services (HBTS), LEAP and Community Social Work Services. Professionals within these services support families through therapeutic interventions, social work, parenting, mentoring, networking and community development. All individuals and families receive an individualized care plan which outlines their needs along with a strategy for how best to address them. Services work together to address myriad vulnerabilities that diverse individuals and families demonstrate, in an effort to help clients increase their personal and social wellbeing within their own communities. In the process, in helping individuals ameliorate their potential for a fully participatory social life, Maltese communities generate further social capital. Additionally, Community Services promotes community development initiatives that cater to the community's identified needs in light of services required by community members using the directorate's various services.



## Different is Normal

*A photographic campaign commissioned by the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)*



In Malta, disabled people are still largely invisible. While huge strides have been made, disabled people are largely absent from images, TV, politics – even employment. Our role as the Commission for the Rights of Persons with a Disability is to fulfill our mission of seeing that Maltese society is an inclusive one, in a manner that persons with disability can, through equal opportunities in all aspects of life, fulfil their potential as persons who enjoy a higher quality of life. In honouring this commitment, CRPD works in order that society may eliminate any form of direct or indirect discrimination against persons with disability or their families while providing the necessary help and support. In a sense, then, part of our role is to render disabled people visible. That is why the CRPD has commissioned a photographic campaign with award-winning photographer Darrin Zammit Lupi which will feature a series of disabled people with various impairments carrying out activities they enjoy in their everyday lives. They are not victims, neither are they heroes, they are just people who happen to have a disability. View the images on [www.crpd.org.mt](http://www.crpd.org.mt)

# Researching with children

# ABOUT THEIR WELLBEING

*Recently we have been witnessing a paradigm shift in the way we look at childhood and children. Models of childhood now construe children as agents who actively construct their own lives, seeing childhood not just as preparation for adulthood (becoming), but also as an important state of being in the present, with children actively influencing and shaping their own lives. They have shifted the focus from working on to working with children.*

Research in child development has been showing us that children's perspectives on their learning, behaviour and wellbeing are different from those of adults as the former have a unique insider experience of what it means to be a child in a particular context. Children are thus a valuable source of knowledge on how contexts such as schools and homes may improve their wellbeing and quality of life. Over the last years, the Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health has been actively engaged in a number of projects on the subjective wellbeing of children. These include two international projects, one quantitative and one qualitative, which construe children as active agents of their own lives and as possessing expert knowledge on their wellbeing. They underline that children need to be actively represented and involved in their own wellbeing as subjects and actors, rather than objects, through the use of child-friendly and emancipatory methods. The International Study on Children' Subjective Wellbeing (ISCWEB) is engaged in a comparative,

cross cultural analysis of the subjective wellbeing of 8-12 year old children, exploring their views on their economic wellbeing, emotional wellbeing, life satisfaction, relationships, and safety amongst others. Presently there are 40 countries in the study. We took part in two waves of this study, with about 5000 Maltese students participating in the two waves. The local results of the first wave were published in 2018 and those of the third wave will be published later on this year. The Centre is also participating in another related international project which looks at children's wellbeing from a qualitative perspective (Children's Understanding of Wellbeing-CUWB). The project has developed a child-friendly, emancipatory research tool to engage with children in exploring their daily experiences at home, at school, in their community and with their friends in relation to local and cultural contexts. We have published a number of publications on this qualitative study as well.

## WHO IS CARMEL?

*“ If I was not a psychologist, I would be an archaeologist or a lead guitarist, but had no opportunity for the former and no chance for the latter. My first and last singing audition (pre X Factor) was in London (Il vapur tal-art with a captive student audience at the University of London hall). I am also fascinated by astronomy; hanging out with the stars at the red Australian centre was a night to remember. I would love to see Malta as an island renowned for Mediterranean trees and wood as it was at the turn of the first millennium. ”*

# A NEW ERA

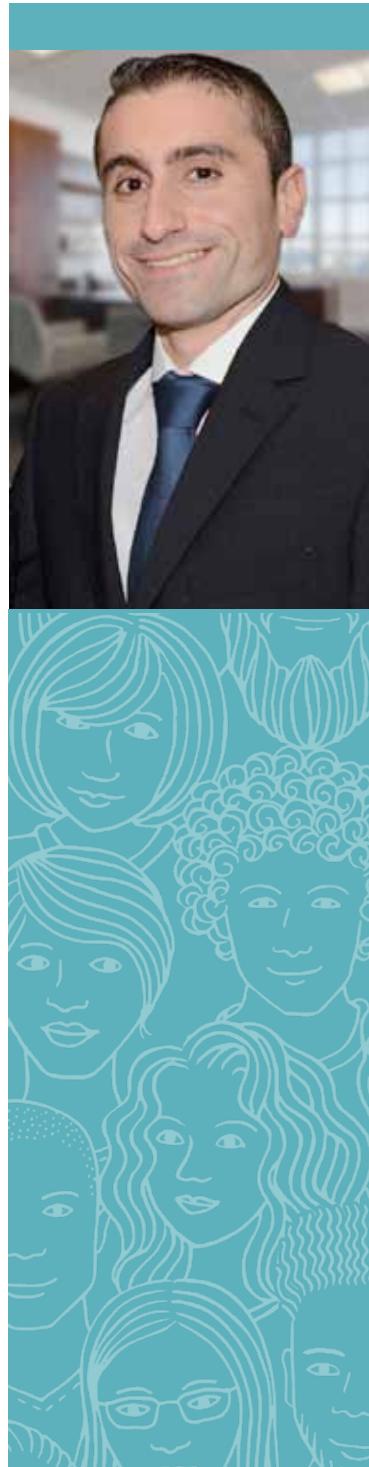
## of social care in Malta

**MATTHEW VELLA**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SOCIAL CARE STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

*On the 30th of May 2018, the Social Care Standards Authority started its operations from our offices in Santa Venera, bringing about a new era of social care in Malta. The SCSA's mission is to enforce the regulation of social care services in Malta through clear dialogue and effective collaboration with everyone involved; service users, their loved ones, and stakeholders.*

A key difference between the SCSA and its international counterparts is that in foreign countries, regulating authorities tend to focus on one specific sector in social care, whereas in Malta there is one authority overseeing all services related to the area. This translates to over 250 services from all sectors in the Maltese society; Government, NGOs, Church and private, and an expense of 200 million euros every year in funding for social welfare services in Malta. Any entity interested in opening a residence or in providing a service in social care needs to acquire a license to do so from the SCSA as per Chapter 582 of the Maltese law.

While our vision is to inspire service providers, the authority's best interest will always be the safety and security of the service users, whom we strive to, empower through our actions.



## OUR FACULTY

## Alumni Going Green



As from this year, we will be inviting the newly graduated students to buy a tree as a gift to 'society' and to themselves. An estimated 50-70 trees will be planted on UM grounds and another 50-70 in the community to contribute to the afforestation of our Campus and Island.



## Dean's Forum

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing will be organising the DEAN'S FORUM for the third year running. Students, MPhil/PhD Candidates, Research Support Officers and mentored by academics within the Faculty will unite to form groups to debate 'social wellbeing issues and current events'. The DEAN'S FORUM is an experience not to be missed. All those who wish to create new friendships based on the pursuit of knowledge, or wish to acquire further academic expertise, by engaging in research, argumentation and public speaking, should seek further information and email us on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt). There is a Grand Prize of EUR 1,000.

# CONNECT

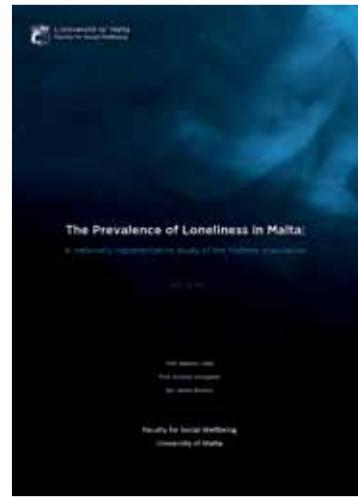
**Connect is the Faculty Newsletter circulated amongst academic staff, students, administrative staff, stakeholders and the general public. To be included in the mailing list please contact us on:**  
**[socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)**

## Loneliness Report

The first of its kind, 'The Prevalence of Loneliness in Malta' interviewed a nationally representative sample of Maltese residents aged 11 years and over.

The study used an internationally recognised tool to measure loneliness, as well as collecting data on various relevant socio-demographic variables such as highest level of education, living arrangement, self-rated physical health, among others. The findings of this study provide an eye-opening account of the scale of loneliness amongst the general population, whilst stimulating a number of recommendations for future research and policy initiatives.

For a copy of the report please contact us on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



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# NORMLESSNESS



DR ALBERT BELL  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH  
AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

*The concept of Anomie or normlessness was first introduced by the seminal French sociologist Emile Durkheim in his trailblazing work "Suicide" (1897) and later re-articulated by Robert K. Merton in 1938's Social Structure and Anomie to explain social currents in the US and how individuals adapt to the discrepancy between cultural goals and opportunities for status advancement.*

Despite its critics, this stand of social theory (metamorphosing into social strain theory) remains a potent tradition in both sociology and social criminology – with several contributors (see for example Agnew, Brezina and Eitle) revisiting the perspective and testing its empirical and analytical prowess to explain contemporary social problems, including the aetiology of youth crime. However, even wider theoretical inflections may be drawn from Durkheim's original explanation of this milestone concept. Durkheim is often pigeon-holed and rather loosely labelled as a steadfast and resolute positivist, a short-sighted functionalist and a staunch conservative - a champion of the status quo, obsessed with moral order and traditionalism. Yet to read Durkheim with such an *a priori*, totalising gloss is to miss the strength and rich analytical insights that may be drawn from this master sociologist's work. Much like the trailblazing sociologists of the 19th century, including Comte, Marx, Tonnies and Spencer, Durkheim is primarily a theorist of social change, proposing a social evolutionary schema that sees the traditional, homogeneous society (characterised by sameness, resemblance, oneness and thus by default a strongly cemented collective conscience) evolving into a more heterogeneous collective; the modern industrialised society that had already, by and large, taken shape by Durkheim's time. Propelled by achieved vs. ascribed roles, role specialisation and more attuned to the drive for individual freedoms, for Durkheim, the modern society, increasingly more fragmented and segmented, struggles to maintain the semblance of a coherent, united collective. With the rise of the cult of the individual, the modern society runs the risk of losing sight of the common good. Given its complexity, it becomes increasingly more difficult to regulate and to ensure social integration. While Herbert Spencer saw increasing potential for altruism in the modern

society founded on mutual co-operation, respect and education (vs. the drive toward conflagration essential to militaristic, pre-modern societies which thrived on war and conflict); for Durkheim, the modern society runs the risk of spiralling into anomie – it can evolve into a society without norms – where individual needs and spiralling, ever insatiable wants over-ride the collective good. It is perhaps true that Durkheim failed to recognise how capitalism instigates this spiralling individualism and egocentrism oils the consumeristic culture requisite for the advancement of the interests of the bourgeoisie. However, these insights still hold resonance today and explain much of the social malaise gripping the contemporary Western world, from the rise of populism, the erosion of social solidarity, rising crime and so forth. Durkheim's insights may also be applied to understand Malta's situation. The Island has undergone massive and rapid social transformation post-EU integration. The Island's economy is now firmly technologically-driven, service-based and even more open to a thriving entrepreneurial spirit typical of the Maltese. Though lacking when compared to our EU counterparts, we emphasise on-going personal and academic development and the development of specialised expertise. Yet, conversely, poverty and the risk of poverty remain unchecked. Moreover, social bonds and community attachments are under continuous attack. Our institutions are struggling to remain that moral compass necessary for social integration and regulation. The risk, therefore, of anomie and total social chaos is thus increasingly in our midst. The key to thwart this eventuality is to revisit our commitment to the collective good, to lose some sight of our individual wants and needs and to re-affirm our belief in social solidarity. Lessons that still echo from Durkheim's foresighted sociology.



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# Massimo Borg

**MASTER IN COUNSELLING**

*“The privilege of working with people and supporting them through the challenges that they are faced with, is second to none, might I add, it is a honor to be close to people in these life moments.”*

# Elton Zammit

ADMINISTRATOR II

*“The beauty of nature lies in the detail...”*



# Digest

The Digest is a weekly calendar of events being organised by the Faculty, the Departments and its stakeholders. It is the main channel that informs all at the Faculty and its collaborators, namely, seminars, conferences, job opportunities and visits by international speakers. To be included in the mailing list please contact us on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)



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# Faculty for Social Wellbeing



[f /uom.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/uom.socialwellbeing)

[@FacultyforSW](https://twitter.com/FacultyforSW)

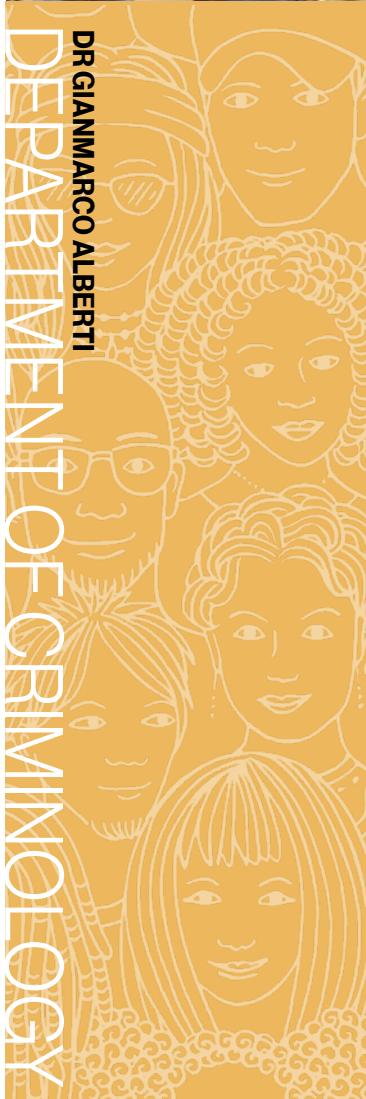
# SPATIAL Forensics

*I started working at the University of Malta as lecturer in spatial forensics (Department of Criminology) in September 2018. I must admit that pursuing research while starting a new job, in a new institution, in a new working environment, while preparing courses from scratch, has proved a stimulating and challenging endeavour, that has absorbed most of my time. I have one major on-going research at present.*

It consists of applying advanced quantitative probabilistic methods to help archaeologists better understand when an ancient community lived on the San Ippolito hill (central eastern Sicily, close to Caltagirone, in the province of Catania). Archaeology is the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of the material culture (ceramics, bones, tools, architecture, etc). People may be unaware that archaeological sites are like crime scenes frozen in time. The use of proper methods is essential when we want to

understand what happened in a site in terms of human behaviour. Much behavioural information can be drawn by carefully analysing the context, the objects people left behind, and the association between context and objects. Data don't speak for themselves; it is the analyst who has to have the proper expertise and skill(s) to make data disclose their secrets.

In this framework, I am collaborating with an Italian archaeologist, Prof. Davide Tanasi (University of South Florida), to study animal bone fragments retrieved in different layers on the San Ippolito hill. While the type of material culture tells us that the site has been used at some point during the Sicilian Middle Bronze Age (ca 1450-1250 BC), we do not know exactly when. The bone fragments have been radiocarbon dated and are going to be analysed within a statistical model that I have built to understand when and, more importantly, for how long people have been living in that site. It is for the first time that such analysis is performed on archaeological data from mainland Sicily. A manuscript is in advanced stage of preparation and is going to be submitted to one of the top-ranking peer-reviewed journals in this thematic area.



## WHO IS GIANMARCO?

*“ When I do not lecture, prepare lectures, or carry out research, my main hobby is playing the guitar. I play guitar, as self-taught guitarist, since I was a 1st-year university student, back in 1995. I love different music styles, encompassing classical music, blues, rock, hard-rock, and heavy metal. After a tough day, there is nothing more rewarding than improvising over a blues chord progression. I find playing guitar extremely relaxing as it allows me to take my mind off all the daily concerns and to drift in a sort of suspended ecstatic dimension. ”*

## OUR FACULTY

### The Faculty Biography on Video

Would you like to get to know the Faculty, where it started from, who came up with the name, what it represents, its strengths and its vision? For the first time, the Faculty's biography on video. For more information contact [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)

# An intersection between **DISABILITY & SEX**

*My research focuses on the intersection between disability and sex, with a particular reference to disabled women in Malta. It is frequently assumed that disabled people share the same opinions, experiences, and priorities, regardless of their sex, gender, age, cultural background, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion, and other categories of difference.*

Consequently, primacy is often given to the 'disability' status, without acknowledging that there are other intersecting elements within the individual. The kind of discrimination experienced by disabled women is masked by its two components, that of being a woman and that of being disabled and it continues to be largely unresearched across Europe, including Malta. Securing equal treatment and eradicating the oppression experienced by disabled women is not an easy task since underlying the discriminatory treatment of disabled women are negative attitudes and prejudices. Negative attitudes continue to be a significant barrier for disabled people in general but even more so for disabled women in particular. This is chiefly due to lack of awareness about disability and the experiences of disabled women amongst the general public and professionals alike.

In my research I am seeking to explore the social representations of disabled women in Malta. I am aiming to look at how being a woman and being disabled is perceived and experienced in the areas

of relationships, motherhood, education and employment. At a theoretical perspective I will mainly be drawing from two theories to explain this; social representations theory and intersectionality theory. Social representations enable members of a community to communicate with each other and provide them with codes to name and classify the various aspects of their world and group history. Through my research I am aiming to understand the codes that people in society use to understand disabled women. The approach of intersectionality theory posits that different minority statuses, which in this case are being female and being disabled, must be examined simultaneously in order to be able to reach an understanding of the 'whole' experience. This research will incorporate both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The findings of this research will eventually help to identify and propose suggestions for policy and practice to improve the wellbeing of disabled women in Malta and to increase their participation in decision-making processes.

## WHO IS AMY?

**“ If I am not working, you will find me spending time with my family, that is, my husband, our one year old son and our dog Harvey. We enjoy play time in the park and swimming in summer. My other past times are reading and travelling. ”**

## OUR FACULTY

### Professorial Lecture Series

The 'Professorial Lecture Series' is a forum that hosts a series of lectures delivered by the Professors within the Faculty. The objective of the Professorial Lecture Series (PLS) is for all the Professors to inform their colleagues, students and the general public about their current research. If interested in attending please contact us on [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)

# MINISTRY FOR THE FAMILY, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

Our aim is to offer a better living to every individual living in Malta. Rights, social awareness, social standards, better living conditions especially to the most vulnerable, are our priorities.

Financially, this is the biggest Ministry, and controls third of the country's overall budget.

The family and children are surely at the heart of this Ministry. We strengthened family quality time, while increasing children's allowance for the first time in 11 years.

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Giving people with disability the rights desrved, while enhancing their overall situation in life.





SUSTAINABLE  
GAMBLING  
CONFERENCE

2019  
October 8

# SAVE THE DATE

Sustainable Gambling Conference 2019,  
October 8 in Copenhagen

Kindred Group hosts the Sustainable Gambling Conference each year to bring together experts from various fields in the industry. The purpose of the conference is to openly share ideas and discuss important topics for a sustainable gambling industry.

This year the theme will be "Building relevance", focusing on how to improve the industry's perception and relevance towards customers and the wider community through sustainable partnerships, communications and marketing.

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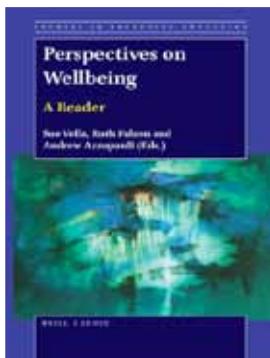
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**Date:** October 8  
**Venue:** Copenhagen, Denmark

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for more info in August.

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## Perspectives on Wellbeing - A Reader

Explores the multifaceted notion of wellbeing from different disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences, contributing to an understanding of human flourishing and of inclusive and empowering social relations. This text, the first of its kind was edited by Dr Sue Vella, Dr Ruth Falzon and Prof. Andrew Azzopardi with contributions from various academics in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

## M.Phil./Ph.D. Scholarships in Gambling and Social Wellbeing

**Two RSO/Ph.D. Scholarships were awarded to Clayton Axisa and Matthew Vassallo. Their research will contribute to knowledge in the area of gaming and social wellbeing studies. This scholarship is funded by Trannel International Limited and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing is a partner.**

## Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

**The Faculty for Social Wellbeing through the Department of Criminology in collaboration with RIDT awarded an M.Phil./Ph.D. scholarship to Ms Katya Warrington.**

## *The Development of the 'Suicide Research Group Malta'*

*Psychiatrists and psychologists work collaboratively in clinical practice, however this happens less within an academic context.*

*Furthermore, research is often carried out based on a faculty basis with little collaboration or sharing of information. In view of this disparity, Dr Kristina Bettencourt (HCPC Registered Clinical Psychologist) and Dr Rachel Taylor East (Consultant Psychiatrist) sought to bring together a group of like-minded, interested professionals together, and set up a formal research group.*

The Suicide Research Group Malta was formally set up in November 2017, and has gradually grown to include nine core members. The aim of the group is to generate studies about the nature and extent of suicide in Malta. The group has received formal endorsement from the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Medicine and Surgery with whom we are developing a National Suicide Prevention Strategy. Research projects that have already been completed include; 'The Aftermath of Suicide: A Family Perspective' Dr. Emma Micallef - Konewko & Dr Kristina Bettencourt, 'An Epidemiological Study of Completed Suicides in Malta over the past 24 years' by Ms Kelsey Renaud and 'Postvention and the Psychiatrists' Reaction to Patient Suicide' led by Dr. Rachel Taylor-East. Upcoming projects include 'Reporting Suicide in the media: a qualitative study to identify the opinions and experiences of the local media houses and journalists' by Dr. Daniela Zammit.

# Research, Publications & SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*The RPSC was set up shortly after the inception of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing in 2012. The main aim of having this Committee is for our Faculty to create an environment where the culture for research, publications and scholarship can thrive.*

The RPSC comprises representatives from the different departments within the Faculty. It is currently chaired by Dr Anne-Marie Callus, with Ms Lucienne Gellel as Secretary. Work towards achieving this aim is a three-pronged affair: showcasing and disseminating research; providing training in using particular social science research methods; and creating opportunities for intra-Faculty collaboration on research and publications. First off, there's the Brown Bag Seminars, in which Faculty members present research they recently carried out. Linked to this seminar series, there is the Campus FM radio programme *Connect*, which is anchored by Dr Albert Bell. Series 3 of this programme is currently being planned. Podcasts of the past 2 series can be downloaded from the Campus FM Radio website.

Then there's the work that the RPSC does in organising research methods training workshops that so far have included IPA, ethnography, analysing qualitative data, and supervising dissertations. Plans are underway to hold workshops related to carrying out quantitative research, among others. And lastly, the RPSC has also held Writing Workshops to create spaces where Faculty members can meet to discuss their writing, and is working on a couple of initiatives that will provide opportunities for the Faculty to collaborate on a research project together with civil society, and for academics carrying out research in topics related to social wellbeing to publish their research.

For more information contact us on [research.fsw@um.edu.mt](mailto:research.fsw@um.edu.mt)



Each one of our departments contributes towards the welfare of society, in its way, according to its expertise. The different fields of knowledge are multidisciplinary. They are animated by the same utilitarian spirit and led by the same values of solidarity, empathy, social justice, empowerment, inclusion, rehabilitation, prevention and positive intervention. Our departments feed from and nourish the same body of knowledge – that pertaining to living in modern society: the issues, the challenges, the aspirations and needs faced by people today. Their multidisciplinary nature, the spirit and values they share, makes it possible for all these departments, for their members (academics and otherwise) to work together, as a team, in harmony. We offer a wide range of diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate courses, several which lead to a profession. We also have a strong MPhil/PhD program. We organise regular seminars and conferences which serve as excellent opportunities for continuous professional development for practitioners in the social sector. Our members of staff are deeply committed to research and a number contribute to research projects at both a national and international level. Several are respected, widely published scholars in their field of specialisation. In addition, many of the members of staff engage with the community through their contribution to government boards and committees, to non-governmental organisations and professional associations.

## Our Faculty

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing was established by the University of Malta Council in July 2012. The setting up of our Faculty has brought together several UM entities which address different aspects of 'social wellbeing'.

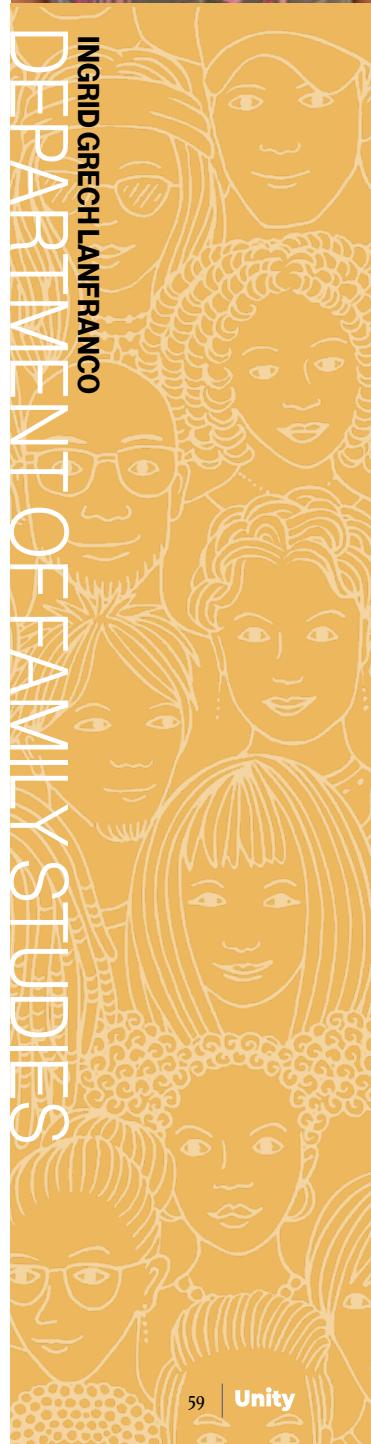
# Parents As Partners (PasP) Coparenting Programme

*The end of my Ph.D. research is within reach and notwithstanding being short of the final results and outcomes, one very clear message comes across. It's that of "supporting parents" - supporting parents from the point of transitioning into parenthood and beyond.*

My experience with parents of infants described as having a highly reactive temperament, who attended the 'Parents As Partners (PasP) Coparenting Programme' as the experimental group participants of my Randomised Controlled Trial, clearly highlighted how much they appreciated the opportunity to meet with other parents of similarly aged infants. We take it so much for granted that parenting is the normal thing that 'happens' quite automatically once a baby is born. However, nobody is truly fully equipped for this job. Not all infants are the same, some clearly proving to be more challenging and demanding than others, such as infants described as having highly reactive temperaments. Thus parents are impacted in different ways, not all cope in the same ways, and some may be struggling to find their feet. Extended family may not always understand the challenges that some parents endure, dismissing their struggles at times, which only adds to a feeling of isolation. Therefore, despite the different backgrounds of the participating parents, they spoke a common language when sharing their experiences as parents and couples. The fact that they listened to other parents, shared similar experiences, learned from those who had already parented another child or two, and that they did not feel judged as they shared how hard certain situations were or to the contrary how wonderful or humourous others could be, are just little examples of what supporting parents looked like during our weekly meetings on the PasP. Meeting other parents in the context of the parenting group, also gave the opportunity for the couples to continue to nurture their relationship as couples, not just as the parents they had become. Such nurturance can many a time be forgotten, sidelined, minimized and replaced as couples try hard to juggle family and work. What was magical to watch along the weeks on the PasP, was the way that the couples started to, or reinforced, the importance of nurturing their relationship as a couple, and how the positive changes and efforts they made, really did impact how they began to feel and cope as parents. Nurturing the couple relationship is not only good for the couple as a couple and as parents, but clearly benefits the child/ren's well-being.

## WHO IS INGRID?

**“ Not much free time at the moment with the Ph.D.. However, when the opportunity comes along, I like to be outdoors, ideally by the sea or surrounded by nature in the country side. ”**





# IS SPIRITUALITY INTEGRAL to professional helping?

*The historic tension between religion/spirituality (R/S) and professional helping has given way to an understanding of the importance of the spiritual dimension of helping. Studies have linked R/S to wellbeing such that R/S is now considered fundamental to providing holistic multicultural care. Understanding the perception and experience of Maltese practitioners (clinical and counseling psychologists, counselors and psychotherapists) of the spiritual dimension of psychotherapy was the aim of a qualitative study that I carried out.*

The findings suggest that spirituality is often considered an integral dimension of a person's identity and experience and as such needs to be acknowledged and addressed in psychotherapy. Both religion and spirituality were considered to be sources of strength and support, whether internal or social. However, the opposite is also true such that persons' spirituality/religion may underlie their psychological issues and may be part of the client's presenting problem either directly or indirectly. The participants claimed that R/S needs to be assessed and addressed. However, understanding R/S as a double-edged sword may also be true with regards to the therapist's experience of R/S with resultant implications for practice.

Apart from stressing the importance of spiritually-integrated psychotherapy as highlighted by other research, the participants believed spirituality to be part and parcel of psychotherapy since they considered that both spirituality and psychotherapy shared similar dimensions. For example, both may be processes of meaning-making, transformation and transcendence. Consequently, the participants claimed that not only should a practitioner address spirituality in psychotherapy but they considered psychotherapy to be imbued with spirituality. The therapeutic relationship and the therapist's way of being became central to such an understanding.

This and other studies therefore lead one to infer that spirituality needs to be part of different aspects of professional helping: practice, supervision, education and training.

## WHO IS CLAUDIA?

**“**What gives me joy is spending time with friends and family, having meaningful conversations and laughter. I love traveling, and walking in nature while observing its beauty and immensity. I relax by exercising and practicing yoga. I love dogs, particularly our dog, Benji. Most of all, I enjoy being helpful, learning and sharing in person's journeys. **”**

# Young people & the INTERNET

*I am presently researching social networking sites which allow anonymous communication. Sites, including anonymous sites have become places where young people socialize, chat, play, take risks and experiment. Platforms such as Ask.fm, Sarahah, Roastme and Whisper allow users to communicate without disclosing who they are.*

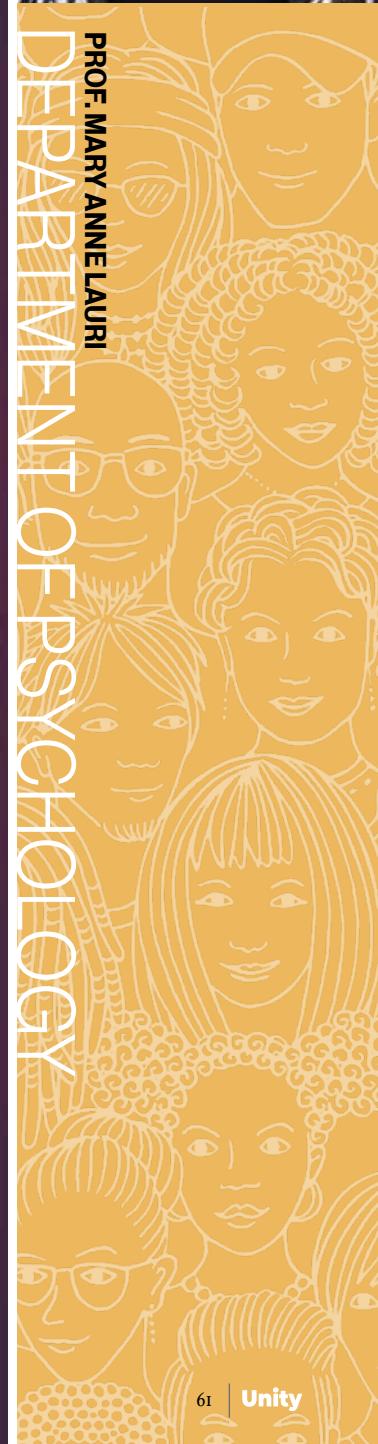
Various motivations have been identified as possible reasons for using this type of communication. Thrill seeking, whiling away time, and fear of missing (FOMO) out are three motivations for staying online for long periods. A substantial number of young people even wake up during the night to check their mobile phones. Young people want to be constantly in touch with their friends and want to know what others are doing.

Sometimes use of anonymous platforms could result in cyberbullying. Most adolescents are aware of the risks, but their need to experiment with different personas and find out what others think of them could be driving them to experiment with this behaviour nonetheless. In a context where one's identity can remain hidden, people, including young adolescents, experience greater feelings of disinhibition, which make them say or do things that they would otherwise not say or do face-to-face. Online activities are playing

an important role in identity exploration especially for young people. My research on children and the internet is carried out together with other researchers within the EU Kids Online research network. EU Kids Online is a multinational research network. It seeks to enhance knowledge of European children's online opportunities, risks and safety. It uses multiple methods to map children's and parents' experiences of the internet, in dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders. Other collaborative cross-national projects include studies on digital parenting, digital citizenship, safety helplines and cyberbullying. Findings are published in EU Kids Online short reports and disseminated within national, European and international research forums and among national, European and international stakeholders. For more information about this project you can visit the following website: in dialogue with <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/research/research-projects/eu-kids-online>

## WHO IS MARY ANNE?

*“ In another life I want to be a designer of spaces. I am so excited by an empty room. My imagination is fired. It is like a blank canvas on which I can create whatever inspires me. I have changed a lot in these last years from being an extravert to preferring my own company or of those few people who are very close to me. I still enjoy travel but I tire easily. Adjusting is the key to everything. ”*



# CARITAS MALTA

*Caritas Malta is celebrating its 50 year anniversary since its setting up. A Church entity that is also part of a wider international confederation of 165 countries spread around the world. While many think that Caritas is the Latin word for charity, Caritas is better translated as love in action.*

Its mission is to eradicate poverty, promote social justice and foster integral human development. In Malta, Caritas is a direct service provider, supports the social and charitable work at parish level and also advocates for persons who are at the margins of our society. Caritas has worked in the rehabilitation of persons with substance dependence for over 30 years. Today it operates specialised drug rehabilitation services for men, women and prison inmates and is currently developing specialised services for adolescents. Beyond drug rehabilitation services, Caritas also offers a wide range of counselling, social work and support group services for different vulnerable groups including

widowed, separated and persons with mental health difficulties. Persons who suffer from Epilepsy and Huntington's also find refuge in specific support groups. Caritas also hosts Alcoholics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous and their corresponding family groups, and Emotions Anonymous. It is also involved with the Foundation for Usury and runs prevention programmes at the workplace and in schools. Caritas has partnered with the Alfred Mizzi Foundation and the government in the establishment of Fondazzjoni Dar il-Hena that runs two emergency homeless shelters for men and women and a longer term shelter.

## WHO IS ANTHONY?

*“ I live my life in two families. My own family and the Caritas family. When not at Caritas I spend most of my time with my wife and 5 kids or I'd better say with my kids and my wife, as kids demand quite some attention. Four girls and a boy between the ages of 3.5 and 15. My youngest's favourite game is 'igri warajha' (run after me) and my oldest's favourite quality time with dad is going to a cafe and having what she calls 'a life update'. Before I was appointed director last August 2018, as a family we had decided to adopt a dog and we did not change any plans with the new role. Lilly, a medium sized Sicilian stray, joined us to become one of us. She also likes the game 'igri warajha'! ”*

## Cottonera Resource Center

**At the University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre we have been very busy all summer with 30 boys and girls aged 8 to 12. At the Xjenza Mania summer school we had loads of fun exploring scientific aspects of Astronomy, Personal Care, Cooking, Art, First Aid, Robotics, Biology, Environmental Science, Physical Education, Music and Dance. In October, the centre opens applications for revision classes for those students who are going to sit for their MATSEC examinations. The subjects on offer will be English, Maths, Maltese, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Home Economics and Design and Technology. From this year we are also able to support students following Beauty Therapy Courses.**

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# CAUTION



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AUDREY FRIGGIERI  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND  
COMMUNITY STUDIES

# Researching Lived Experience of Struggle

*My Masters research (M.Ed., 2005) dealt with the difficult experiences of women who, later in life, as working mothers, furthered their studies part time at the University of Malta. As I work on my Ph.D. research today, I wonder whether the struggle to further one's education still persists for such women.*

The theme of struggling against the odds underpins both my research endeavours. The young people described as NEETs who are the focus of my Ph.D. research also seek to re-define themselves after injustice caused by dominant discourses in society. Young school dropouts are punished by society, and are labelled as 'failures' by the same school system that did not cater for their needs. Semi-structured interviews conducted with eleven mothers studying part time at the University of Malta have revealed women struggling against being judged by society for 'daring' to be different; their quest for living authentically is labelled 'individualistic' and inappropriate, unnatural even for 'good' mothers. Very

often these same women are discriminated against when they transition from activity in public life to confinement; suddenly, active and successful women find themselves living a lonely, weary life, trying to find balance and meaning away from all they know. This narrative focuses explicitly on changes in the self and identity as the catalyst for returning to education and strongly expresses agency. The theme of self-transformation is linked to the notion of unfulfilled potential because, knowing they can do better, these women strive to transform their life through education. Very often, the women in the research disassociated themselves from dominant stereotypes because they found that in order to fit in they were devaluing and repressing parts of themselves. Just like many of the young people in my Ph.D. research, these women encountered inflexible structures and bullying, both from certain lecturers and other students, which made the studying experience difficult. Both research endeavours would seem to confirm that resilience and a strong will to prevail lie at the heart of personal success.

References

Women re-defining themselves. Masters Thesis, Faculty of Education. University of Malta, 2005.  
Counter-School Youth Subculture in Malta. PhD Research in Progress, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta.

## WHO IS AUDREY?

*"I live with a wizard and a witch posing as spoilt Selkirk Rex cats. Their presence in my home lends life a dash of magic, mischief and playfulness that takes away a great deal of the stress caused by life out there. I love taking care of them as well as of the little garden at the back of the house. It is here that I spend many Summer mornings reading and writing. I also enjoy playing tennis, running, rowing and swimming. "*

# The Allergy Clinic

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- Upset tummy?
- Abdominal cramps?
- Need to go to the toilet immediately after eating?
- Suffering from IBS?

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## Persistent Itching?

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- Are you embarrassed in front of people, friends & colleagues?
- Do you get rashes you cannot explain?



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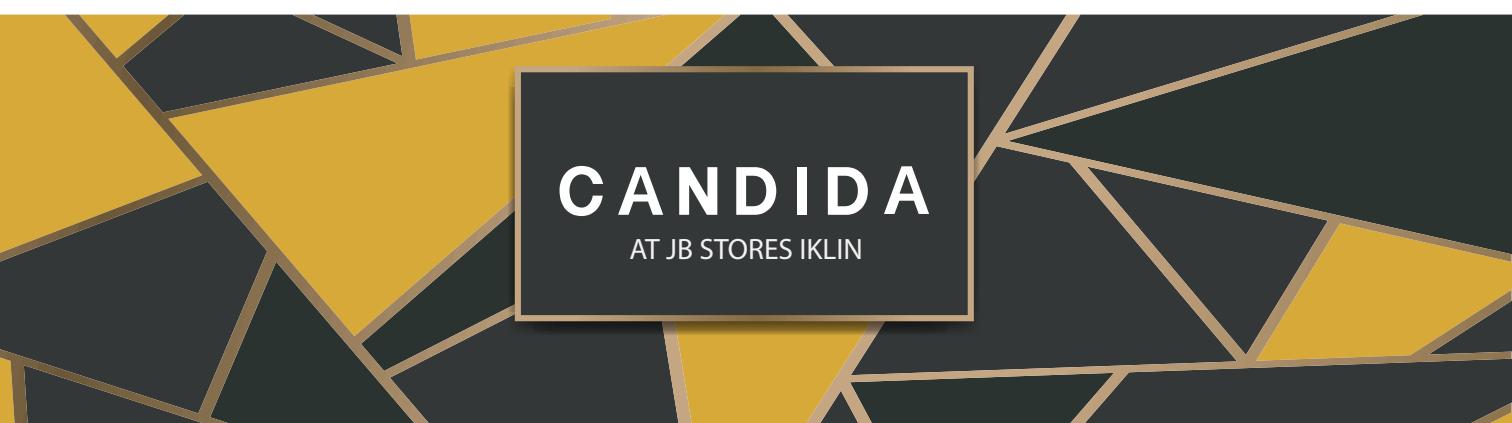


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# Strana Lucy Risiott

B.PSY.(HONS) GRADUATE

*“My experience reading for the B.Psy.(Hons) course taught me the importance of maintaining one’s mental and social wellbeing. It also enabled me to develop the necessary skills that allow me to connect and understand people at a deeper and more intimate level.”*



## Janushka Mifsud

B.A. (HONS) IN CRIMINOLOGY

*“Being the President of CSA is not only a big responsibility but also a privilege. It is a big responsibility because I need to lead by example and a privilege because being part of this Department and Faculty is a dream come through.”*



# Research on INTERGROUP RELATIONS

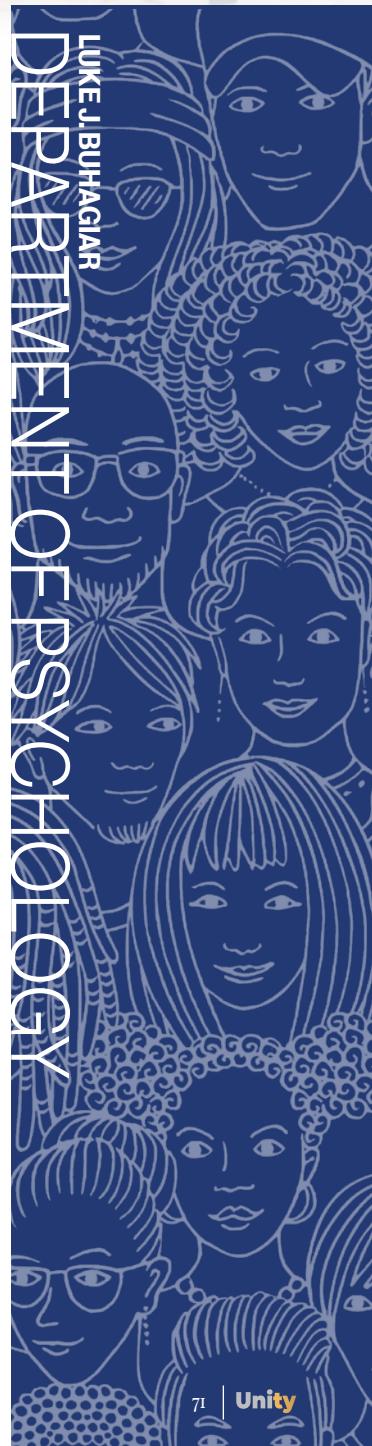
*I am currently a doctoral candidate at the Department of Psychology of the University of Malta. My research looks at intergroup relations, focusing specifically on intercultural scenarios. I adopt a social representations approach in order to study how Maltese and Arab people living in Malta argue about and represent integration.*

This research is intended to shed light on how different social representations and argumentation strategies help or hinder the achievement of integration in everyday life. Social representations refer to ideas and beliefs that are local and are not necessarily found in other societies. For instance, the way Arab immigrants are represented in Malta differs from the way people think of Arabs in other parts of Europe, due to historical, socio-political and other reasons. By representing different groups in specific ways, local communities not only make sense of their past but also develop possibilities for present and future collaborations. Using this framework, I analysed research interviews aimed at understanding how Maltese participants, of various backgrounds, view integration, how they justify their point of view, and what examples and exceptions they note as good and

bad examples of integration. Similarly, I am currently conducting interviews with Arab participants, of various backgrounds and nationalities, in order to understand their viewpoints and justifications, and the examples and exceptions they present in order to support or qualify their own perspectives. A focus on argumentation during interviews is meant to advance our understanding of people's own personal experiences and justifications. Apart from the theoretical import of this work in terms of a further rapprochement between social representations research and intergroup relations research, it is hoped that this study sheds light on whether a potential spiral of conflict can emerge between different groups in the local context. This can improve our understanding of intergroup relations and conflict de-escalation.

## WHO IS LUKE?

*“ I enjoy spending time and sharing my life with my significant other and very close circle of friends and family members. My calling in life revolves around my creative projects, both scholarly and beyond. In order to approach these with renewed vigour, I go on hikes and swims all year round. ”*



# Claudia Mizzi

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

*“The passion I have for my studies, I hope, will drive me to influence change.”*

DUNCAN MUSCAT  
MA YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

# Erasmus



ERASMUS was a well-travelled philosopher who believed that improved knowledge could only be achieved through first-hand contact with realities far away from one's own comfort zone. The Erasmus Plus programme reflects this vision, in that it provides support to young people wishing to better their development through experiences abroad. Hundreds of Erasmus-funded programmes are available to young people who wish to enrich their portfolio, in search of self-development and to improve their employability. Local organisation TDM 2000 Malta has facilitated the travel of many young people on Erasmus Plus programmes. Whereas an appreciable number embark on

these programmes to improve the skills linked to the career they are pursuing, others participate in non-formal learning programs in order to detach themselves from their area of study or line of work and explore new avenues. TDM 2000 Malta has also hosted programmes locally and members were able to present their work and vision on numerous issues related to their careers, studies, local youth activity, and youth participation in general. The main aim of TDM 2000 is to increase youth participation in society on a local and international level, and hence it is proud to promote Erasmus opportunities related to employability, youth development, intercultural cooperation and volunteering.



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# Joseph Sammut

B.A. (HONS) IN SOCIAL WELLBEING STUDIES

*"This is not only about saving lives; it's about being empathic and kind towards people who are suffering."*

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PhD

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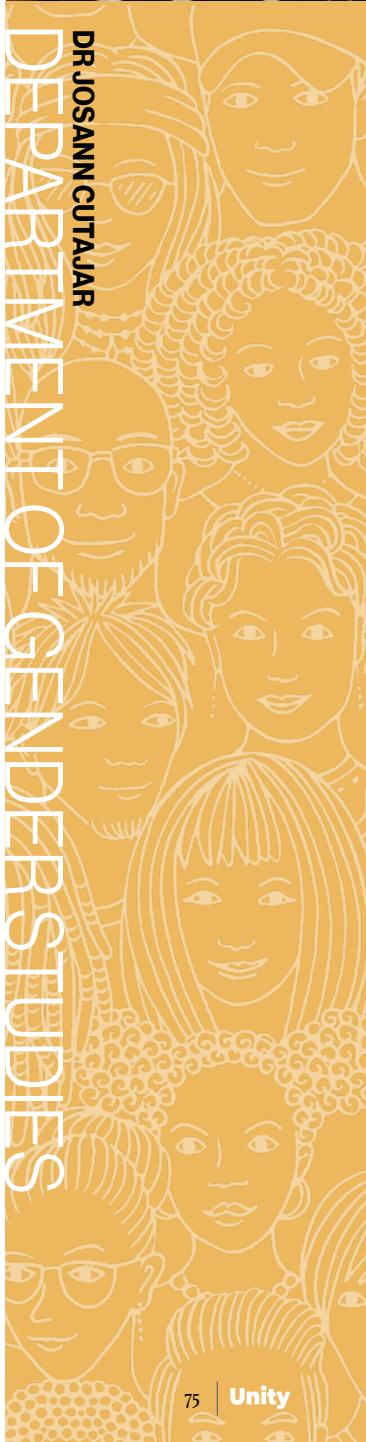
# Gender audit OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN MALTA

*The dearth of women in Maltese politics has been an issue which has been banded around but next to little achieved in Malta.*

*The Gender Balance in Parliament Reform has underlined that something must be done to ensure equal representation at parliamentary level.*

The Technical Committee behind this reform felt that the introduction of reserved seats for women, gender mainstreaming of parliament, public funding of political parties to enable them to field more female candidates and an extension of the Electoral Commission's remit would help to solve this issue. Political parties are however the main gate keepers where candidate selection, nomination and endorsement are concerned. Political parties choose the candidates, using criteria based on past candidates' success. This does not mean that these criteria are relevant today when diversity and inclusion are bandied around but not always seriously addressed at party or national level. The varied groups in society want candidates to represent their interests at party and parliamentary level. When these are not addressed, this might lead to dissatisfaction with and alienation from democratic institutions (Anderson & Guillory, 1997). The Gender Studies Department is working on a gender audit of political parties in Malta. This research is partly funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020. The objective of this gender audit is to find out whether political parties have a gender balance in representation and to assess how gender sensitive their measures, policies and structures are.

This exercise is important because gender-sensitive political parties are more likely to implement gender sensitive measures in the pre-electoral and electoral phases, but more importantly in the post-electoral period when they might be in a position to assure gender responsive governance in government if they are represented in parliament. Individual parties differ greatly on the kind of gender sensitive approaches they adopt, but what is evident in Malta is the fact that when one party introduces a gender sensitive measure or policy, the others are sure to follow suit (Cutajar, 2011).





## OUR ACADEMICS



# The role of academics as activists & how I do it

*I define activism as any effort to change policies at the community, organisational or legislative level with the aim of helping relatively powerless groups achieve political or social change. When thinking about activism, the first thing that captures the public imagination is the more visual act of public demonstrations and protest but the role of activists can vary from working in campaigns to networking, conducting research and drafting policy proposals.*

A student in a class I was teaching last year expressed that activism is futile. She argued that activists are a bunch of 'idealists' who are wasting their time trying to change a system that is too powerful. While it is true that oftentimes the rules and resources favour oppressive systems, if one considers the history of social movements and civil liberties, it is very clear that no change would have been possible had it not been for the actions of activists: women's rights, the end of race segregation, LGBT rights and environmental protection to name a few.

As an academic in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, I consider my involvement in civil society as part of my commitment to what has been termed in the literature as 'the third mission'. This 'third mission' is a concept that encompasses the relationship between academia and society beyond the first (teaching) and second (research) mission (Gorason, Maharajh, & Schmoh, 2009). In fact, my involvement in activism reflects my academic interests, in the sense that I am active in the areas that I am academically interested in. I believe that as academics, there is a lot we can contribute in terms of bringing our various areas of expertise to civil society and in turn use these experiences in community engagement to enhance our own teaching and research.

### WHO IS ANDREANA?

*“ I am definitely a summer person. While others complain about the heat, I just thrive and feel energized during the summer months. Last year, I bought a paddle board and now there is nothing that gives me more joy than being on the water gliding along the beautiful shoreline, exploring caves and hidden coves, stopping to snorkel or swim along the way. Once the sun sets, my hammock in the backyard, strategically located under a colourful bougainvillea, becomes my favourite place on earth... I usually stay up late into the night with a good book especially when there is a refreshing breeze. ”*

# *Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations*



Jerome was given the gift of life and after twenty years he had to give it back. He lived life to the full even during his last 4 years when he was suffering from one of the worst cancers, Ewings Sarcoma!

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  
• "Kynos", 43, Triq Ir-Rand, Attard ATD1300  
IBAN: MT30 VALL 2201 3000 0000 4002 5276 992  
Foundation's Registration Number: LPF-273

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# Our Faculty

## Our Courses

### COMMON DEGREE

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Wellbeing Studies  
(*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Wellbeing Studies  
(*Part-Time Top-Up Degree*)

### DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

Diploma in Policing (*Full-Time*)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology  
(*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology (*Part-Time - Gozo*)  
Preparatory Programme in Master of Arts in Criminology  
(*Full-Time*)

Master in Probation Services (*Full-Time*)

Master of Arts in Criminology (*Preparatory Programme - Full-Time*)

Master of Arts in Criminology (*Part-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING

Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling (*Full-Time*)

Master in Counselling (*Part-Time*)

Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling Supervision (*Part-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY STUDIES

Certificate in Community Access for Disabled People (*Part-Time*)

Diploma in Community Access for Disabled People (*Part-Time*)

Higher Diploma in Community Access for Disabled People  
(*Part-Time*)

Master of Arts in Disability Studies (*Part-Time*)

Master of Arts in Disability Studies (*Preparatory Programme - Malta & Gozo - Part-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY STUDIES

Master in Contemporary Family Studies (*Part-Time*)

Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (*Part-Time*)

Master in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice  
(*Top-Up Degree - Part-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF GENDER

Master of Gender, Society and Culture (*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Master of Gender Studies (*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY AND DEMENTIA STUDIES

Higher Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics (*Full-Time*)

Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics (*Full-Time*)

Master of Arts in Ageing and Dementia Studies (*Part-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (*Full-Time*)

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (*Part-Time - Gozo*)

Higher Diploma in Psychology (*Full-Time/Part-Time*)

Master of Science in Psychological Studies (*Part-Time*)

Master of Psychology in Neuropsychology/Clinical/Counselling/  
Educational/Forensic/Health Psychology (*Full-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL POLICY

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Policy (*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work (*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Master of Arts in Social Work (*Preparatory Programme - Full-Time*)

Master of Arts in Social Policy (*Part-Time*)

Master of Social Work (*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

### DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Youth and Community Studies  
(*Part-Time/Full-Time*)

Master in Youth and Community Studies (*Part-Time*)

Master of Arts in Youth Justice (*Part-Time*)

Master of Arts in Community Action and Development (*Part-Time*)

### INTER-FACULTY COURSES

Master of Science in Addiction Studies (*Part-Time*)

Master of Science in Mental Health Studies (*Part-Time*)

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# ENGAGED in the community

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH NETWORKING

'Empowering Communities through Networking: A participatory action research approach' is a pilot project carried out in collaboration with the Msida Local Council. Data collection through interviews and focus groups with community leaders helped the research team to identify the specific resources and needs that exist in the community, with the aim of building networks that facilitate collaboration within and between communities. The pilot project was also intended to serve as a framework for future similar projects in other communities across Malta and Gozo, so that existing resources can be utilised to their full potential.

## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE GUIDELINES

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing launched an initiative to create Inclusive Language Guidelines for students and staff, which were presented at an open event in March 2019. These Guidelines aim to respect diversity by promoting the acceptance and value of individuals deriving from different backgrounds or with different physical forms. Inclusive language is about communicating in a way that respects a person's dignity, in a manner which empowers people who are perceived as subordinate and/or are considered as minorities by the rest of society. Following an open consultation period, the Faculty is in the process of implementing the final guidelines across the University of Malta.

## FACULTY GENDER AUDIT

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing conducted a Gender Audit in 2018, in collaboration with the Department of Gender Studies. The audit investigated perceptions and experiences of staff members within the Faculty, with regards to equal opportunities for career progression at the University of Malta. Secondary data analysis also examined the related policies and practices in the Faculty and University as a whole. The findings of this audit are intended to be carried forward to further research into gender equality at the University of Malta, with the goal of ensuring equal opportunities for all those working at the University.



### WHO IS JAMIE?

*“In my spare time, I enjoy catching up with family and friends, whilst also trying to schedule some time for myself. To me, a perfect Sunday afternoon involves a long walk by the beautiful Mediterranean Sea, followed by reading a good book or watching a thought-provoking documentary, and topped off with preparing a delicious home-cooked dinner.”*





## Towards better quality of life

*SOS Malta aims at aiding people experiencing times of crisis, empowering them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country to ensure a better quality of life.*

It encourages advocacy on behalf of social causes, as well as promotes models of good care and practice. In all its operations in Malta and overseas, SOS Malta also promotes volunteerism for effective sustainable development. The organization is a source of knowledge and advice about the role and contribution of volunteerism and the benefits of civic engagement.

SOS Malta's four main pillars of activities:

- Development
- Social Solidarity
- Research and Training
- Volunteering

SOS Malta believes that volunteering is a key expression of active citizenship and that active citizens who put Maltese values of solidarity into practice day after day should be supported. VolServ volunteers are engaged at Mater Dei without motivation for financial gain but for the benefit of the patients and their families. They truly are an expression of solidarity building the Maltese identity of sound values selflessly giving back to the community with commitment, time and personal strengths. VolServ is a tool of empowerment by providing a platform for getting people back into education or employment and in general, tapping into people's potential. Volunteering activities are part of informal and non-formal learning for people at all ages and at all stages of their lives. It contributes to personal development and to learning skills and competencies, enlarging social contacts and building self esteem. People choose to volunteer for various reasons, but most do so simply because they personally want to make a difference and contribute to a common good. Whatever their motivation, the benefits of their actions to all society are enormous. How can we tap further into the resources of our society to reap the benefits of volunteering? We need to recognise the contribution that volunteering makes to the social and health care sector and raise more awareness that volunteering reduces social and health inequalities. It is by offering this recognition that we will be able to increase the number of people who engage in voluntary activities.

### WHO IS CLAUDIA?

*“ I can now happily say that I am a healthy active aging elderly woman still learning something new every day! My days are not only sitting at my desk as the CEO of SOS Malta but are full of fun and laughter engaging in anything that brings fulfillment in all that I value. My greatest passion is travelling across the globe and immersing myself into all the rich different cultures which have helped form me into the person I am today! ”*



# Erica Micallef Filletti

**B.A. (HONS) IN CRIMINOLOGY**

*“Being in CSA is a way for me to be able to provide a service to my student colleagues and be a voice for them in the Department, the Faculty and at University. Criminology is an intriguing area of interest for me and I cannot wait to strengthen my knowledge in this field of study”.*



# Political interest, recognition and acceptance of voting responsibility

*In March 2018, the Maltese Parliament effectuated a constitutional amendment by which voting rights were conceded to circa 8,000 younger citizens aged sixteen and seventeen. This amendment was preceded by intense public and stakeholder consultations, with hopes of them reaching unanimous conclusions on the integrity of such decision.*

Nonetheless, despite pertinent stakeholders' concordance and commitment to improving the democratic potential of young people, efforts generally proved to be unavailing for citizens. Perhaps the latter's most evident sentiment was apprehension over the propriety of this decision, which primarily emanated from the prevalent portrayal of youth as politically apathetic citizens with no appreciation for the responsibility implicit in voting. Such scepticism served to inspire the subject matter of my study, which is entitled "Political Interest, Recognition and Acceptance of Voting Responsibility, and Electoral Participation: Young People's Perspective". As can be discerned from the title, it was my intent to determine the validity of the public's concerns through the decipherment of young people's capacities of three determining precursors of voting and their intended exercise of their newly-acquired rights. The research's objectives were accomplished through a cross-sectional research design comprising a quantitative methodology and the involvement of 143 of the newest members of

the electorate. Results revealed that participants predominantly maintained moderate levels of political interest and high levels of recognition and acceptance of voting responsibility. Moreover, the greater number of participants expressed intentions to vote in upcoming general and European Parliamentary elections. Such outcomes serve to bolster the integrity of parliament's decision to extend the franchise to younger citizens, and simultaneously undermine the legitimacy of selective opposing arguments. It also reassures sceptics that their fears may be unfounded. This study may further serve to inform relevant stakeholders in their policies and initiatives to enhance young people's engagement with politics.

## WHO IS MARIA?

*“ Excepting my academic pursuits, I am a person who enjoys a solid blend of solitary and social activities. I seek the comforting solitude of a good book in equal measure to opportunities to socialise and meet new people. The fantasy world found in books and comics personally serves as the perfect antidote to the volatile surrounding social environment in which I am determined to work. Nonetheless, my ultimate pastime, which faithfully trumps all others, is travelling. This is owing to my belief that no book or movie can ever truly capture the essence of other cultures. I have so far only had the opportunity to be marvelled by a modest number of European cultures, but look forward to expanding my horizons in the future. ”*



## Clare Agius

*"This Faculty ensures that the students reading our courses will become an important pillar in our social fabric. These are the professionals that our society needs so much. The way these students develop their critical thinking, by reflecting on their studies, but also on what is happening around them will guarantee that we will have professionals of the highest quality who will be supportive for all the citizens in society."*



## Fourth European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ECQI)

The University of Malta (UM) through the close collaboration of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing is pleased to announce the fourth European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ECQI).

We extend a very warm welcome to qualitative researchers from all nations and disciplines. The theme for this year's conference is Qualitative Inquiry towards Sustainability. Inspired by conference participants' voices and reflecting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, this conference is an opportunity to demonstrate how QI can address global challenges of the human experience - poverty, climate, injustice, degradation, environment, peace and justice. QI conferences are unique as they include research that engages with all aspects of the human experience. This is a unique cross-disciplinary event for sharing knowledge and seeking new collaboration and partnerships. It provides opportunities for addressing the common challenges that qualitative researchers face in their own geographical regions or research disciplines.



## Support Staff



Mr Joseph Debattista | Ms Maryanne Zerafa | Ms Tania Ciantar

# Towards better quality OF LIFE

*St Jeanne Antide Foundation (SJAF) is a registered NGO whose workers work in partnership systematically in teams for the support and self-empowerment of socially excluded persons, families and minority groups.*

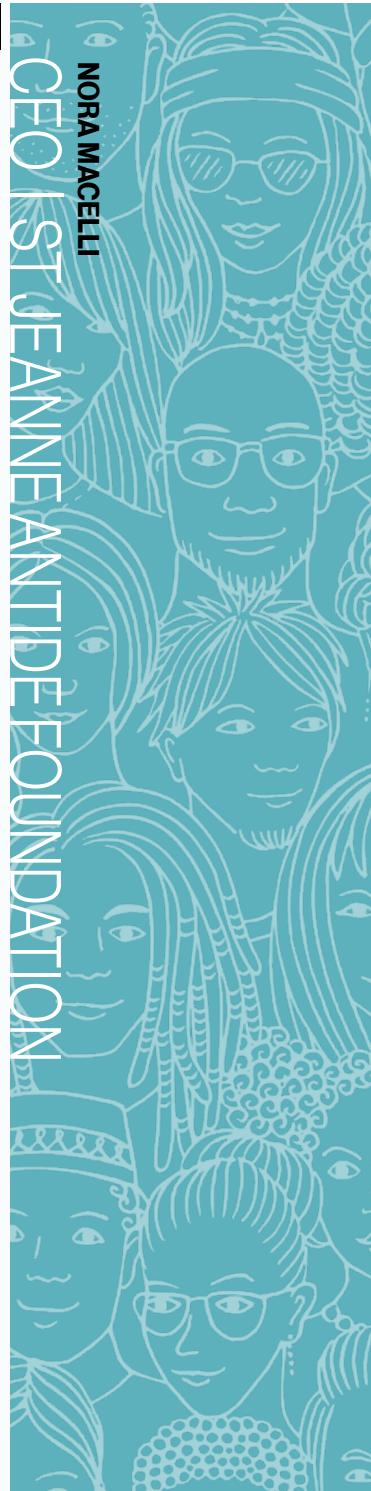
The mission of the Foundation is to be present for individuals and families who need someone who can understand them with compassion, link or guide them to appropriate existing support services, support them holistically in the restoration of their dignity, and guide them towards self-reliance, resilience and fulfilment of their potential. SJAF runs two community-based family services centres that operate as hubs from which families can access social work support, non-formal family learning opportunities, support groups, befriending and mentoring by volunteers, provision of food, clothing

and home needs, basic home repair and maintenance, and creative self-expression activities. SJAF also manages two supported accommodation houses for homeless women lacking family support and their children, offers a unique service in support of overburdened primary caregivers of mentally ill persons, and runs an emotional freedom service for persons wanting to be free from their anger, fear or emotional distress. Another core service is SOAR – a survivor-led service offering support, advocacy, accompaniment, training, mentoring and more recently, participation in the setting up of a social enterprise.

## WHO IS NORA?

*“ I am a voracious reader and love writing short stories. My favourite one is Il-Proġġett ta’ Darren about a teenager who does not believe that people can be happy. I’d love to develop it into a Manga for teens and young adults. Writing is a powerful tool in running an NGO, especially so in the daily treadmill of grant proposal writing. Readers of Unity should try it. No one will take their job and salary source for granted after that! I find NGO work to be superbly creative, never boring, full of daily providential surprises. As a team, we have really become inventive in responding to the needs of service-using families in distress. ”*

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 Facebook: Fondazzjoni St Jeanne Antide  
 Instagram: Soarsurvivorshub



## OUR FACULTY

### Il-Gerha tas-Solitudni



#### Il-mixja lejn soluzzjoni awarded by the IGM

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing has been presented an award by the IGM for the documentary 'Il-gerha tas-solitudni: Il-mixja lejn soluzzjoni' for the 'broadcast human stories category'. The production team also included Dr Andreana Dibben, Ms Lara Ellul, Mr Keith Demicoli, Corporate ID Group, Caritas Malta, Media Factory, and a number of academics, practitioners and people affected by this situation.

The Social Care Standards Authority is the regulatory body overseeing the social welfare sector in Malta and Gozo.

SCSA aims to improve quality and standards in social welfare services to protect and enhance the dignity, safety and welfare of all service users.

### Get licensed!

If you are a government entity, NGO or private entity operating in the social welfare sector, you require an SCSA license in order to operate in Malta and Gozo.

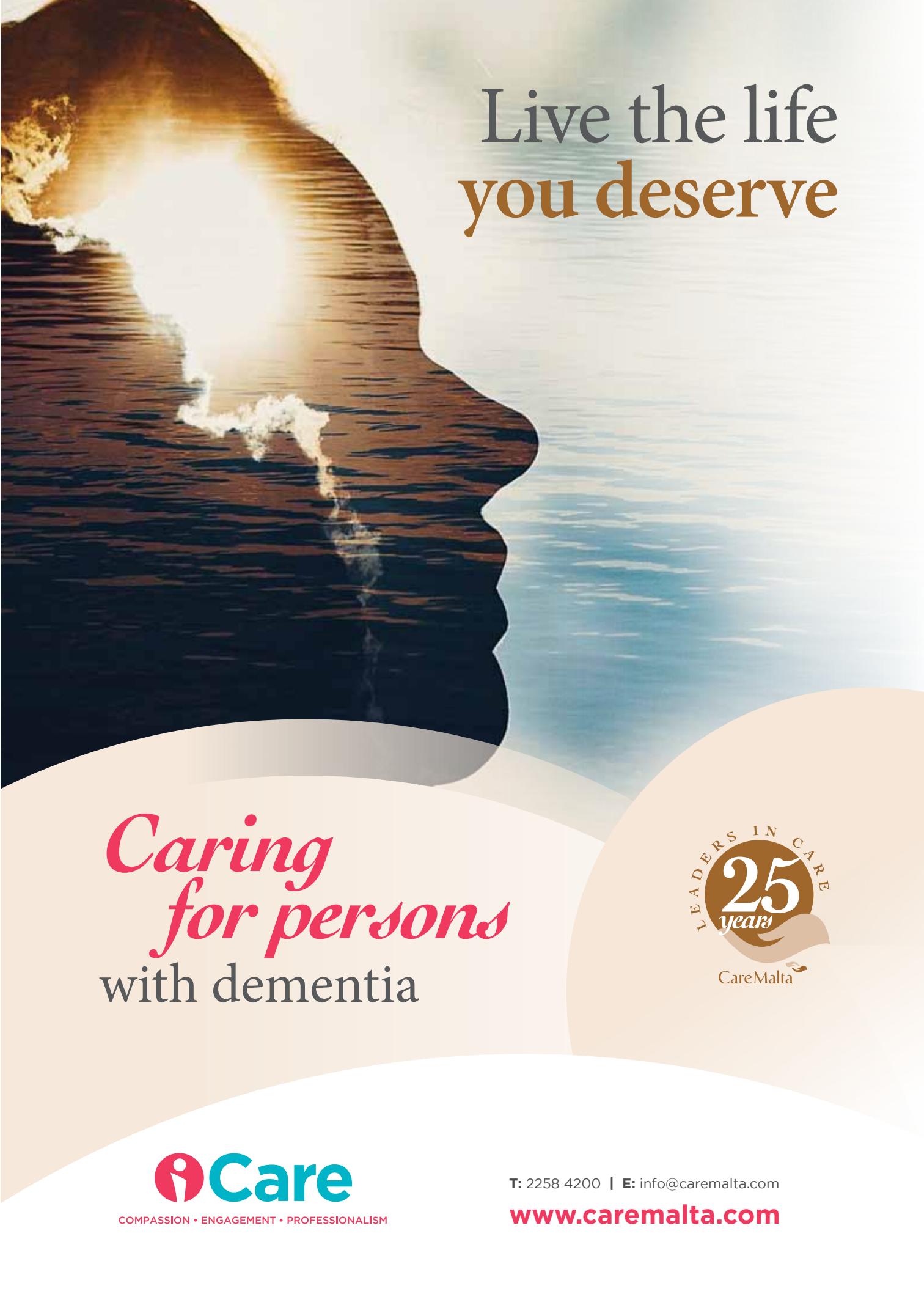
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