



EDITORIAL

## BREAKING COMFORT ZONES

**W**e made plans for spring and summer. Conferences, events, meetings, and holidays. Visits to family and friends. And then, a viral pandemic happened. At **THINK**, we rushed to invite our authors to make sense of the new situation.

Our focus section starts with lessons from the past – pandemics have happened before, leaving plenty of lessons to learn. Economic recessions, too, are cyclical. Economists use familiar models to predict them. At the same time, the situation demanded leaving one's comfort zone and quickly picking up new skills. University of Malta academics share what it was like for them to shift to online learning, or to provide services to people in Malta. What is it like for a nursing student to serve as a translator? For a genetics team to remotely take care of sensitive work they spent years developing? For media houses to lose advertising revenues when accurate information can become a matter of life and death?

As unique as this situation is, we did not want the whole magazine to be only about COVID-19. Researchers continue breaking out of many other comfort zones, and we are glad to showcase their achievements. In this edition, you will read about jellyfish spotting, public transport, and seabirds, as well as the deeply personal subject of fertility.

Many are saying that we should never return to the old normality. After the initial shock, we can hopefully engage our creativity to make sense of what happened, and think outside another box.

**Edward Duca**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

✉ [edward.duca@um.edu.mt](mailto:edward.duca@um.edu.mt)  
🐦 @DwardD

**Daiva Repeckaite**  
EDITOR

✉ [daiva.repeckaite@um.edu.mt](mailto:daiva.repeckaite@um.edu.mt)  
🐦 @daiva\_hadiva

## FIND US ONLINE



To read all our articles featuring some extra content  
[um.edu.mt/think](http://um.edu.mt/think)



To follow our daily musings and a look behind the scenes  
[facebook.com/ThinkUM](https://facebook.com/ThinkUM)



To communicate with us and follow the latest in research news  
[twitter.com/thinkuni](https://twitter.com/thinkuni)



To see our best photos and illustrations  
[instagram.com/thinkuni](https://instagram.com/thinkuni)



To view some great videos  
[youtube.com/user/ThinkUni](https://youtube.com/user/ThinkUni)



To read all our printed magazines online  
[issuu.com/thinkuni](https://issuu.com/thinkuni)

**OAR@UM**  
Open Access Repository

For our archive from the University of Malta Library  
[um.edu.mt/library/oar](http://um.edu.mt/library/oar)

## CONTRIBUTE



Are you a student, staff, or researcher at the University of Malta? Would you like to contribute to **THINK** magazine? If interested, please get in touch to discuss your article on [think@um.edu.mt](mailto:think@um.edu.mt) or call +356 2340 3451