



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

unity⁴

2020



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CHARLENE FABRI

Editor

Share the journey with us

This year I was entrusted by the Faculty to be the Editor of the fourth edition of our annual Faculty magazine, *Unity*. These last weeks have been particularly difficult for all of us, administrators, academics, RSOs, doctoral candidates and students to keep going amidst the Covid-19 crisis.

Covid-19 has placed additional pressure on all at our Faculty but we have managed to keep going notwithstanding the challenges. We hope this magazine, once again, provides you with a glimpse of who we are, what we are working on and what our vision is. If anything, this Faculty is keen on being another voice in the social field making sure that we stand up to all that is wrong but also provide tangible solutions. You are invited to share this journey with us!

Come in contact with us on socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

Charlene

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean
Ms Dorianne Cortis, Administrator Faculty Main Office
Ms Alison Darmanin, Faculty Manager
Mr Elton Zammit, Administrator Faculty Main Office
Mr Matthew Borg, Bold Identities
Mr Jesmond Saliba, Corporate Identities



The QR code is another innovation for our Faculty magazine. By accessing the QR code you now have access not just to UNITY 4 but to all the previous editions and other on-line material produced by our Faculty.

Contributors

PHOTOGRAPHER Renè Rossignaud

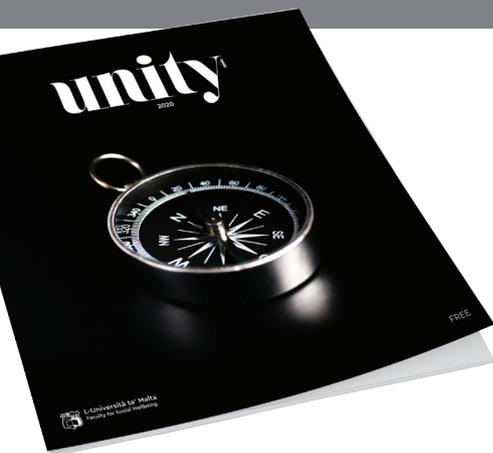
DESIGN Matthew Borg – Bold Identities

FRONT COVER DESIGN Matthew Borg – Bold Identities

COMIC ILLUSTRATIONS Ġorġ Mallia

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CONCEPT Faculty for Social Wellbeing



Cover photo: As members of the Faculty; students, academics, administrators, M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates and RSOs we are travellers in search of 'truths'. To navigate through the challenges our communities are facing, we are guided by an ethos endowed with the values of honesty, respect, democracy, solidarity and sustainability.

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

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NUMBER OF
GRADUANDS
2016/17-2019/20

1281

FACULTY
M.PHIL./PH.D.
SCHOLARSHIPS

6

M.PHIL./PH.D.
CANDIDATES

50

CURRENT
STUDENT
POPULATION

1207

NUMBER OF
FRESHERS
2016/17-2019/20

1868

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NUMBER OF PRESS
RELEASES DURING
ACADEMIC YEAR
2016/17 - 2019/20

20

COURSES
PER ACADEMIC
YEAR

35

NUMBER
OF RSOs

9

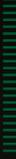
NUMBER
OF VIDEO
PRODUCTIONS

30

NUMBER OF
DIGEST WEEKLY
MAGAZINE

178

Most of these statistics are estimates.



PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI

Dean

We are all travellers



Welcome to the fourth edition of our Faculty magazine, *Unity*! My utmost respect towards this Faculty that keeps growing because it isn't afraid to push the envelope in its quest to give a much-needed voice to all. The fractures in our communities are there to be healed and we want to remain a loop in this quest.

In fact, getting our message through loud and clear is a priority for us as a Faculty, and this is one of the key objectives of this magazine. If we are to succeed, this Faculty needs to remain focused on doing what is right driven by the principles of fairness, forgiveness, empathy, social justice, diversity and inclusion. I am thankful that the talent, passion and quality we have in this Faculty is second to none. Add to the ingredients 'commitment to the cause' and we have a perfect recipe.

The support of my Deputy Dean, Heads of Department, Faculty Manager, academic colleagues, RSOs, students, Ph.D. candidates and administrative co-workers is overwhelming. We need to keep going. There is still a great deal to accomplish, but we can manage if we remain guided by the fundamental principle of 'social justice'.



The year of the COVID-19

The year 2020 will be remembered as “The year of the COVID-19 pandemic”. *Unity* is in its fourth issue and, in the present trying circumstances, is more relevant than ever. The pandemic hit universities hard and forced them to close their door to students.

That notwithstanding, it wasn't a shut-down for our University: instead, within days of asking students to stay away from Campus, teaching resumed via digital means. Even though online platforms are excellent vehicles for communication, there is clearly a need for enhanced lines of information both for students and society in general. *Unity* serves one such useful purpose.

In this calamitous year, when the more vulnerable individuals will bear the brunt of a stressed economy, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing shall continue to provide demanding bachelor and master programmes preparing students for socially critical professions. The Faculty shall also pursue research questions the answers to which will benefit individuals in need and society at large. This publication will continue to serve to publicise and highlight these activities.

A portrait of Prof. Tanya Sammut Bonnici, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a patterned top and a pearl necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green and yellow foliage.

PROF. TANYA SAMMUT BONNICI

Pro-Rector for Strategic Planning and Enterprise and Joint Editor of the Wiley Encyclopedia of Strategic Management.

A Faculty with a social vocation

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has grown in leaps and bounds in just a few years, ranking fourth out of fourteen faculties in terms of full-time equivalent students. It offers various courses representing diverse areas of significant social impact.

It is a privilege for the University of Malta to be able to serve in a societal context and to stimulate public responsibility to actively identify opportunities for strengthening, developing and synergising the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, disability and other spheres of diversity. In the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the University has declared its commitment to creating a participative society where intellectuals maintain a significant role in the country's social, economic and cultural life.

DR CLAIRE AZZOPARDI LANE
Deputy Dean (Incoming)

Not in ivory towers

Sharing the educational journey with our students is a source of great personal satisfaction. By educating our students in areas that will allow them to contribute to the wellbeing of the community, I consider this Faculty to be one of the pillars of our society. The Faculty's commitment to this wellbeing, both through its mediums of outreach and its community engagement channels, demonstrate that academics in our Faculty are far from sitting in ivory towers but are sensitive to, and fully-aware of today's requirements for a truly better society.



unity

DR GRETA DARMANIN KISSAUN
Deputy Dean (Outgoing)

Not only trials and tribulations

My journey as Head of Department and Deputy Dean, like the one commonly portrayed in the classical narratives, did indeed involve a series of trials and tribulations. However true to the epic tale, I also encountered several mentors and supportive others along the way, and the rollercoaster of experiences was both humbling and transformative. As I face the last stage in this journey, I acknowledge how privileged I was to have been part of the leadership of a Faculty which plays such a fundamental role in the social field. My sincere gratitude goes to my 'fellow travellers' for their unwavering trust and support.





DR KURT BORG

Former Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and has a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

Mental health is not merely a medical matter, but needs to be understood in relation to the social context and situations one is in. I am part of a Faculty research project which focuses on how mental health and social services can work together to respond to mental health needs.

Responding to mental health needs

One's mental health is impacted by society. Mental health and disorders are not merely a medical matter of brain chemistry, but must also be understood in relation to the social context and situations one is in.

Experiences such as anxiety, embodiment and depression cannot be fully and properly accounted for without considering the broader socio-cultural contexts that impact individuals' thoughts and behaviours. In my research with the Faculty, I am interested in how social factors, such as employment, relationships, socio-economic status and neoliberal ideologies, contribute to causing mental health issues; and how social interventions, rather than solely medical ones, can contribute to improving individuals' mental health and wellbeing. In this regard, I am part of a Faculty research project which seeks to understand the phenomenon of mental health in Malta with a focus on its social aspect. This project particularly considers how mental health and social services can better work together to respond to mental health needs in order to have a more effective social response to mental health concerns in Malta.



The Agency for the
Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)

Learn more about our new job opportunities in migration services

www.awas.gov.mt

awas@gov.mt | 2568 7200

KAREN MAMO

Currently enrolled for a Master of Science in Addiction Studies and has been actively promoting the rights of people who use drugs, particularly focusing on harm reduction and human rights principles.

The rights of people who use substances

Harm Reduction (HR) is popularly linked with the provision of clean injecting material for people who use heroin. Nonetheless, it is an important public health tool for people who use substances and is already being implemented for alcohol and other recreational behaviours such as online gaming.

HR is grounded in the belief that people who use substances have rights and should be given a voice. Furthermore, HR actively promotes policy aimed to reduce the negative health, social and legal effects caused by a discriminatory criminal system. Policy pertaining to HR is rooted in human rights, aims to combat stigma and promotes social justice in a non-judgmental environment. Although abstinence is a desirable state, HR works with people who continue to use substances and is a key component for a human centred approach.

A basic rule when using mind-altering substances, especially when ingested as a pill or snorted as a powder, is to go low and go slow. That is, to always consume the substance at low doses, whilst refraining from re-dosing too early. As in the case of alcohol, safer levels and methods of consumption for cannabis, cocaine, xtc and hallucinogens are important to mitigate risks and promote responsible use.





Alison Darmanin

Faculty Manager



Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun

Head, Department of Psychology



Dr Dione Mifsud

Head, Department of Counselling
Senate Representative

Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane

Head, Department of Disability Studies



Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri

Head, Department of Family Studies

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi

Head, Department of
Youth and Community Studies



Dr Natalie Kenely

Head, Department of
Social Policy and Social Work



Prof. Saviour Formosa

Head, Department of Criminology



Dr Marceline Naudi

Head, Department of Gender and Sexualities



Prof. Marvin Formosa

Head, Department of
Gerontology and Dementia Studies

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LORLEEN FARRUGIA

Ph.D. Candidate and visiting lecturer within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing with a passion for media, travelling and anything chocolate.



Being online: A risky business?

Even though children are considered digital natives, it does not make them digital experts. In the EU Kids Online research, we identified that in 2018, 45% of Maltese children aged 9-16 had experienced something that bothered or upset them online. This does not always mean they experience harm as a result, but it is still concerning.

Yet, what worries children online might be different from what worries adults. My Ph.D. research aims to listen to younger children's voices about what worries them online. When children's concerns reflect their own or their peers' experiences of risk, they are often realistic, and they know how to address them. However, their concerns are also influenced by other factors, such as what they hear about from sensationalist media stories about online risks. In these cases, children misconceive online risk and as a consequence they do not always know what to do to protect themselves online. Children's understanding of online risk is not a result of their age or the time they spend online, but it depends on factors, such as the activities they do online, which points to the need to reconsider the importance of media literacy for children in relation to online risk.

Department of

Counselling



Courses

4
YEARS

Master in Counselling
Part-Time

2
YEARS

Master of Arts in
Transcultural Counselling
Full-Time

1
YEAR

Post-Graduate Certificate
in Counselling Supervision
Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

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

- *Department set up in 2012*
- *150 alumni at Masters level*

Department of

Criminology



Courses

3/5
YEARS

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

2
YEARS

Diploma in Policing
Part-Time

1.5
YEARS

Master in Probation Services
Full-Time

2.5
YEARS

Master of Arts in
Criminology
Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Malta Financial Services Agency
- Correctional Services Agency
- CPD
- AFM
- Planning Authority - Enforcement - PA
- ERA
- Department of Probation & Parole
- Insurance Agencies
- Security Companies
- FIAU
- Banks
- Malta Gaming Authority

▸ *Department set up in 1993*

▸ *1200 Alumni*



CATHERINE SMITH

Department of Counselling Research Support Officer, a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Malta and a warranted Transcultural Counsellor.

The Malta Trust Foundation commissioned the Department of Counselling to evaluate its school-based counselling pilot project led by Blossom Foundation to help underprivileged children in the north-east region of Malta thrive. Research on this project is still in its initial phase and expected to take three years to complete.

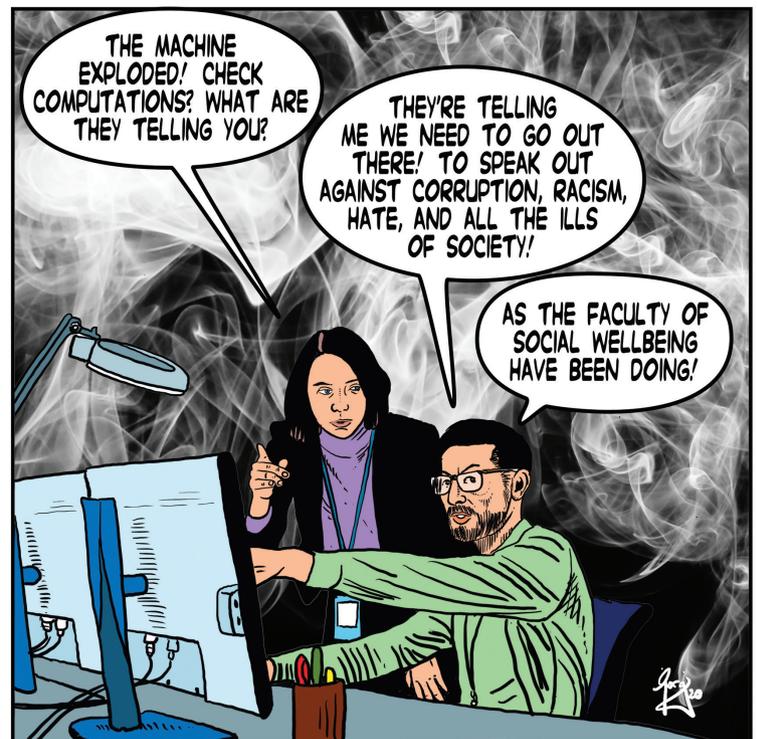
School-based counselling pilot project

The Malta Trust Foundation reached out to the Department of Counselling within the Faculty of Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, to evaluate one of its pilot projects led by the Blossom Foundation.

Blossom Foundation was set up in 2016 to help underprivileged children in the north-east region of Malta thrive. To this end, it aims to mitigate existing child poverty-education links by enhancing children's psycho-socio-emotional and behavioural development through school-based counselling services.

The project was launched in one primary school and employed two part-time counsellors. It has since extended its counselling services to a second primary school and a middle state school, and expanded its counselling team by two additional counsellors for a total of four part-time counsellors. Research on this project is still in its initial phase and expected to take three years to complete.

Apart from literature review and discussion of results sections, the research project report will feature recommendations for best counselling practices in schools, research, and policy.



YOU ARE THEIR VOICE



WE ARE YOUR VOICE

uhm

VOICE OF THE WORKERS

Department of

Disability Studies



Courses

3
YEARS Higher Diploma in Community Access for Disabled People
Full-Time

1
YEAR Diploma in Community Access for Disabled People
Part-Time

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

3
YEARS Bachelor of Arts in Disability Studies and Psychology
Full-Time

3
YEARS Master in Disability Studies
Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Agenzija Support
- Educational Settings
- NGOs
- CRPD
- Health Services
- Private Companies

- » Department set up in 2012
- » 50 Alumni
- » 5 Students with a disability graduated from our courses

CSA is an independent organisation by students for students. CSA raises awareness on criminology and issues relating to criminology in Malta and overseas. CSA also works hard to improve the welfare of the students studying criminology at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. CSA also highlights the importance of all the interdisciplinary fields that cover the study of criminology.

csapublic.uom@gmail.com



CRIMINOLOGY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

CSA



As students, who are studying with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, we are extremely pleased to say that the Faculty has contributed to enriching our experience as an organisation. We also feel reassured that the Faculty is always there for us. Betapsi wants to keep creating the space for students to have a voice and to promote activism.

betapsimalta@gmail.com

Studenti Harsien Soċjali (SHS) is a University student organisation, which represents those students studying Social Work or Social Policy. What distinguishes us as an organisation is that we strive to make university life for our students an experience founded on a sense of belonging. SHS is also about creating a community and we highlight the importance and the need to have empowered social workers and creative policy-makers, who will strive to make a better tomorrow.

shs.uom@gmail.com



Studenti Harsien Soċjali

The archetypal paintings of Victor Pasmore

Many foreign artists who visit Malta from all over the world are fascinated by the Prehistoric Temples and their artefacts. Ancient motifs and prehistoric art in Malta influenced some of the works by British artist, Victor Pasmore (1908-1998) and his imaginative and creative expression dealt with the archetypal symbols of the unconscious.

The unconscious plays a very important role in the artist's creative process. We will meet in the course of the artistic journey of Victor Pasmore some of the technical devices of the unconscious that find expression in his art forms. It will be fruitful to see how a painting derives its character from the unconscious developed by the artist's dynamic tendencies. Thus, we will employ the special devices of dream techniques and utilise the language of the unconscious to construct a meaning and analyse the works of art. This will help us also to respect and appreciate the significance of a work of art and its creator.

PROF. LOUIS LAGANA

Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology and the Department of Digital Art and is an art historian and practicing artist.

The archetypal paintings of Victor Pasmore Victor Pasmore (1908-1998), an important British artist and pioneer of abstract art in Britain during the 1940s and 1950s, was highly influenced by ancient motifs and prehistoric art in Malta. His paintings mostly dealt with the archetypal symbols of the unconscious.

Department of

Family Studies



Courses

3

YEARS

Master in Contemporary
Family Studies

Part-Time

4

YEARS

Master in Family Therapy &
Systematic Practice

Part-Time

2

YEARS

Master in Family Therapy &
Systemic Practice (**Top-up Degree**)

Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- FSWS
- NGOs
- Government Departments
- NSO
- Office of the Commissioner for Children
- NAO

- ▶ *Set up in 2008 as the Centre for Family Studies*
- ▶ *Became a Department in 2012*
- ▶ *45 alumni with a Master in Family Therapy*
- ▶ *25 alumni graduated in the Master in Family Studies*
- ▶ *385 undergraduate & postgraduate students serviced by the Department*

Department of

Gender and Sexualities



Courses

1.5/3
YEARS

Master of Gender Studies
Full-Time / Part-time

1.5/3
YEARS

Master of Gender, Society
& Cultural
Full-Time / Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Community Centres
- Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
- Government Agencies
- Legal Aid
- Private companies
- NGOs
- Human Rights Directorate
- NCPE
- Community Centre

- › Set up in 2013
- › 30 alumni with a Master
- › 15 Ph.D. Candidates
- › Academic staff supporting 30 organizations in the community

A portrait of Louise Vassallo, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt and large hoop earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred office setting with a person in a white shirt and tie visible in the upper right.

LOUISELLE VASSALLO

Resident Academic with the Department of Media and Communications, with over 25 years' experience in the broadcast industry, and a passion for documentary film. She is a Ph.D. Candidate.

My upcoming research project will explore the experiences and expectations of women journalists and activists as prominent voices in the contribution to the current affairs narrative in Malta, with the primary objective of identifying recurring discriminatory practices, as well as common obstacles shared by women in their pursuit of career progression.

Women and journalism

The departure point of my research is of a declared and acknowledged gender inequality standpoint. Studies have consistently shown that women are still heavily underrepresented in practically all levels of news media creation and content, both globally, and in Malta.

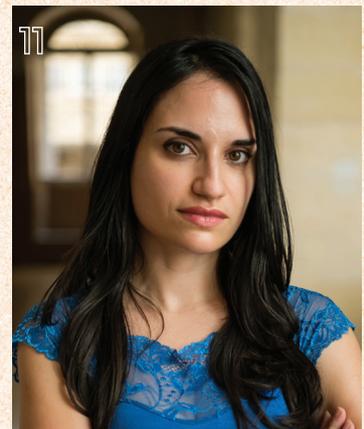
A deficit in gender representation, in any organisation, leads to a gender data-gap, since having few or no women inhabiting the workplace structures is a barrier when it comes to addressing issues, that are directly related to women, being brought to light, and more often than not, it takes women in decision-making positions to take on challenges that need to be tackled.

The main objective is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the reasons behind the lack of progress in terms of gender representation and participation through the first-hand experiences of the primary stakeholders. For this to be achieved, the research will also take a multi-faceted approach, taking into consideration historical, cultural, thematic and contextual aspects, and will be further consolidated through secondary quantitative data analysis, in relation to employment, participation and visibility.

Additionally, the activism perspective is being included with the primary aim of documenting the intentions, demands and actions of women activists, as contributors towards shaping the news and current affairs agenda, and who have 'infiltrated' the narrative by drawing attention to their demands.

Findings will also be produced as a documentary film, with the objective of making this research more accessible to a wider audience.

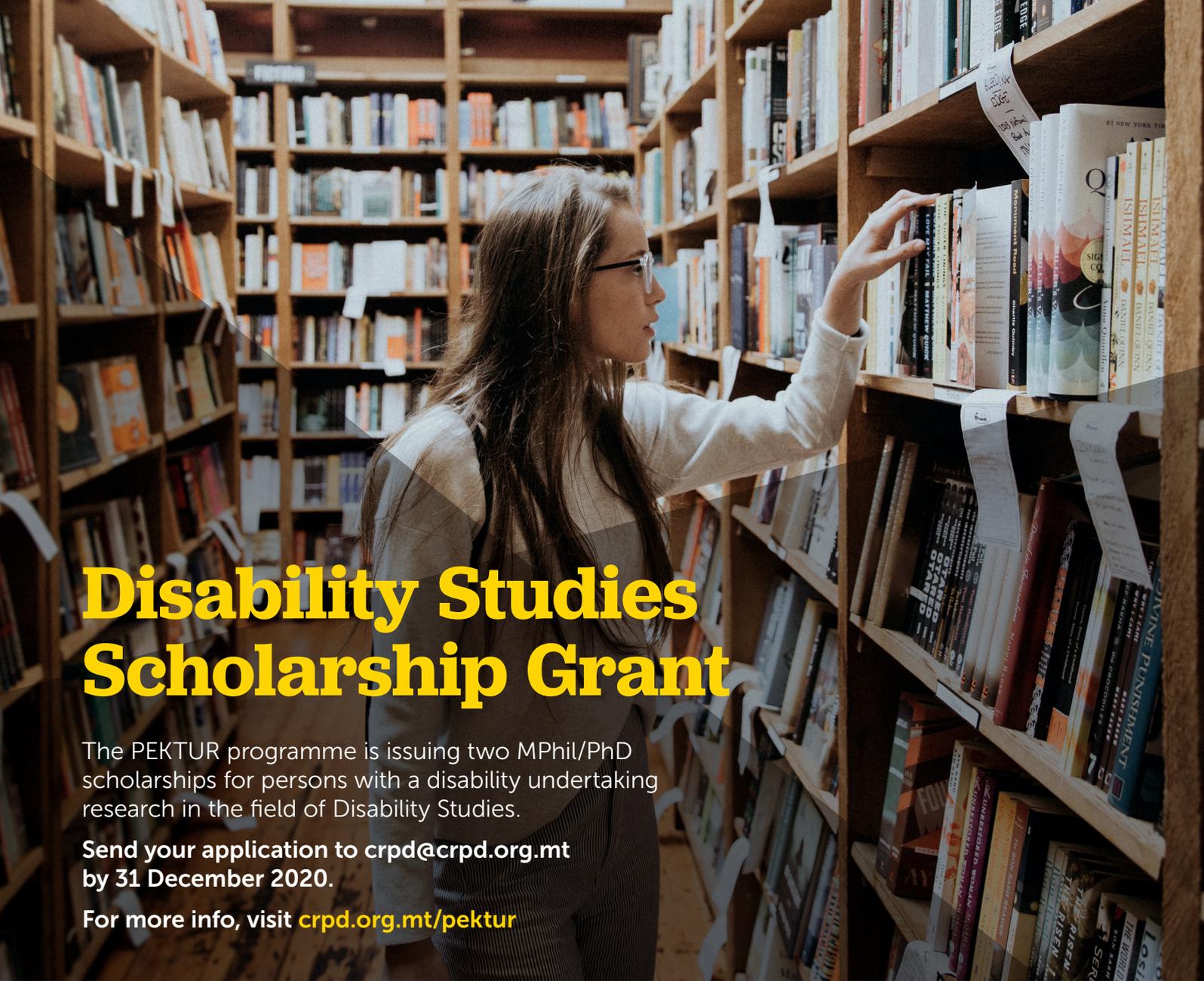
Admin team





- 01 Sharon Cachia
- 02 Elton Zammit
- 03 Elena Mallia
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- 05 Rita Micallef
- 06 Alison Darmanin
- 07 Charlene Fabri
- 08 Marica Galea
- 09 Shirley Muscat
- 10 Jolin Mifsud
- 11 Jeanessa Bezzina

- 12 Amanda Degiorgio
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- 15 Emmanuel Camilleri
- 16 Sarah Jane Mifsud
- 17 Anna Maria Puleo
- 18 Claire Borg Azzilla
- 19 Stuart Bugeja
- 20 Lucienne Gellel
- 21 Nico Agius
- 22 Beverly Agius



Disability Studies Scholarship Grant

The PEKTUR programme is issuing two MPhil/PhD scholarships for persons with a disability undertaking research in the field of Disability Studies.

Send your application to crpd@crpd.org.mt
by 31 December 2020.

For more info, visit crpd.org.mt/pektur



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EMAIL helpdesk@crpd.org.mt www.crpd.org.mt



Mark Laurence Zammit

JOURNALIST

Throughout the entire existence of humankind, today is arguably the best day to be alive. Health, wealth and security have never been better. Yet, our country is facing a catastrophic wellbeing crisis, and we are looking for solutions in all the wrong places. Quite frankly, this Faculty may be one of our best and only chances at saving the future of our country, and every political leader should be investing heavily in it. Right now it is not lawyers, accountants, architects or police that we need; rather, we need good people who can read the minds and hearts of our citizens. This Faculty forges those people.

unity

Martina Zammit

ENTREPRENEUR AND CO-HOST AT VIBE FM

We cannot possibly have a strong economy without placing importance on the social and psychological wellbeing of our workforce. I strongly believe that the country needs to continue investing in the excellent resources of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, which plays a crucial role in the development of our socio-economic fabric, given its wide scope and extensive expertise.



Ivan Grech

VOCALIST AT WINTER MOODS

The Faculty is strengthening the pillars of our future in many important sectors, it's another loop in ensuring social justice.



DR MARIA VICTORIA GAUCI

Occupational Therapist by profession and currently a Lecturer at the Department of Disability Studies. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds and is a reviewer for the 'Disability and Society' Journal.

The EU-funded PRIME-VR2 project aims to develop a state-of-the-art digital environment for rehabilitation through a virtual reality (VR) gaming space. The VR scenarios, developed through user-centred design, will concentrate mainly on performance skills of the upper limb for people with musculoskeletal injuries, cerebral palsy and stroke.

Virtual reality gaming space

The EU-funded PRIME-VR2 project aims to develop a state-of-the-art digital environment for VR rehabilitation at home and in rehabilitation settings through a virtual gaming space which is stimulating and provides friendly competition.

The therapy will concentrate mainly on performance skills of the upper body with a special focus on the arm, hand and fingers. The outcomes of this project will be a great step forward for local and European interactive technology providers in improving rehabilitation programmes and practices for the benefit of people with various impairments.

The PRIME-VR2 Consortium is multi-disciplinary, encompassing expertise in virtual reality, additive manufacturing, 3D geometrical form generation, user interface design, user-centred design, electronics design, systems integration, rehabilitation and disability studies. As an occupational therapist and disability studies academic, my role in this project is to give feedback on the design of the adaptive controller that will customise the VR scenarios. Working with a team of experts, led by Prof. Ing. Philip Farrugia, from the Faculty of Engineering, this is proving to be a true experience of inter-Faculty collaboration.





ANNA MARIA PULEO

Administrator I, Department of Disability Studies.

Working at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the UM is a privilege for me. Since I joined the University as a fresh graduate, I had the opportunity to work in a multicultural environment, am surrounded by lovely colleagues and developed my skills and chances to further my career within the social sector. I am very grateful for all the things I have learnt and hope to build a successful career.

**MY
EXTENDED**

Family

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Janet Richard

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

'The Faculty has been good to me as it gave me an opportunity to have a better insight of the World and the challenges that lie ahead.'



Peter Farrugia

M.Phil./Ph.D. Candidate

'The Faculty is excellently placed in our society to be another voice in safeguarding the interests of all minorities.'



Melvin Mifsud

Master of Arts in Criminology

'My experience as a student contributed to my profession in a direct way.'



Rebecca Muscat

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Youth and Community Studies

'This course has proven to be a great opportunity for me as it gave me insight on how to understand myself.'

THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES



ALFRED **GRIXTI** - CEO

“The FSWS is a growing organisation. During the last seven years our budget has more than tripled from €7,735,000 to €23,360,000. Our workforce has more than doubled from 375 to 855 with more than 75% being fully trained professionals who work directly with service users ... we offer the best working conditions in the social sector and, more importantly, we offer a clear career path for all our employees who can continue to flourish in their chosen profession and lead our essential services now and in the future.”

For more information about Career Opportunities with FSWS, go to:

<https://fsws.gov.mt/en/fsws/Pages/vacancies.aspx>



Claire Sammut
Director - ACTS

“ I graduated as a social worker in 2002 and eventually as a family therapist in 2007. I proudly lead the Agency for Community and Therapeutic Services. As a multidisciplinary team, we eagerly meet with families in their own communities. Our aim is to help families build on their potential and we support them in any challenges they face. It’s a privileged position to work closely with our families to build stronger communities across Malta.”



Steve Libreri
Director - CPS

“ I graduated in 2008 and have been working with the FSWS since then. I now lead the Directorate for the Protection of Minors. We are not child snatchers. Our highest investment is with families whom we help to live healthily together. It is a duty that we take on proudly, because we are making Malta a safer place for our children.”



Remenda Grech

Director - Alternative Care & Appoġġ

“ After graduating in 2005, I embarked on my career with FSWS. The Foundation opened up numerous opportunities for me, helping me to develop professionally, trained by some of the best foreign people in the field, whilst giving me the flexibility to move from one service to the other. I am now Director for Alternative Care and of *Agenzija Appoġġ* and proudly lead both agencies, ensuring that we offer the best service to our service users and our most precious gems - the children that we follow, lovingly. ”

“ I graduated as a social worker in 2005 and have worked at FSWS ever since. Today I lead *Agenzija Sedqa*, the national agency in the field of addictions. At *Sedqa* we don’t just deal with the care aspect of addictions and drug misuse, but we also have an exclusive range of prevention programmes targeting all age groups with the aim of preventing or delaying the onset of addictions. Our services are uniquely run by a multidisciplinary workforce who are continuously supporting people and their families in their recovery process.”



Charles Scerri
Director - Sedqa



Claudette Abela Baldacchino

Director - International Relations

“ I graduated with a degree in Social Administration in 2005 and now proudly lead the International Relations, Service Audits, Quality Assurance and Research Department, with the international relations function having been newly introduced to the Foundation. It is an honour for us to support FSWS in providing high calibre services by linking with other countries, conducting research that supports evidence based decision-making and ensuring that operational activities are strategically planned ahead, implemented and followed up.”



Foundation for Social Welfare Services
Here for you

www.fsws.gov.mt

BA in **Social Wellbeing Studies** (Hons)

The ethos, rationale, and programme of the Honour's Bachelorate in Social Wellbeing are an education in themselves. This innovative degree is not only meant to provide high-quality academic education. The fact that students have to design their own programme, apart from the few compulsory modules, allows students to prepare for two very important aspects in today's society - flexibility and to make the best with resources and constraints available. This degree also provides a platform for students to communicate well and solve problems. Further, it makes graduates eligible for a number of master's level programmes and professions.

[JOIN US!](#)

Coordinator Dr Ruth Falzon | socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

NEW INITIATIVE

Stakeholders Service Users Forum

Former and current service users will make part of this forum which will have the role to inform the Faculty on challenges being faced by the respective minorities.

For more information contact us on: socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt



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

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family.gov.mt



Our Students



Eating disorders among children and young people

This research project is a collaboration between *Fondazzjoni Kenn Għal Saħħtek* and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. It aims to examine the prevalence of eating disorders among young persons in Malta (ages 10 to 16 years).

The objective of this study is to have empirical data on which to develop plans for future treatment programmes and services according to the needs as shown by this study.

The study recruited a randomised sample amongst children. These children were equally represented according to residential locality, age and sex. Interviews were done by trained interviewers. The questionnaire used was the Children's Eating Attitudes Test (ChEAT), and we added on demographic questions. During the interviews professionals from *Fondazzjoni Kenn Għal Saħħtek* were available if any participants needed to talk.





**DR ANTON GRECH
& ANNABEL CUFF**

Dr Anton Grech is a psychiatrist with his mission being to help in decreasing as much as possible the suffering caused by mental illness. He tries to achieve this by his involvement in academic psychiatry (research and teaching) at the University of Malta and international collaborations; in clinical and management psychiatry as Clinical Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Ministry of Health; and as Chairman of *Fondazzjoni Kenn Għal Saħħtek*.

Annabel Cuff is a Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing who is passionate about knowledge sharing and has particular interest in women's issues, gender roles and social advancement.



CREDIBLE | COMPETENT | CONSISTENT

gwu.org/mt



FSWS

Addressing society's needs

FSWWS is the National Social Welfare Services provider which is growing and evolving at a rapid rate. The organisational budget almost doubled over the past six years, and we are able to further develop our services to reach more individuals requiring our support. To make this happen, we employ professionals, who are skilled in addressing society's needs.



find us

on facebook

@um.socialwellbeing



SAMANTHA PACE GASAN

Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, interested mostly in exploring social innovation to address pressing societal challenges.

COVID and persons with disability

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability commissioned a study to identify key aspects in the lives of persons with disabilities, their families and/or caregivers, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The research team was composed of Samantha Pace Gasan, Dr Andrew Camilleri, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane and Dr Anne-Marie Callus.

Throughout this research project, the researchers were interested in exploring negative implications of the pandemic on the lives of persons with disabilities, and also positive outcomes that could lead to further inclusion and enhanced wellbeing of these persons. Furthermore, the research delved into the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on families and informal caregivers involved in the lives of persons with disability.

Remembering our colleagues

There is no sadder moment than one which involves the loss of students and academics.

- **Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi**, former Deputy Dean and Head of the Department of Criminology, passed away in 2016;
- **Jerome Frendo**, a B.A. (Hons.) Social Wellbeing Studies student, who succumbed to illness in 2017;
- **Sarah Lee Borg**, a B.A. (Hons.) Social Work alumnus, who succumbed to illness in 2017;
- **Christa Formosa**, a B.A. (Hons.) Social Work alumnus, who died in an accident in 2018;
- **Jason Cauchi**, a B.Psy. (Hons.) student, who went missing in 2019;
- **Fr Alfred Darmanin sj**, former lecturer with the Department of Psychology, who passed in 2019;
- **Francis Cini**, a B.A. (Hons.) Criminology student, who succumbed to illness in 2020; and
- **Prof. Vivienne Lee**, former lecturer with the Department of Counselling, who succumbed to illness in 2020.

“Their untimely passing has dampened the beautiful journey we share in this community and has left us heart-broken. We loved them, we will never forget them, and we will continue to honour and celebrate their lives as we carry forward their work and passion in their respective fields.”

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
Dean

Fr Alfred Darmanin sj Department of Psychology

“Fr Darmanin was a Jesuit and an excellent psychologist. He studied theology, mathematics and philosophy but psychology was his life. He inspired people. He understood the power of the media and used it well. He was not afraid to speak his mind. Thanks to his determination, we have the Department of Psychology. Thanks to his wisdom we are better people.”

Prof. Mary Anne Lauri
Department of Psychology

Prof Vivian Lee Department of Counselling

“Professor Vivian Lee, who lectured with the Department of Counselling from 2013 to 2015, passed away on May 11th 2020. Professor Lee was born in New York but spent most of her life in the Counselling Profession in Maryland USA. In Malta, together with her husband Professor Courtland Lee, she taught Counselling Skills to M.Couns. and M.A. T.Couns. students and left a lasting impression in the short time she was here. She was also very much involved in what is known as the 5th force in counselling: advocacy and social justice. Professor Lee is the Department of Counselling’s second great loss after the untimely demise of Professor Gabrielle Syme in January 2014.”

Dr Dione Mifsud
Head, Department of Counselling



Alexia Larissa Koroleva

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)

'The way the Faculty responds to what is happening in society spurs me to keep going. I believe that my studies will serve to make a change.'



Joseph Borg

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Wellbeing Studies

'The experience I am getting from the Faculty is not just about learning the content but about understanding the World around me and how I can contribute to make it better.'



MANUEL GELLEL

Ph.D. Candidate and a Visiting Lecturer with the
Department of Youth and Community Studies.

My thesis focuses on heroin use and adopts a career approach to exploring pathways that individuals involved in high risk heroin use take in the process of desisting. The study seeks to theorise from the personal experiences of individuals formerly committed to heroin careers, who have completed their journey towards desistance and have maintained a heroin free lifestyle for the last five years prior to the respective interview. It explores how the participants negotiate the process of achieving desistance.

An exploration of pathways of desistance from heroin careers

Addiction to substance use has been conceptualized in different ways throughout the years. Perhaps, most notably, in recent years, addiction to heroin has come to be understood as a ‘chronic relapsing condition’ characterised by the individual’s loss of control and compulsion to keep using notwithstanding the negative consequences.

However, long-term desistance has proven to be a realistic and attainable goal for many users (Best et al, 2008). This study conducts a thorough examination of desistance from heroin careers by exploring the experiences of individuals who were formerly addicted to heroin. The aim of this research is to develop a substantive level theory on the process that individuals undertake in their journey towards desistance and eventually maintaining a lifestyle that is free from heroin use.

The topic of desistance from heroin use has been widely debated for many years, particularly in terms of how desistance is eventually achieved. Addiction to

heroin use has been predominantly conceptualized as a ‘disease’ that should be dealt with through medical intervention (Volkow et al, 2003). It is argued that addiction is a disease that is treatable but not curable. Others contend that some individuals are able to overcome their addiction unassisted (Peele, 1999), while others seem to eventually mature out of their addictive careers at some point in their life (Winnick, 1964), (McIntosh & McKeganey, 2000). A point for debate, is the emphasis on human agency, as some contend that the individual addict is powerless over the ‘disease’ of addiction, whilst others contend that the individual is an active agent in the process of developing their future selves (Colman & Vander Laenen, 2012).

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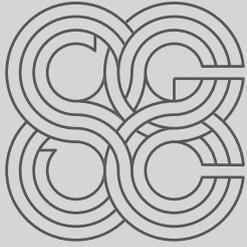
Visit www.grantthornton.com.mt/advance for a list of the available scheduled and on-demand training programmes.



Grant Thornton Malta



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SUSTAINABLE
GAMBLING
CONFERENCE

2020
October 21

SAVE THE DATE

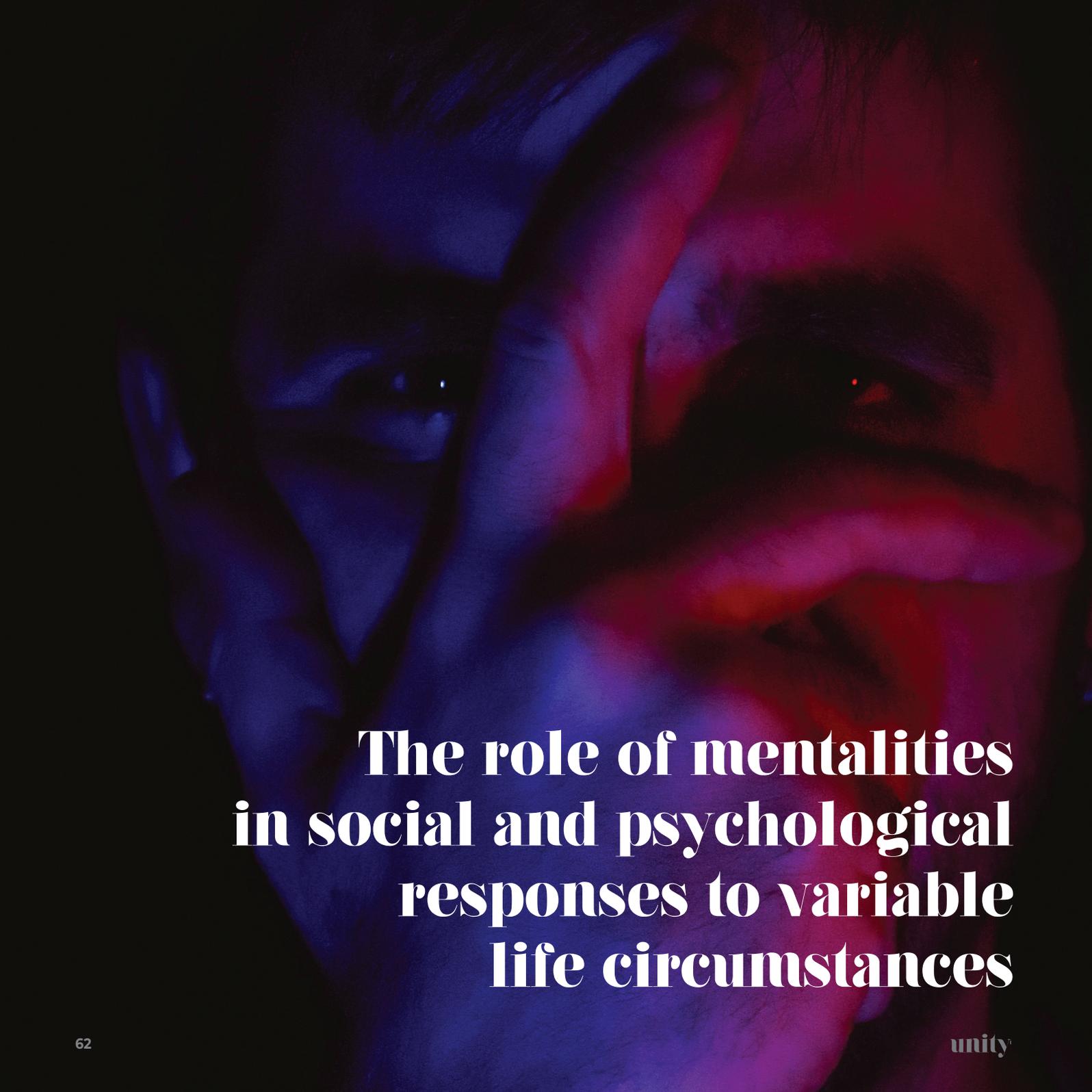
Sustainable Gambling Conference 2020
October 21

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

The theme of the 2020 conference is “Collaborate to Innovate”, focusing on how new, innovative advancements can support the industry in becoming more sustainable. We are looking forward to an exciting agenda with speakers from a wide range of backgrounds.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference will be hosted online. The conference is free to attend. So save the date, and we will get back to you with more information in August.





**The role of mentalities
in social and psychological
responses to variable
life circumstances**

PROF. GORDON SAMMUT

Associate Professor of Social Psychology at the Department of Criminology. His research interests concern social cognition, identities and social relations.

What are the mechanisms that determine psychological change? What drives individuals to succeed, to help each other out, or cope with adversity? We are studying psychological mentalities and their effects in a number of real-life scenarios. Mentalities are the general outlooks individuals adopt in appreciating elements of their environment in everyday life.

The Civic mentality is attuned to our social and psychological needs and strives to make the world a better place by helping out. The Reward mentality is attuned to our ambitions and aspirations and pushes for success. The Localised mentality prioritises affiliative bonds, identity concerns and positive social relations. The Pragmatic mentality is protectionist and puts value on self-reliance and self-interest. The Survivor mentality is concerned with the perpetual struggle against adversity and involves an attitude

of grit. We are currently investigating the role of mentalities in affective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, studying their effects on coping strategies in response to social distancing measures in Italy and Malta. We hope to understand what mental outlooks facilitate wellbeing. We are also investigating the role mentalities play in intergroup and intercultural relations, to understand how citizens turn diversity into added value and how migrants cope with unfamiliar challenges.

Department of

Gerontology and Dementia Studies



Courses

1.5
YEARS

Higher Diploma in
Gerontology & Geriatrics

Full-Time

1.5
YEARS

Master of Gerontology
& Geriatrics

Full-Time

3

YEARS

Master of Arts in Ageing &
Dementia Studies

Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Department of Active Ageing & Community Centre
- Parliamentary Secretariat for Active Ageing & Persons with Disability
- Public, Private & Church Care Homes
- Government Entities
- Hospitals
- University

Department set up in 1990

134 Foreign and 231 Maltese Alumni

Department of

Psychology



Courses

3
YEARS

Bachelor of Psychology (Hons)
Full-Time

5
YEARS

Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) in Gozo
Part-Time

1
YEAR

Higher Diploma in Psychology
Full-Time

3
YEARS

Master of Science in Addiction Studies
Part-Time

3
YEARS

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

3
YEARS

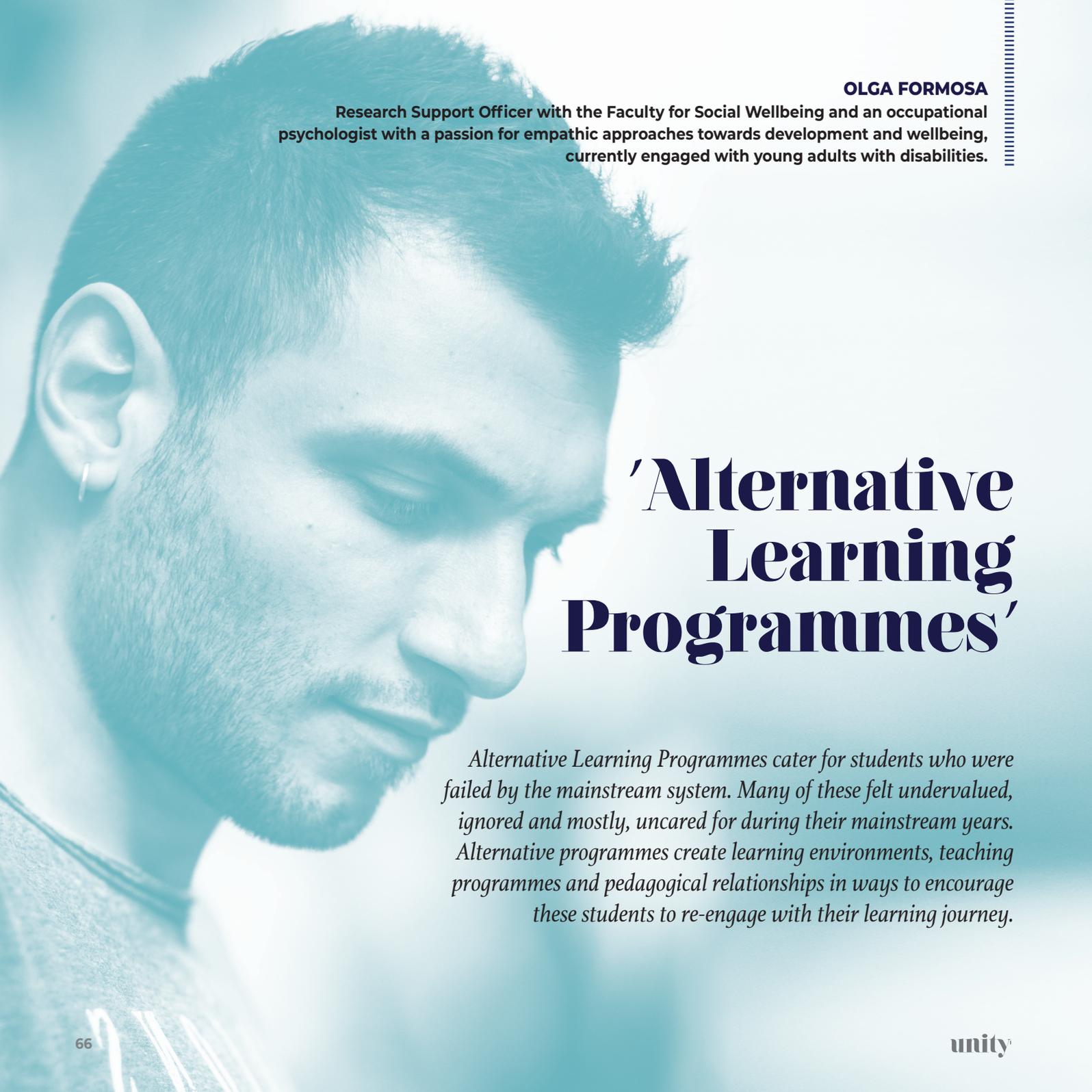
Master of Science in Psychological Studies
Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Psychology assistants within various NGOs & Government Departments
- Foundation for Social Welfare Services
- Various HR & Recruitment service agencies
- PSCD Teachers
- Learning Support Educators (LSEs)
- Psychology Assistant with the Department of Health at our hospitals

- ▶ *Department set up in 1987*
- ▶ *2000 alumni*
- ▶ *In 2001 the 1st group of M.Psy. alumni graduated*



OLGA FORMOSA

Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and an occupational psychologist with a passion for empathic approaches towards development and wellbeing, currently engaged with young adults with disabilities.

'Alternative Learning Programmes'

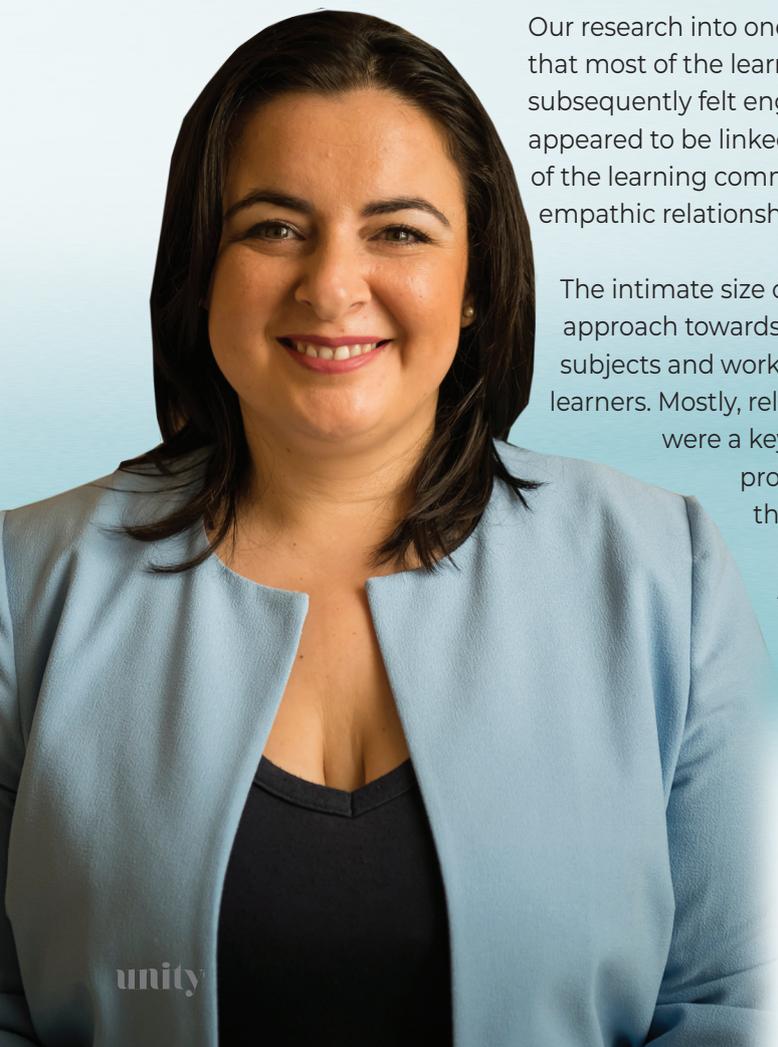
Alternative Learning Programmes cater for students who were failed by the mainstream system. Many of these felt undervalued, ignored and mostly, uncared for during their mainstream years. Alternative programmes create learning environments, teaching programmes and pedagogical relationships in ways to encourage these students to re-engage with their learning journey.

Alternative Learning Programmes are designed to support students who encounter significant challenges progressing on the mainstream-schooling ladder. Typically, these students bring some form of social, emotional and behavioural challenges and most of their experiences in mainstream are laced with feelings of rejection and of being alienated from the system.

Our research into one of Malta's *Alternative Learning Programmes* found that most of the learners who previously felt detached from school had subsequently felt engaged with the learning opportunities at this site. This appeared to be linked to a combination of factors, centred around the culture of the learning community at the site, a relatable curriculum, as well as empathic relationships and pedagogical practices.

The intimate size of the school, the interactive lessons, the empowering approach towards discipline and the practical aspects of vocational subjects and work-placements, all contributed to re-connecting these learners. Mostly, relationships nurtured between educators and students were a key factor in their enthusiastic engagement with the programme. The educators' aptitude and preparation was therefore pivotal for its success.

An education that feels meaningful to learners, through engaging learning programmes and approachable teaching styles, is fundamental in engaging and motivating students. These strategies have a defining role in alternative programmes, and can inform practices in mainstream schools too.





Anastasia Codrea

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work

'I am excited because my studies are giving me an opportunity to contribute to the design of our social sector.'



Malcolm Casha

Master in Counselling

'The opportunity to walk through the challenges with people is a privilege. My studies at the Faculty also contributed to a large extent to my own personal development.'

Professorial Lecture Series

The Professorial Lecture Series is a forum that hosts a series of lectures delivered by the Professors within our 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 and its impact on our communities.

If interested in participating please contact us on **socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt**

Konnekt

Konnekt is our weekly program on Campus FM Radio. Anchored by Dr Albert Bell and supported by the RPSC it is intended to provide listeners with the latest cutting edge research in the area of social wellbeing of our academic staff, RSOs and Ph.D. Candidates.



FACULTY VLOG

OUR FACULTY

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has its own Vlog whereby RSOs, administrators, Ph.D. Candidates and academics share their ideas about society and how this can become a better society based on values that place the human being at the center.

You can access all Vlogs either via our website:

www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

or our FB page: **[@um.socialwellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing)**



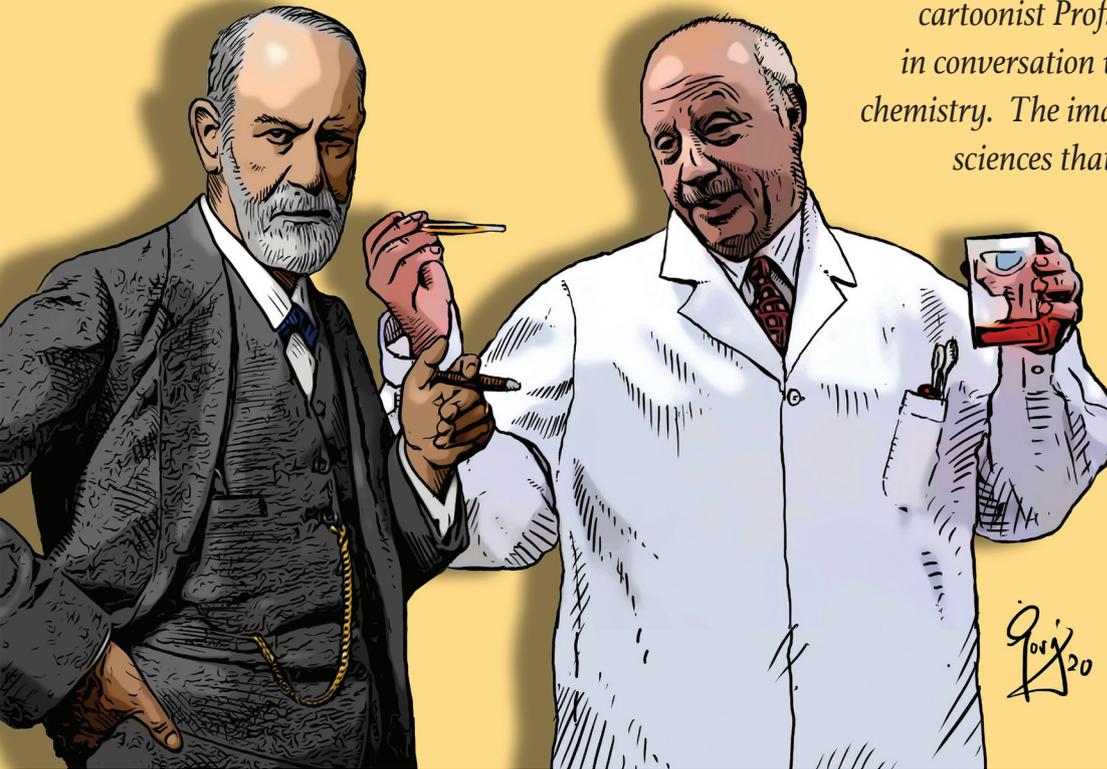


BEVERLY AGIUS

Administrator II, Department of Psychology.

My experience with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing over the years has been a fruitful one. I am full of admiration for the dedication that administrators, RSOs and academic members of staff have towards their students to ensure that they will be able to achieve their goals to their full potential. Since I work in a big Department certain days can be quite challenging. However, the sense of *Unity* and collaboration that we all share makes it a very rewarding and satisfying experience.

It was a pleasure to welcome the Rector Prof. Alfred Vella to our Faculty Board meeting on the 4th March 2020, for the first time ever. As a token, the Faculty Board gave the Rector an originally drawn cartoon by the renowned cartoonist Prof. Ġorġ Mallia depicting Freud in conversation with the Rector, a professor of chemistry. The image symbolises two important sciences that have contributed immensely to our society.



Platform for Migration

Following an initiative by the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, the University of Malta has officially set up the Platform for Migration. This platform aims to promote research related to migration while facilitating synergies, dialogue and training initiatives between the different University entities in migration-related matters. It shall also be conducting research on migration through its involvement in several projects and experiments, through collaboration with local and international entities, and in conjunction with associated universities and research institutes.



MICHAEL DEBATTISTA

Ph.D. Candidate, attained two tertiary qualifications at the University of Malta, is currently employed at CRPD, besides serving as board member in two key Maltese institutions.

My doctoral research is a qualitative study on the use of online dating by young women aged 20-25 and residing in Malta. It will explore the motivations and expectations associated with the use of online dating, their possible change over time, and the influence of gender performativity.

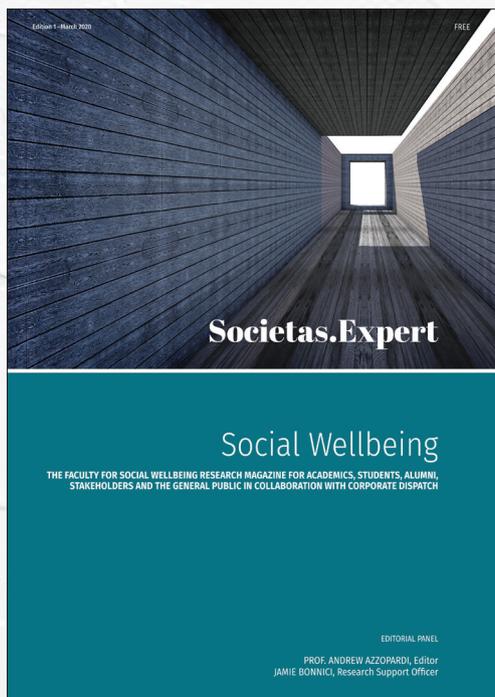
Online dating by young women

In my doctoral thesis, I shall be exploring the motivations and expectations on the use of online dating by young women aged 20-25 in Malta. It will also be exploring how motivations and expectations associated with the use of online dating is influenced by gender performativity, and as to whether they may change over time.

Forty participants will be recruited, regardless of sexual orientation, disability, social background and other characteristics. In-depth interviews will be employed as the data collection tool. Through this approach of data collection, deep understanding of the phenomenon will be achieved by taking into account the unique views of each participant.

This study shall be contributing to new knowledge in the field of youth studies in a number of ways. A dearth of academic literature on online dating suggests that there are gaps in research areas such as motivations, expectations, and their possible changes over time. The use of online dating by women aged 20-25 in Malta is also under-explored. This research shall also be contributing to new knowledge by exploring how social and cultural forces within the Maltese context influence motivations and expectations, and how they may fluctuate over time.

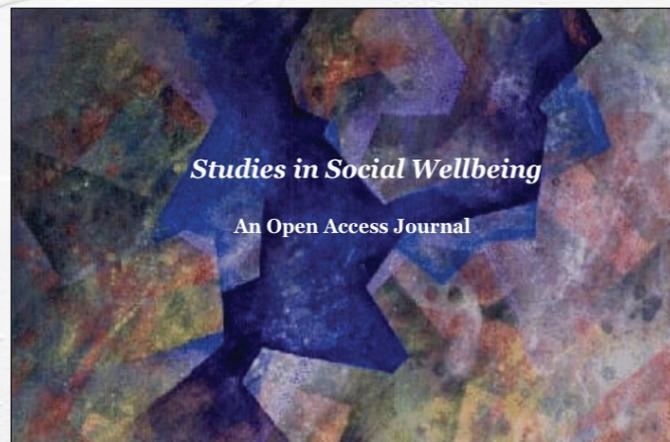




Faculty Research Magazine

Societas.Expert is a shared initiative by the Faculty and Corporate Dispatch. It is the first ever Faculty Research Magazine of its kind. The Magazine is intended for academics, students, alumni, stakeholders and the general public both locally and internationally. This Research Magazine is now accessible on an international platform.

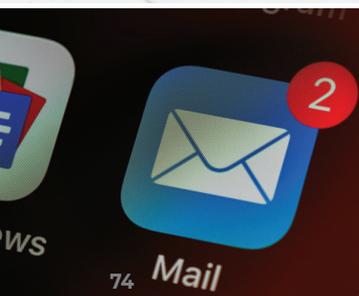
A free copy can be delivered to you by sending us an email on socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt



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 – another first for our Faculty!

For more information contact socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt



Connect

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has for these last 4 years provided a regular update of all that is happening through the *Connect* Newsletter; another vehicle to keep all the community informed on what is happening.

*Difficult roads lead to
beautiful destinations*

Jerome was given the gift of life and after twenty years 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 – Cancer of the bone. Whoever met him, left with a very positive outlook on life itself. Jerome transmitted hope and courage to everyone especially to those who were at their most vulnerable weakest point in their life.

His unique smile says it all. **SMILING WITH JEROME** was founded on the 6th of October 2017 – the day that Jerome died. This initiative was taken so that hope and courage, coupled with a smile, will continue to be given to everyone in need.

JEROME FREND
Never forgotten,
Always in our Hearts

*Smiling with Jerome
Foundation*



LEARN MORE ►
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CAPT. REUBEN LANFRANCO

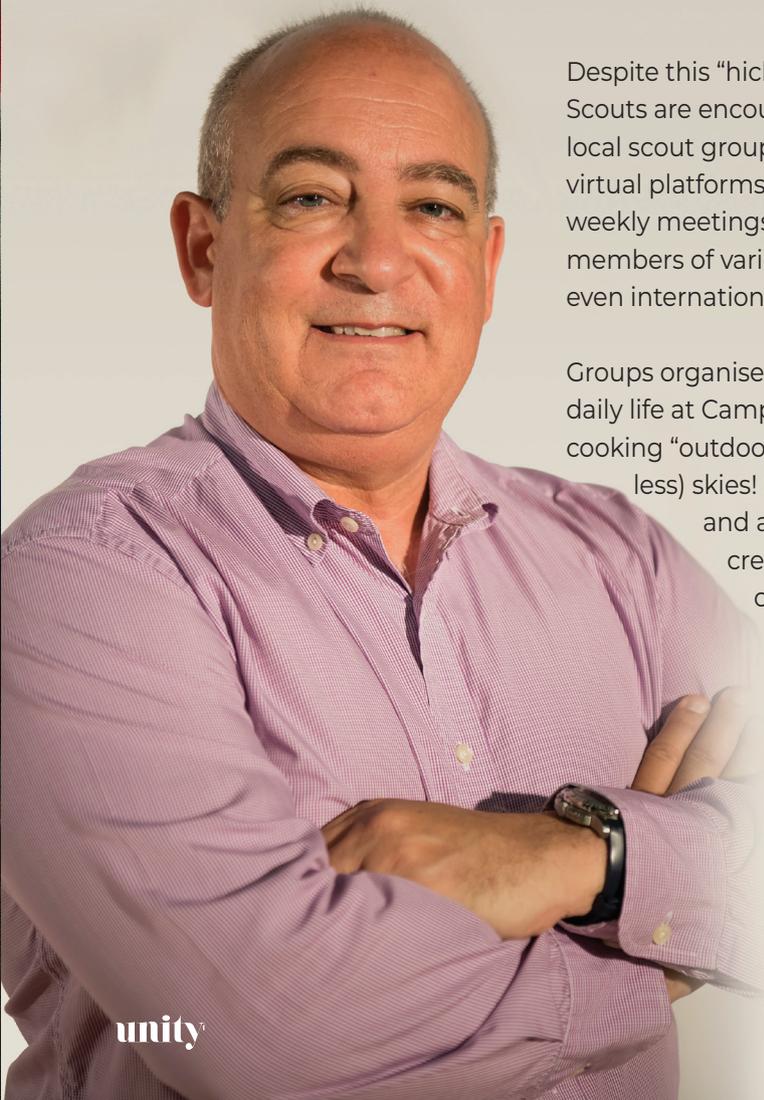
Visiting Senior Lecturer with the Department of Criminology and the Faculty of Laws and is the Chief Scout of The Scout Association of Malta.

Scouting Service in the Community

For the over 3,500 active members of *The Scout Association of Malta* (TSAM), the announcement to temporarily suspend all physical activities and meetings as of 12 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic came as a bit of a jolt. After a careful study of the situation, it was decided to suspend those group meetings, camping and other activities, as well as training courses which would involve the assembly of a large number of participants, beyond that stipulated by the Authorities.

Despite this “hick-up”, it was not the intention of TSAM to “close shop”. Scouts are encouraged to “carry on” despite hardships and immediately, local scout groups sprung into action organising stay-at-home activities on virtual platforms and sharing their experiences on social media. Regular weekly meetings kept on being held and there were exchanges amongst members of various groups taking part in online games, competitions, and even international scouting events.

Groups organised “Camping at Home” over Easter, where scouts simulated daily life at Camp; many actually pitching tents in their gardens or rooftops, cooking “outdoors” and spending nights watching the clear (aeroplane-less) skies! Scout flags were raised from buildings and group quarters and a special “scouting at home” proficiency badge was also created for younger scouts. Instead of the Annual Scout Rally, over 1000 scouts from Malta and Gozo participated in a virtual video, renewing their scout promise. Training courses for continuous development of adult leaders carried on, on a virtual platform, whilst older scouts are helping the elderly with their shopping and assisting their local community. One group also had its younger cub scouts “adopt an elderly person” which involved scouts staying in touch at regular intervals with an elderly person of their choice, via phone to keep them company whilst at home. Scouts have learned to adapt and overcome in such situations.



Department of

Social Policy and Social Work



Courses

4/6
YEARS
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Work
Full-Time / Part-Time

3/5
YEARS
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Policy
Full-Time / Part-Time

2/3
YEARS
Master of Social Work
Full-Time / Part-Time

3
YEARS
Master of Arts in Social Work
Part-Time

3
YEARS
Master of Arts in Social Policy
Part-Time

1
YEAR
Certificate in Volunteering Studies
Part-Time

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Foundation for Social Welfare Services
- Richmond Foundation
- Agenzija Support
- MEUSAC
- Government Agencies
- Various NGOs and Government Departments

- ▶ *Department set up in 1998*
- ▶ *Social Work Courses offered since 1980s*
- ▶ *Estimated to have over 1000 alumni*
- ▶ *700 hours of practical placements*

Department of

Youth and Community Studies



Courses

3/5

YEARS

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Youth and
Community Studies

Full-Time / Part-Time Evening

3

YEARS

Master of Arts in Community Action
and Development

Part-Time Evening

3

YEARS

Master in Youth and Community
Studies

Part-Time Evening

2

YEARS

Master of Arts in Youth Justice

Part-Time Evening

M. Phil./Ph.D.

Main Opportunities

- Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
- Foundation for Social Services
- Various NGOs and Government Departments

- ▶ Department set up in 1993
- ▶ 600 Alumni since 1993
- ▶ 23% Youth Population in Malta
- ▶ 100,000 Young people in Malta



KATHRYN MARY JONES

Prospective Ph.D. Candidate currently working in the field of asylum.

Cohesive societies are more stable and able to focus on socio-economic development. Thus, significant EU funding is made available for projects aimed at improving social integration. A discourse analytical research approach will be used to explore whether the frequent reference to concepts such as integration, social capital and agency used in policy documents and project proposals mask underlying issues such as social power, dominance and inequality.

Social inclusion in targeted EU funded projects

Despite the apparent rhetoric of inclusion, in reality, the voices of the target beneficiaries seeming to be systematically excluded. Their needs and expectations are absent from the design and proposal phase due to the complexity of the system; implementation is management heavy due to the strict control and monitoring. It is not even mandatory to seek input from 'target beneficiaries' during the evaluation phase. Thus, there is a seeming paradox between the discourse of integration and social inclusion and the lack of inclusive practices. Literature consistently shows a positive correlation between the involvement of beneficiaries and the sustainability of the social integration projects. This research will map levels of beneficiary and community involvement across the EU-funded projects and try to capture any correlation between that involvement and the effectiveness and sustainability of the project.



OUR FACULTY

OUR COURSES

Department of **Counselling**

Master in Counselling (*Part-time Evening*)

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

Postgraduate Certificate in Counselling Supervision (*Part-time Evening*)

Department of **Criminology**

Diploma in Policing (*Part-time Evening*)

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

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

Master of Arts in Criminology (*Part-time Evening - by Research*)

Master in Probation Services (*Full-time*)

Department of **Disability Studies**

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

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

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

Bachelor of Arts in Disability Studies and Psychology (*Full-time*)

Master of Arts in Disability Studies (Preparatory Programme) (*Part-time Day*)

Master of Arts in Disability Studies (Preparatory Programme-Gozo)
(*Part-time Day*)

Master of Arts in Disability Studies (*Part-time Evening*)

Department of **Family Studies**

Master of Arts in Contemporary Family Studies (*Part-time Evening*)

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

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

Department of
Gender and Sexualities

Master of Gender Studies *(Full-time - by Research)*
Master of Gender Studies *(Part-time Evening - by Research)*
Master of Gender, Society and Culture *(Full-time)*
Master of Gender, Society and Culture *(Part-time Evening)*

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 Evening)*

Department of
Psychology

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) *(Full-time)*
Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Gozo) *(Part-time Evening)*
Higher Diploma in Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Clinical Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Counselling Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Forensic Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Educational Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Neuropsychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Psychology in Health Psychology *(Full-time)*
Master of Science in Psychological Studies *(Part-time Evening)*

Department of
**Social Policy
and Social Work**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Policy *(Full-time)*
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work *(Full-time)*
Master of Arts in Social Policy *(Part-time Evening)*
Master of Arts in Social Policy *(Part-time Evening - by Research)*
Master of Arts in Social Work (Preparatory Programme) *(Part-time Day)*
Master of Arts in Social Work *(Part-time Evening - by Research)*
Master of Social Work *(Full-time)*
Master of Social Work *(Part-time Day)*

OUR FACULTY | OUR COURSES

Department of Youth and Community Studies

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Youth and Community Studies *(Full-time)*
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Youth and Community Studies
(Part-time Evening)
Master of Arts in Youth Justice *(Part-time Evening)*
Master in Youth and Community Studies *(Part-time Evening)*
Master of Arts in Community Action and Development *(Part-time Evening)*

Common Degree

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

Joint Degrees

Master of Science in Mental Health Studies *(Part-time Evening)*
Master of Science in Addiction Studies *(Part-time Evening)*
Master of Arts in Management of Social Care Services *(Part-time Evening)*
Diploma in Gender, Work and Society *(Part-time Day)*
Certificate in Volunteering Studies *(Part-time Evening)*
Certificate in Safeguarding of Children and Young People
(Part-time Evening)

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT US ON SOCIALWELLBEING@UM.EDU.MT

Disclaimer: Not all courses are offered every academic year



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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 skillfully, 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.



DR ANDREW CAMILLERI

Research Support Officer and Visiting Lecturer within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing. Don't get Andrew started on controversial topics, as several hours and a few Panadol's later, you might regret that decision!

My current research project deals with the lived experience of poverty within the Valletta community. Using a qualitative approach, we will be investigating how the phenomenon of poverty is constructed and lived will allow for interventions that are more effective.

Poverty in Valletta

Ask anyone about poverty and be prepared to be regaled with a litany of moral judgements as to why the poor are poor. It is quite rare that persons in poverty are consulted and given a voice as to why they are in such poverty.

In the research that we are currently undertaking within the Valletta community, we are seeking to understand how the phenomenon of poverty is constructed and lived. Our sensitising concept, gained through a look at the literature and preliminary interviews, seems to indicate that within Valletta exists a culture of poverty. This culture is developed as a reaction to conditions of poverty and helps cope with the immediate day-to-day struggles, but can in the long-term present obstacles for moving out of poverty.

Better understanding of the lived experience of poverty will allow us to propose more effective and tailored interventions to help people move out of poverty. We believe that tailored interventions, proposed as a result of the research at the communal level, will be better received because they are home-grown, locally bound and can tackle elements within the culture to further empower communities over multiple generations.

WHY NOT READ A Ph.D. WITH OUR FACULTY?

Contact us on
socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

Faculty Committees

FREC is one of the most important statutory committees of our Faculty. We take research ethics very seriously to ensure that the people who are collaborating in our research activities are being safeguarded. Working in the social sector is not only delicate but places a major responsibility on our shoulders which we do not take lightly. FREC is currently being chaired by the Deputy Dean, Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane.

The **Community Engagement Committee** (CEC) is another important pillar for our Faculty. This committee looks into ways how our Faculty can retain its engagement with the community and provides opportunities through numerous activities to strengthen this aspect of the Faculty agenda. This is done through seminars, the publication of research and the setting up of a virtual observatory. This committee is currently chaired by Dr Pat Bonello.

The **Research, Publications and Scholarship Committee** (RSPC) was set up to create a space whereby scholarship can thrive. Through the numerous activities it organises, ranging from publications to media programs, from seminars to conferences, RSPC is becoming an important pillar for the Faculty. It is currently being chaired by Dr Ruth Falzon.

Our story and video biography

Faculty Events

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 A NUMBER OF UM ENTITIES WHICH ADDRESS DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF 'SOCIAL WELLBEING'.

Each of our departments contributes towards the welfare of society, in its particular 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, a number of which lead to a profession.

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 biography can be found on YouTube.



Faculty Board

Let's Toast the Faculty

Freshers' Welcome Event

Faculty Doctoral Committee

Pre-drinks for Under/Postgraduate

Graduands

Staff Christmas Lunch

Staff Easter Lunch

Freshers' Away Day

Team Building Events

Service Users Forum

Professional Mentoring Programme

College of Heads of Departments

Coffee with the Dean

Faculty on the move!

Dean's Forum

Dean's Award Ceremony

Stakeholders Meeting

Faculty Seminar

Brown Bag Seminars

Community Engagement Event

Faculty Conference

Professorial Lecture Series

Brown Bag Seminars

Public Lectures



MIRIAM TEUMA

Chief Executive of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
and part-time Lecturer at the Department
of Youth and Community Studies.

*Many online sessions have
enabled young people from
different social backgrounds to
establish new relationships and
share and discuss their values,
ideas, aspirations and concerns.*

COVID-19

Young people and relationships

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the lives of our families, friends and communities and causing hardship, distress and uncertainty. While regular youth work services, programmes and initiatives in Malta, as elsewhere across Europe, have been adversely impacted by the lockdown, the advent of the crisis is providing us with a unique opportunity for working with and reaching out to young people online and through social media.

Despite social distancing and isolation, social media is opening up new ways for young people and youth workers to engage with each other. Numerous online sessions are being conducted that provide safe spaces for young people, enabling them to discuss topical issues, engage in online activities and socialise with their peers assisted by professional youth workers.

While *Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ* has digitalised its youth hubs and cafes and supported youth organisations to re-design and adjust their programmes and projects, it also introduced new services and opportunities for young people to meet the changing circumstances. *Stories from Young People During Coronavirus*, is a campaign that encourages young people to share online their everyday experiences of life under the lockdown, while *Youth of Gozo*, is another campaign that focuses on providing an online platform for young people on the Island of Gozo who are pursuing a wide range of cultural and artistic activities. The Give Back Award is also a new project that invites young people to use their creativity and innovation to give something back to their communities to support and encourage them.

Digital youth work has come of age during the pandemic, and we must not lose the chance of embedding it in future policy and practice.



Agenzija Żgħażaġh

MALTA'S NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY

At Agenzija Żgħażaġh, we offer you opportunities to meet with and get to know other young people to express your views, needs and concerns

Agenzija Żgħażaġh provides young people with the time and space to make friends, learn in new ways and develop their talents through our regional youth services and our extensive empowerment programme.

Through our interactive youth information service we provide information on services and opportunities for young people as well as listening to their views on issues that impact on their lives. Through Eurodesk, the European Youth Card and our participation in EU programmes, young people are offered the opportunity of exploring life, learning and work across Europe.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to manage, implement and coordinate the National Youth Policy and to promote and safeguard the interests of young people.

Our empowerment programme provides young people with projects and activities in the visual arts, music, theatre, film, writing, and civic and political engagement at local and European level; as well as supports for voluntary youth organisations and a dedicated programme, Youth.inc, for young people experiencing difficulties in education and the transition to working life.

Our regional youth services provide activities in our youth cafes, youth hubs, schools and the youth activity centres in Dingli and Marsaxlokk.

Agenzija Żgħażaġh
St Joseph High Road
St Venera SVR 1013

Tel: 00356 2258 6700

Email: agenzija.zghazagh@gov.mt

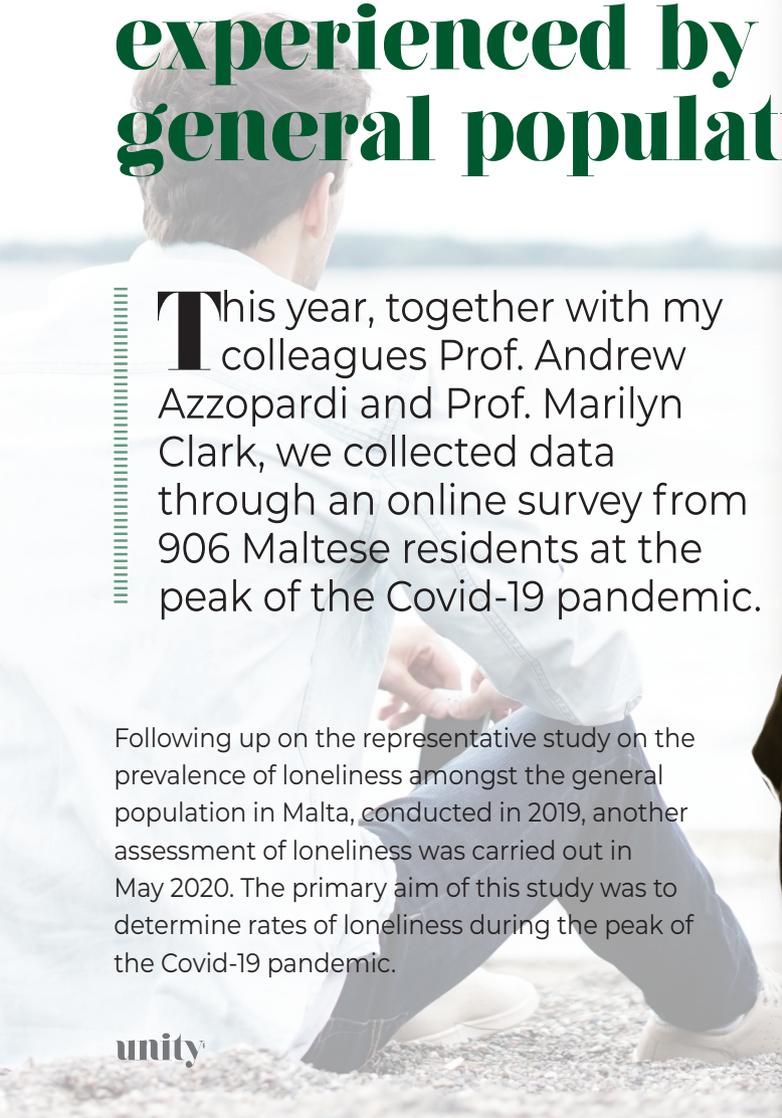
Website: youth.gov.mt



JAMIE BONNICI

Research Support Officer with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and a casual lecturer specialising in statistics and research methods for the social sciences.

Loneliness as experienced by the general population



This year, together with my colleagues Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Prof. Marilyn Clark, we collected data through an online survey from 906 Maltese residents at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following up on the representative study on the prevalence of loneliness amongst the general population in Malta, conducted in 2019, another assessment of loneliness was carried out in May 2020. The primary aim of this study was to determine rates of loneliness during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Slow Streets

**Resident
First** 
 A better quality of life

Rethink
Mobility 



MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS



MINISTRY FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE,
THE ARTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Transport Malta



**Assoċjazzjoni
Kunsilli Lokali**

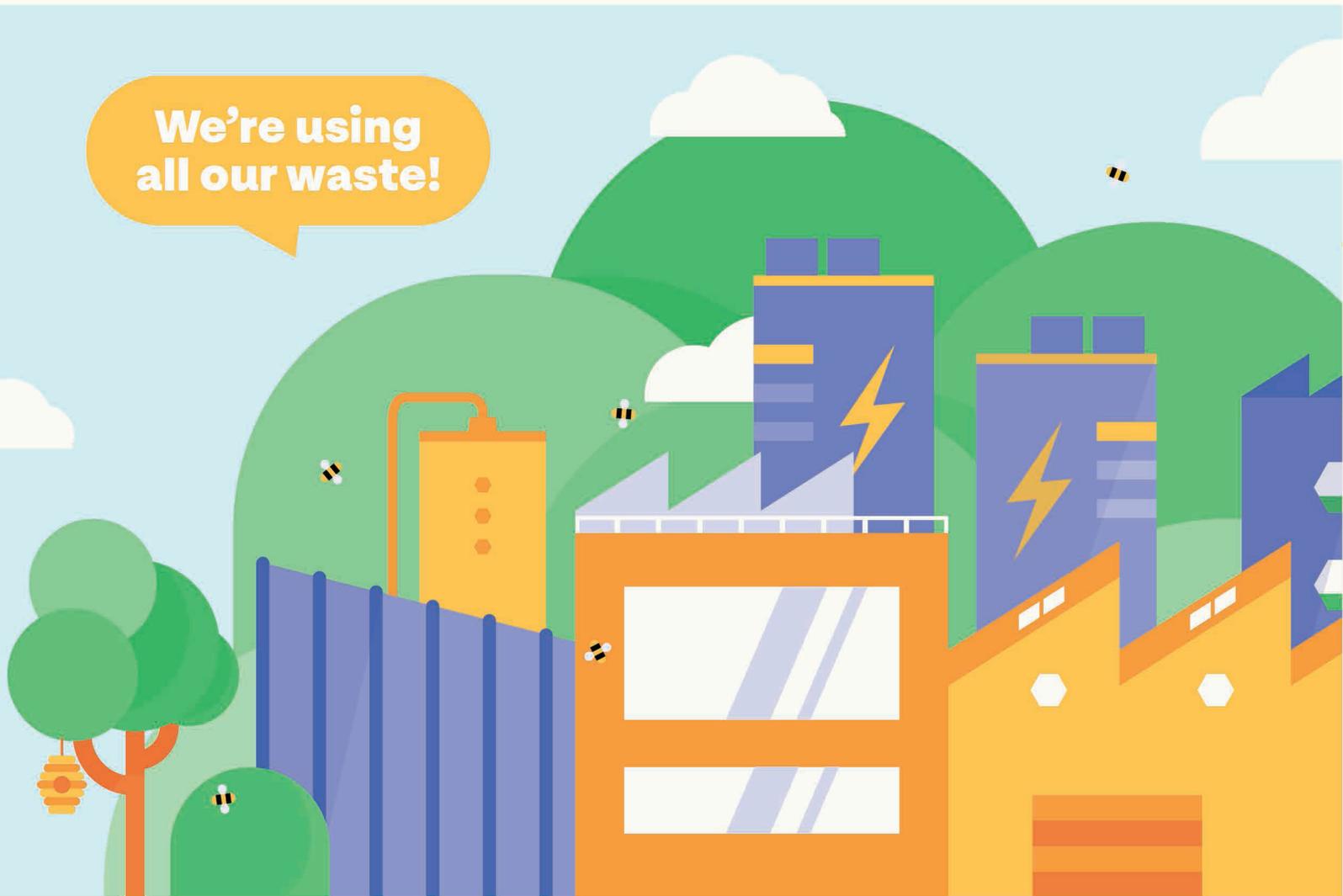
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