



Societas.Expert

Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta

THE FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING RESEARCH MAGAZINE FOR ACADEMICS, STUDENTS, ALUMNI,
STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN COLLABORATION WITH CORPORATE DISPATCH

EDITORIAL PANEL

PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI, Editor
JAMIE BONNICI, Research Support Officer

Publication

Corporate **Dispatch**

Design

boldidentities 
CREATIVE INSTITUTE

INDEX

EDITORIAL	4
PROFILE OF THE FACULTY	5
HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS	6
COMMUNITY PEOPLE IN GENERAL ARE SOCIAL ‘ANIMALS’ SO THEY TEND TO CONGREGATE IN GROUPS, COMMUNITIES.	7
DIALOGUE & CONFLICT	10
SERVICE DELIVERY	12
RESEARCHING LONELINESS: THE RELEVANCE OF MIXED-METHODS APPROACHES	14
LONELINESS – A MODERN EPIDEMIC	17
HOUSING IN MALTA: THE CULTURAL GOALS VS. INSTITUTIONALISED MEANS CONUNDRUM	21
HOMELESSNESS	23
ON MENTAL HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS	26
RAISING THE THRESHOLD: TOWARDS THE PROFESSIONALISATION OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CAREGIVERS	29
STAFF ACADEMIC PROFILES	33
MSIDA CAMPUS MAP	79

EDITORIAL

We are in this together

To be contemporary is to respond to the appeal that the darkness of the epoch makes to us. In the expanding Universe, the space that separates us from the furthest galaxies is growing at such speed that the light of their stars could never reach us. To perceive, amidst the darkness, this light that tries to reach us but cannot – that is what it is to be contemporary. The present is the most difficult thing for us to live. Because an origin, I repeat, is not confined to the past: it is a whirlwind, in Benjamin's very fine image, a chasm in the present. And we are drawn into this abyss. That is why the present is, par excellence, the thing that is left unlive.

Giorgio Agamben (Verso Interview, 2014)

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has embarked on a new initiative, in collaboration with *Corporate Dispatch*, of publishing our first ever Faculty Research Magazine, in the *Societas.Expert* series. This publication is intended to provide several short research papers, this time around, focused on social welfare. Apart from that, this Research Magazine will also serve as a resource providing for information and contact details of most of our academic staff and research officers. This is another loop in our commitment towards democratising our knowledge but also reaching out to society with empirical data and reflections on some engaging areas around social wellbeing. This edition will be converging some important debates around service provision, dialogue and conflict, taking loneliness and homelessness as two major issues that require our immediate attention.

We need to keep in mind that welfare emerged from the need to negotiate and reinvigorate the social responsibility for collective needs. Social and community operators have developed myriad initiatives to meet the imperative of help for the casualties of the economic and social system. Whilst it is exciting that our country seems to be moving away from 'a charitable helpless model' to 'a forward-looking helping model', there is still way to go. It was an effort that saw at the forefront the forthcoming principles of 'help' versus 'helplessness', 'solidarity' versus 'belittling' and 'participation' versus 'competition'.

In more ways than one, social wellbeing as a collective responsibility started taking on and complementing the government's welfare responsibilities, minimizing social tensions and going against the grain of community deterioration. This Faculty Research magazine is yet another loop in attempting to decipher at what stage we are at, when it comes to the relationship between the citizen and civic engagement. This Magazine, the first for our Faculty, will also lay out the strengths and weaknesses in this sector and the direction that our policy needs to take. Probably, a balance between creating 'a kitty mentality' and generating community is what is explicitly and implicitly involved. The spine of a healthy community lies in the inclusion of 'all' knowing well-enough that if 'we are in this together' we have a better chance of making it!

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi

Editor | Dean, Faculty for Social Wellbeing

Jesmond Saliba

Executive Chairman Corporate ID Group

Profile of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing

*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'.*

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 many 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.

We aim to promote social wellbeing, by:

- researching issues that characterise society, identifying challenges and opportunities, presenting practical, efficient and effective interventions
- providing researchers, academics and practitioners in welfare, youth work and/or the criminal justice system
- training welfare, youth or criminal justice professionals on-the-job
- acting as a resource centre for the authorities, in welfare, youth or the criminal justice system
- being an informed, assertive, logical, academic voice that identifies and reflects social aspirations, promoting awareness, prevention and positive intervention.

Heads of Departments

DR DIONE MIFSUD

Head, Department of Counselling

☎ +356 2340 2548

✉ dione.mifsud@um.edu.mt

PROF. SAVIOUR FORMOSA

Head, Department of Criminology

☎ +356 2340 2042

✉ saviour.formosa@um.edu.mt

DR CLAIRE LUCILLE AZZOPARDI LANE

Head, Department of Disability Studies

☎ +356 2340 3997

✉ claire.azzopardi-lane@um.edu.mt

DR CLARISSA SAMMUT SCERRI

Head, Department of Family Studies

☎ +356 2340 3061

✉ clarissa.sammuto-scerri@um.edu.mt

DR MARCELINE NAUDI

Head, Department of Gender Studies

☎ +356 2340 2980

✉ marceline.naudi@um.edu.mt

PROF. MARVIN FORMOSA

Head, Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies

☎ +356 2340 3103

✉ marvin.formosa@um.edu.mt

DR GRETA DARMANIN KISSAUN

Deputy Dean

Head, Department of Psychology

☎ +356 2340 3129

✉ greta.darmanin-kissaun@um.edu.mt

DR NATALIE KENELY

Head Department of Social Work and Social Policy

☎ +356 2340 2743

✉ natalie.kenely@um.edu.mt

PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI

Dean

Head, Department of Youth and Community Studies

☎ +356 2340 2918

✉ andrew.azzopardi@um.edu.mt

FACULTY DETAILS

Faculty for Social Wellbeing

Rm 117, Ground Floor

Humanities B

University of Malta

Msida MSD 2080, Malta

☎ +356 2340 2693

✉ socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

Community people in general are Social ‘Animals’ so they tend to congregat in groups, communities

Dr JosAnn Cutajar
Department of Gender Studies
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY

A community consists of a group of individuals or families that share certain values, interests, services, institutions, and/or geographical proximity. Fellin (2001) defines ‘community’ as a functional special unit that meets people’s sustenance needs, leads them to form collective identities, and facilitates social interaction. Communities are not limited to neighbourhoods, but include professional groups, enthusiasts of a particular local, national, or global sport, diasporas, and/or online communities. Some communities are linked to a place, online ones are linked to a particular location in cyber space. Diasporas feel an emotional belonging to a geographic space which they might or might not have visited physically.

Netting, Kettner, McMurtry, & Thomas (2017) maintain that one of the characteristics of a community involves geographical proximity. Geographical proximity used to be a factor but nowadays, thanks to ICT, proximity can also occur through cyberspace. In Malta we still tend to identify with certain places and the communities (religious, political, leisure) linked to certain neighbourhoods or towns. Although geographical parameters between one locality or another might be hazy in certain areas of Malta – the Qormi, Hamrun, Sta. Venera and Albert Town areas being a case in point – a good number of Maltese feel an affinity with one locality or another.

The Maltese like to use symbols to differentiate between communities, especially when these are found in the same locality. In Żabbar, for example, residents who support the philharmonic club referred to as *tal-Baqra* use the colour blue to distinguish themselves from the community referred to as *‘ta’ San Mikiel*, which uses the colour green to demonstrate their allegiance to this band club. At the same time, they are united by their allegiance to their patron saint, *il-Madonna tal-Grazzja* (Our Lady of Graces) which serves as a totemic symbol, a social glue to hold the different factions within the same locality together in spite of secularization.

‘US’ AND ‘THEM’

Anthony Cohen (2001) underlines that we use the term ‘community’ when we want to identify between ‘us’ and ‘them’. Symbols are often used to differentiate between those who are considered insiders and those perceived as outsiders to the community. The Maltese use the term *‘iswed’* when they want to underline that they are being socially excluded from something. This term is linked with the Roman Catholic religion since black symbolizes evil, the devil, sin, death, so it has negative connotations.

The term community implies that people who are part of the community have something similar to each other, while those outside do not. This sense of belonging leads to a sense of attachment to a group and/or place, which might eventually translate into involvement, and commitment. Members of parliament, for example, are very committed to their constituents, and this often translates into particular ministries employing quite a substantial number of people deriving from the area with which the minister or secretary is linked. For others, commitment means fighting for a cause. People have died in the name of ‘democracy’ or killed in the name of their ‘country’, two abstract concepts which feel very real for those involved. Cohen maintains that people construct community symbolically, rendering community a repository of meaning, and a resource at the same time.

Community is a point of reference where social identity is involved. Community activists within the LGBTIQ, disability, race and ethnic arena come together for a cause. Others come together because of an interest in sports, in politics, etc. While women tend to form part of groups involved in social issues, men tend to frequent football clubs, boċċi clubs, or band clubs. Putnam (2000) underlined that the activities based on the social identification with a place, interest or a cause help to consolidate social bonding. Social bonding leads to trust and reciprocity among disparate individuals.

COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Communities have social functions, one of which is the ability to respond to the needs of its members. The members' needs can be addressed by resources found within the community. Lin, Cook, & Burt (2008) refer to this as collective efficacy. Neighbourhood watch is based on collective efficacy whereby community members look out for each other. Collective efficacy is a safety net for the socially excluded and the materially deprived (Cutajar, 2014). Life would be harder if community members did not share the few resources they have with each other.

Fellin (2001) maintains that community competence is enhanced when residents have a commitment to each other, are aware of their shared values and interests, are open in their communication, and participate widely in community decision making. This commitment to each other is being eroded through social, cultural and physical mobility, which is leading to fragmentation, alienation and disengagement according to Hardcastle, Powers, and Wenocur (2011). The Maltese have also been used to being ruled for centuries, by past colonial masters, by the Roman Catholic Church, by men. So, I think it might take time for the majority to catch up and realise that, by participating in decision making, they will make sure that their needs and interests are taken into consideration.

Not everybody is in a position to participate in decision making. Communities delineate who can participate and who cannot. Hardcastle et al. (2011) differentiate between horizontal and vertical structures. Horizontal structures are more apparent when the individuals involved share the same space, know each other, and therefore can take decisions together. Vertical structures involve hierarchical levels of authority which are found beyond the geographic boundaries shared by community members. In my research (Cutajar, 2018) on Gozo and Bormla, it was evident that distance from authority impacts on the community's efficacy to access resources or to voice their concerns. Distance can be spatial or social and it can affect what Putnam refers to as bridging social capital, that is the groups' efficacy to rope in the help of outsiders who have power. Gozitans are somewhat geographically removed from the centre of power. Bormla, as a 'blighted' locality, is socially removed (Boswell, 1994).

People's feeling that they do not have a say in decision making or that their feedback does not count undermines cohesion and leads to fragmentation and alienation, maintain Hardcastle et al. (2011). This sense of alienation can lead to anomie or normlessness for people who do not feel that they belong in the 'normative' community. It is not only immigrants who might feel socially excluded, but all those who face social disenfranchisement, those communities who are made to feel different. And, in Malta, we are constantly coming up with ways of underlining who is part of a community, and who does not belong.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Communities have assets and capacities which are communally shared, and which people tend to take for granted until they disappear. The Legion of Mary volunteers are a case in point. In some communities, volunteers still pay home visits to the elderly and the lonely. This helps keep people feeling that they are part of the community and keeps them mentally healthy and socially engaged. Some communities help people cope and grow towards self-fulfillment. They help produce people who are functioning well physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually. They produce people with little need for human services since community members will look out for each other.

Social turnover in some areas is what I feel is somewhat undermining this. Living in each other's pocket is not healthy either. Internecine 'warfare' among professional groups or neighbourhoods undermines the group's self-efficacy. We take community for granted until it starts going wrong. More research needs to be conducted on communities to find out what makes them efficacious, and what might undermine this efficacy.

REFERENCES

- Boswell, D. M. (1994). 'The social prestige of residential areas', in Sultana, R.G. & Baldacchino, G. (Eds), *Maltese society. A sociological inquiry*, pp. 133-162. Malta: Mireva Publications.
- Cohen, A. P. (2001). *The symbolic construction of community*. London & New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis.
- Cutajar, J. (2018). Gozitan Women: a study on the transition from marriage into widowhood. *The Gozo Observer*, 37, pp 17-26.
- Cutajar, J. (2014). *Bormla: a struggling community*. Malta: Faraxa.
- Fellin, P. 2001. *The community and the social worker*. Itasca, IL: Peacock.
- Hardcastle, D. A., Powers, P. R., & Wenocur, S. (2011). *Community Practice: Theories and skills for Social Workers*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lin, N., Cook, K., & Burt, R. S. (2008). *Social capital: Theory and research*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.
- Netting, F. E., Kettner, P. M., McMurtry, S. L., & Thomas, M. L. (2017). *Social work macro practice* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.
- Putnam, R. D. (2000). *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Dialogue & Conflict

*Prof. Gordon Sammut
Department of Psychology
Faculty for Social Wellbeing*

INTRODUCTION

The human condition has been marked by intra-species conflict since the dawn of time. To ensure evolutionary survival, our ancestors competed not only with other species for food and shelter, such as other primate species. They also formed coalitions with other human beings to compete against other human coalitions for limited resources. As Charles Darwin (1859) famously noted: Competition is the driving force marking the evolution of species. In psychology, the inherent competitive attitude for resources marking the human condition has been elaborated in Realistic Conflict Theory (Campbell, 1965). This argues that our evolutionary baggage (i.e. the human genome) fosters intergroup hostilities as humans compete over what they perceive to be limited resources, even when these resources are in actual fact plentiful. Our natural competitive tendencies lead us to perceive threats when we encounter different others, and to take measures to protect ourselves from these perceived threats even if these might not be strictly necessary. President Trump's strategy of calling a national emergency to fund the building of a wall with Mexico on the basis that 'walls work' provides an apt example. Walls work indeed, in maintaining a boundary between those who can and those who cannot make claims to resources (Sammut, Bauer, & Jovchelovitch, 2018).

CONFLICT SITUATIONS

In intergroup conflict situations, dialogue is often prescribed as a panacea (Nesbitt-Larking, 2008). The idea behind dialogue's presumed success is that the communicative effort involved ought to enable participants to understand each other's positions better and, as a result, participants should become capable of proposing mutually beneficial solutions. There are two reasons why this commonly fails. Firstly, not all dialogue aspires to resolve discord. As Habermas (1984) argues in his theory of communicative action, dialogue could be strategic rather than communicative; when it aims to persuade rather than understand and inform. In such cases, we argue that dialogue is not sincere. Secondly, human beings demonstrate cognitive difficulties in understanding diverse or oppositional perspectives. Ross and Nisbett (1991) have demonstrated how individuals are prone to a cognitive bias which they termed naïve realism. This leads us to believe that our own views are rational and objective; and to the extent that others' views disagree with our own, we hold others' views as subjective and biased. We believe that if others were as rational and as objective as we are, they would agree with us and understand that their views are biased. In other words, we fail to understand that our own views are perspectival and that we can only ever be subjective – every bit as subjective as anybody else. Sammut, Bezzina, and Sartawi (2015) have similarly shown that when individuals encounter a view from the outside that disagrees with their own, they tend to make an attribution of ignorance in its regard and discount it accordingly – you do not dialogue with the ignorant, you educate! Kunda (1990) claims that cognition in the human species is essentially motivated, that is, in a search for or an exchange of information, human subjects are motivated to identify reasons that support their already established beliefs and that deprecate alternatives. In this way, cognition serves to facilitate action that is essentially self-serving – contributing thus to evolutionary survival.

HUMAN COGNITION

The psychological sciences have thus made clear that one impediment to successful dialogue is human cognition itself. Whilst we have come to understand a great deal about how this works already, other intricate cognitive processes that may serve to facilitate communicative action remain a challenge. For instance, we understand how certain environmental conditions (e.g. time pressures) heighten our need for cognitive closure and lead us to settle for premature conclusions that we subsequently strive to defend rather than revisit (Kruglanski, 2004). However, we know very little about what conditions precipitate a more open engagement. We understand how humans hold certain beliefs as axiomatic (Leung & Bond, 2010). However, we know very little about how social axioms may shape perspectives that conflict.

Clearly, the domain of dialogue and conflict represents an exciting frontier for psychological research. Yet, in an age of nuclear weaponry, it also represents a potentially more immanent threat to human survival than arguably any other. To live with one another peacefully, human beings need to do battle with and curtail their own competitive inclinations as for the human species, collaboration itself provides the competitive edge.

REFERENCES

- Campbell, D. T. (1965). *Ethnocentric and Other Altruistic Motives*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- Darwin, C. (1859). *On the origin of species by means of natural selection or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*. London, UK: John Murray.
- Habermas, J. (1984). *The theory of communicative action*. Boston, MA: Beacon.
- Kruglanski, A. W. (2004). *The psychology of closed mindedness*. New York, NY: Psychology Press.
- Kunda, Z. (1990). The case for motivated reasoning. *Psychological Bulletin*, 108(3), 480-498.
- Leung, K., & Bond, M. H. (Eds.). (2010). *Psychological aspects of social axioms: Understanding global belief systems*. New York, NY: Springer.
- Nesbitt-Larking, P. (2008). Dissolving the diaspora: Dialogical practice in the development of deep multiculturalism. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 18(4), 351-362.
- Ross, L., & Nisbett, R. E. (1991). *The person and the situation: Perspectives of social psychology*. London, UK: McGraw Hill.
- Sammut, G., Bezzina, F., & Sartawi, M. (2015). The spiral of conflict: Naïve realism and the black sheep effect in attributions of knowledge and ignorance. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 21(2), 289-294.
- Sammut, G., Bauer, M., & Jovchelovitch, S. (2018). Knowledge and experience: Interobjectivity, subjectivity and social relations. In A. Rosa & J. Valsiner (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Sociocultural Psychology* (2nd ed.) (pp. 49-62). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Service Delivery

*Dr Patricia Bonello
Department of Social Policy and Social Work
Faculty for Social Wellbeing*

INTRODUCTION

Service delivery is a major feature of the social sector which “includes entities and initiatives devoted to advancing human dignity and social justice. Social sector organizations (SSOs) are formed to primarily improve the human condition and effect social change at local, national, and global levels” (Aqeel Tirmizi & Vogelsang, 2017, p. 2). Students preparing to enter the social sector usually have service delivery as one of their main targets, many of them wanting to make a change in the world. It is, therefore, appropriate that most of these students would be following a course within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing since the Faculty’s description, to be found on its webpage (Faculty for Social Wellbeing, n.d.) explains that each of its departments “contributes towards the welfare of society...” and that 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”.

The unifying strength and purpose which this description emits positions the Faculty as one of the major stakeholders of social service delivery in the country, with all the responsibility that this entails, and creates a dual role for it. On the one hand, the Faculty is the institution which contributes to efficient and effective service delivery by preparing competent professionals to work in the field. On the other hand, it is one of the main institutions involved in the generation of research around social issues. Both these roles are essential to service delivery in different ways.

HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

The first contribution of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing to service delivery is the preparation of competent human services professionals. Although this is generally acknowledged as a major task of the Faculty, it is not an easy one since practice for... social care staff is emotionally and ethically demanding. Complexity and uncertainty frequently surround the social and health issues about which they must make fine judgements. Staff must strike a unique balance in each case between person-centred working and the requirements set by job roles and organizational boundaries... Staff often act in a context where needs are urgent, possibly life- or development- threatening, and presented with strong feelings (Kline & Preston-Shoot, 2012, p. 58).

The question then becomes how to mould students into professionals who can carry this responsibility appropriately and prepare them for the challenges which this entails. The Faculty takes this role very seriously and is aware that the process requires more than academic preparation. It also entails accompanying students on a journey of self-awareness, mentoring them, helping them face the demands of practical placements, being available for them when they need to share their fears and doubts and exposing them to experiences of practitioners from the field. The determinant of success in this process, which would accompany the student’s academic progress, is whether practitioners would want the student as a colleague, once he or she graduates. Only an affirmative answer can attest to the Faculty’s achievement in this area.

Students usually come to the Faculty with hopes and dreams of the contribution they would like to make to society. Very often, the courses they undertake transform them both professionally and personally. This

transformation is important because to be involved in human service delivery requires personal preparation, as well as sustenance once professional status has been attained. Hence the insistence on supervision by a number of the Faculty's professions. Some of the students find the changes required of them impossible to surmount and decide that involvement in the social field is not for them. However, those who complete the task of becoming human services professionals successfully usually integrate this aspect within their professional identity. Many do this with great commitment and are able to enhance service delivery greatly through their contribution.

THE SOCIAL PILLARS

The Faculty's second role when contributing to service delivery, the generation of research around social issues is, perhaps, a more contentious one. While the Faculty would readily see this as a major component of its workload and the mainstay of its academic existence, its integration with service delivery is not always so clear for practitioners. Unfortunately, these two social pillars are sometimes seen as separate, with hardly any links between them. This is regrettable for a number of reasons. First of all, today's global society increasingly demands accountability and insists that services are evidence-based, with an efficient and effective use made of scarce resources. To meet this requirement, service providers can make use of the "evidence" produced by the Faculty and blend it with their practice wisdom, in itself a form of evidence. This would ensure a service delivery which is grounded in what works and which meets accountability demands in a much better way.

Another regret is that practitioners often view academics as removed from reality and living in an ivory castle. This may make them resistant to the knowledge generated within the Faculty, judging it to be inapplicable. However, the truth is that many academics are still involved in the field in one way or another, while others are coming from years of practice. Breaking down the resistance to academics on the part of practitioners would enrich both service delivery and social research. At the same time, it is important that, in the generation of research, academics involve practitioners and include their perspective, to ensure that the research carried out reflects reality and that the data generated is applicable to service delivery, at its different levels.

Service delivery and academia need to maintain strong links between them. These links already exist in a number of cases, with the two areas making strong contributions to each other. However, in other situations, resistance is sometimes created and blocks the two areas from being open to each other. The casualty of this is service delivery and, consequently, the vulnerable members of society to whom the services which fall under the Faculty's remit are delivered. If service delivery is to be maintained as the Faculty's ultimate goal, as it should be, and if the Faculty believes that vulnerable members of society deserve the best, then this will serve as a beacon for it to continue to develop its students and programmes while reaching out to service providers and involving them in its operations. In this way, practitioners will be more receptive to supplementing their experience by academically generated knowledge, leading to service delivery which is more holistic, based on what works and making effective and efficient use of available resources.

REFERENCES

Aqeel Tirmizi, S. & Volgelsang, J. D. (2017). *Leading and managing in the social sector: Strategies for advancing human dignity and social justice*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Faculty for Social Wellbeing. (n.d). Retrieved from <https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/aboutus> - Downloaded 23.01.2019. Kline, R. & Preston-Shoot, M. (2012). *Professional accountability in social care and health: Challenging unacceptable practice and its management*. New York: Sage Publications.

Researching loneliness: The relevance of mixed-methods approaches

Jamie Bonnici
Research Officer
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

INTRODUCTION

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has recently embarked on a number of initiatives to explore the phenomenon of loneliness in Malta. Following a conference where the Faculty's documentary, "The Wound of Loneliness" was presented, a research group is preparing to conduct a national study to further investigate the phenomenon. Adopting a mixed-methods approach to researching loneliness is critical, in order to understand both the magnitude of the issue, as well as the personal and contextual factors that are implicated in the experience of loneliness. However, researching such a complex and subjective theme is not without its difficulties.

Loneliness has been defined by prominent researchers in the area as "a distressing feeling that accompanies the perception that one's social needs are not being met by the quantity or especially the quality of one's social relationships" (Hawkley & Cacioppo, 2010, p. 218). The phenomenon has been largely neglected by social science researchers until the mid-20th century, yet has recently seen a rise in interest due, in part, to studies demonstrating the many negative implications - both physical and psychological - that are associated with prolonged or high levels of loneliness in people's lives.

THE IMPACT OF LONELINESS

Longitudinal research has shown that loneliness predicts health problems, most notably being implicated in cardiovascular diseases, high systolic blood pressure, and mortality rates, among others. We also know that loneliness affects people from all ages and walks of life; studies show that up to 80% of young people under the age of 18 report that they are lonely at least some of the time, with rates gradually decreasing for middle-aged adults and then increasing again for those aged 70 and over (Berguno, Leroux, McAinsh, & Shaikh, 2004; Pinquart & Sorensen, 2001; Weeks, 1994). In addition to contributing to poor physical health outcomes, prolonged or elevated levels of loneliness can also contribute to psychological disorders, such as depression.

Several valid and reliable measures have been developed for measuring loneliness for the purposes of academic research, such as the de Jong Gierveld Scale for Emotional and Social Loneliness (de Jong Gierveld & Kamphuis, 1985; de Jong Gierveld & Van Tilburg, 1999), and the UCLA Loneliness Scale (Russel, Peplau, & Ferguson, 1987). Yet, it is unclear whether such measures are equally suited for use in a practical context; for instance, in order to predict which individuals might be at a higher risk of experiencing adverse effects of loneliness, or to measure the success of a targeted intervention aiming to reduce loneliness.

Being a social phenomenon, loneliness is inherently difficult to measure in a purely objective way - there are no blood tests, genetic markers, or outward physical signs that a physician could use to assess their patient's predicament. For this reason, researchers have predominantly made use of self-report measures - although these are also vulnerable to inaccurate measurement, since loneliness is a deeply personal experience that individuals may find difficult to describe or quantify as discrete responses in a survey.

The standardised tools that are designed to measure loneliness have attempted to overcome some of the potential uncertainty by breaking the phenomenon of loneliness down into various elements, so that individual variations in conceptualising the issue are less likely to lead to incorrect measurement. This is done by asking questions related to the experience of loneliness, such as whether a person has someone to talk to about their day to day problems, rather than directly asking them to rate their level of loneliness on a scale from low to very high.

Self-report measures of loneliness could also be susceptible to reporting bias, where an individual rates their social connections more negatively if they are in a particularly low-mood state when completing the survey. Researchers (e.g. Penning, Liu, & Chou, 2014) have nonetheless been able to demonstrate strong measurement invariance for established loneliness scales, such as the de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale, meaning that the tool effectively captures the construct across different age groups and successive measurements.

Furthermore, even if a formal screening test for loneliness were to be developed, it might be difficult in practical terms to roll out at a large-scale level. Perhaps this is the reason that countries such as the United Kingdom have seen the adoption of innovative methods to informally screen for loneliness in the general population; One such method, the “High Intensity User Service”, was founded by a paramedic who recognised that loneliness was the “number one reason” for repeated ambulance calls in her town (Monteith, in Orton, 2019).

AT RISK OF LONELINESS

The service identifies individuals who may be at risk of loneliness due to a high number of ambulance or doctor visits, so that representatives can check up on them and offer to visit them for a chat and a cup of tea. The project has been massively successful, being scaled out on a national level and helping over 4,000 people to date. Those who have used the service report that it has really helped them to deal with their issues, and ultimately the service can reduce admissions to Emergency services - thus minimising pressures on the hospital system.

Another consideration when researching loneliness is to be aware of other factors that may influence a person’s experience of loneliness, whether by increasing its effects, acting as a protective element, or by outright causing the phenomenon to occur. It has been noted that when we study loneliness, we are not simply measuring compromised social relations between individuals; perhaps, loneliness is also serving as a covert way of discussing other issues - such as poverty and social inequality - that may not be as easy to talk about at a societal level (Victor, 2010).

In fact, recent research by Niedzwiedz and colleagues (2016) has demonstrated that, among the older population, social inequality acts as a significant determinant of loneliness; those individuals at the poorest levels of the population were found to be 10% more likely to experience loneliness, when compared to the wealthiest in the population. However, this relationship between social inequality and loneliness has also been found to be mediated by participation in social activities. Conducting a thorough review of existing literature, prior to designing data collection tools, is thus central to researching loneliness since this ensures that researchers capture as many of the variables that may be implicated in the experience as possible.

CONCLUSION

It is also helpful to make use of both quantitative and qualitative approaches when researching a topic such as loneliness, especially when limited empirical data exist with regards to the local context. Qualitative research methods allow us to gain a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon of loneliness, by providing a sense of context in which to better understand results from quantitative measures such as standardised questionnaires. From a social policy and public health perspective, it is equally as important to gain empirical evidence of how many people are experiencing significant levels of loneliness as it is to understand common threads that emerge from studying the lived experience of such individuals.

As researchers, it is imperative that we remain mindful of these methodological and practical issues when attempting to study a topic such as loneliness. Whilst much progress has been made in understanding loneliness in an academic sense, we also need to consider how applicable our findings are to the real-world context of identifying at-risk individuals and delivering interventions.

REFERENCES

- Berguno, G., Leroux, P., McAinsh, K., & Shaikh, S. (2004). Children's experience of loneliness at school and its relation to bullying and the quality of teacher interventions. *The qualitative report*, 9(3), 483-499.
- De Jong Gierveld, J., & Kamphuls, F. (1985). The development of a Rasch-type loneliness scale. *Applied psychological measurement*, 9(3), 289-299.
- De Jong Gierveld, J., & Van Tilburg, T. G. (1999). *Manual of the loneliness scale*. VU University, Amsterdam.
- Hawkley, L. C., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2010). Loneliness matters: a theoretical and empirical review of consequences and mechanisms. *Annals of behavioral medicine*, 40(2), 218-227.
- Monteith, N. in Howard, R., Hall, S., Williams, S., & Pritchard-McLean, K. (Writers) & O'Brien, R. (Director). (2019). 2.10. [Television series episode] In Orton, P. (Producer), *The Russell Howard Hour*. London: Sky One.
- Niedzwiedz, C. L., Richardson, E. A., Tunstall, H., Shortt, N. K., Mitchell, R. J., & Pearce, J. R. (2016). The relationship between wealth and loneliness among older people across Europe: Is social participation protective?. *Preventive medicine*, 91, 24-31.
- Penning, M. J., Liu, G., & Chou, P. H. B. (2014). Measuring loneliness among middle-aged and older adults: the UCLA and de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scales. *Social Indicators Research*, 118(3), 1147-1166.
- Pinquart, M., & Sorensen, S. (2001). Influences on loneliness in older adults: A meta-analysis. *Basic and applied social psychology*, 23(4), 245-266.
- Russell, D., Peplau, L. A., & Ferguson, M. L. (1978). Developing a measure of loneliness. *Journal of personality assessment*, 42(3), 290-294.
- Victor, C. (2015). *Measurement and meaning in loneliness research*. Presentation, Brunel University: United Kingdom.
- Weeks, D. J. (1994). A review of loneliness concepts, with particular reference to old age. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 9(5), 345-355.

Loneliness – A Modern Epidemic

Dr Natalie Kenely
Department of Social Policy and Social Work
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

INTRODUCTION

Most of us know it, are acquainted with it. At some point in our lives it is likely that you or I will feel lonely. Loneliness has been described as a scourge of modern times, a cruel reality, the worst form of punishment for humans, and a growing phenomenon. A simple online search on the topic of loneliness produced headlines describing it as a public-health threat, as something that is killing people, as something we need to start talking about. Research studies on loneliness, its causes and its effects abound. The Faculty for Social Wellbeing, at the University of Malta, and Caritas (Malta) have identified loneliness as one of the main difficulties faced by Maltese society today.

In an interview with Tim Adams (2016) for The Guardian, John Cacioppo, a leading social neuroscientist who researched the area of loneliness extensively, described how loneliness is like an iceberg – it goes deeper than we can see. He explained how being with others does not necessarily mean you're going to feel connected, and being alone does not mean you are going to feel lonely. So – there is nothing inherently problematic about solitude in and of itself. I would say loneliness is not about being alone; it is about not feeling connected. And connection to others is widely considered as a fundamental human need – crucial to wellbeing (Holt-Lunstad, Smith, Baker, Harris, and Stephenson, 2015).

Loneliness is a subjective, unwelcome feeling of lack or loss of companionship, which happens when the quantity and quality of social relationships that we have, do not tally with those that we really want. It is often associated with social isolation, but people can and do feel lonely even when in a relationship or when surrounded by others.

For most of us the loneliness we experience will be transient in nature. It is when this loneliness becomes long-term and persistent that it becomes a serious concern, creating “a persistent, self-reinforcing loop of negative thoughts, sensations and behaviours” (Cacioppo & Patrick, 2008, p.7). In other words, it is long-term, chronic loneliness that wears us down rather than loneliness that is ‘situational’ or passing. Once loneliness becomes chronic, it is difficult to treat. It has in fact, been described as one of the surest markers in existence, for maladjustment.

WHO SUFFERS FROM LONELINESS?

Loneliness affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds – from a child struggling to make friends in his new school, to a new parent having to cope alone, to an old woman who outlived her friends and her life-companion and found herself all alone for many years. Evidence suggests that some life transitions – such as moving home, changing schools, coming to another country seeking asylum, developing a health condition, leaving care, becoming a carer, becoming a parent, changing jobs or leaving work, experiencing family breakdown and bereavement – can act as triggers for chronic loneliness. There are also some characteristics that appear to leave people more vulnerable to becoming lonely than others. For example, the evidence suggests that levels of loneliness are higher among disabled people, people who have mental health issues, those who are in poor health, those who live alone, the oldest older people, carers and people from some (but not all) minority ethnic communities (Mental Health Foundation, 2016).

There is a common myth regarding who experiences loneliness. It is commonly held that loneliness particularly affects the elderly who may be socially isolated due to decreased mobility and loss of friends and partners (Singh & Misra, 2009). And yet, loneliness affects people at all ages, including children, and is particularly prevalent in the teenage years. Children have cited reasons for their increased feelings of loneliness, the most common being family relationship problems, issues linked to school, and bullying. The fear of ostracism is often acute among teenagers and young people.

Holt-Lunstad et al (2015), analysed 70 studies encompassing 3.4 million people. They found that the prevalence of loneliness peaks in adolescents and young adults, then again in the eldest in society. Hawkley and Cacioppo (2010) explain that as many as “80% of those under 18 years of age and 40% of adults over 65 years of age report being lonely at least sometimes, with levels of loneliness gradually diminishing through the middle adult years, and then increasing in old age (i.e. >70 years)” (p.218).

EFFECTS OF LONELINESS

The evidence is growing that loneliness has serious consequences not only for individuals’ wellbeing but also for their health and the economic stability of wider society. Social pain is as real a sensation for us as physical pain, and research has shown that loneliness impacts on health in a greater way than smoking or obesity (Harris, 2015). Holt-Lunstad et al (2015) have produced robust evidence that premature mortality increases amongst those experiencing social isolation and loneliness. Those with strong social relationships were 50 percent more likely to survive longer than those who were isolated. A recent review of studies indicates that loneliness increases mortality risk by 26% (Harris, 2015).

The magnitude of the risk far exceeds that of many leading health indicators and recent research indicates that this may be the next biggest public health issue on par with obesity and substance abuse. Loneliness has been linked to increased levels of stress hormones and inflammation, which in turn can increase the risk of heart disease, arthritis, type 2 diabetes, dementia and even suicide attempts (Brody, 2017).

Work over the past couple of decades by social neuroscientists such as John Cacioppo has shown that loneliness causes physiological events that wreak havoc on our health. Persistent loneliness leaves a mark via stress hormones, immune function and cardiovascular function with a cumulative effect that means being lonely or not, is equivalent in impact, to being a smoker or non-smoker (Cacioppo and Hawkley, 2007).

Loneliness alters our behaviour, increasing our chances of indulging in risky habits such as drug-taking, and plays a role in mental disorders such as anxiety and paranoia (Cacioppo & Patrick, 2008). Children suffering from loneliness drop out from school earlier and are prone to delinquency and anti-social behavior (Estroff Marano, 2003).

Loneliness also makes it harder for people to regulate themselves and leads to self-destructive habits, such as overeating or relying on alcohol. Loneliness weakens willpower and perseverance over time, so people who have been lonely for a while are more likely to indulge in behaviour that damages their health (Yesikar, Dixit, and Kant Guleri, 2014). Lonely people are more likely to withdraw from engaging with others and less likely to seek emotional support, which makes them more isolated. Lonely people also experience more difficulties sleeping, and sleep deprivation is known to have the same effects on metabolic, neural and hormonal regulation as ageing (Cacioppo and Patrick, 2008).

Society prides itself on self-reliance. Because of this, people who suffer from loneliness might find it hard to admit it and seek help because of the stigma it carries with it (Griffin, 2010). It is also often difficult to refer lonely people to services where they can find support, as they cut themselves off from the rest of the world and feel safe only at home. Lonely people often also experience very low self-esteem. Lacking confidence in themselves, they often believe that they are unworthy of the attention or regard of other people. And this can lead to further isolation and chronic loneliness. The helpline 179 in Malta, reported that loneliness is on the increase among the callers to this service, describing how several callers admit over the phone that they have no one to speak to, despite being surrounded by people (Carabott, S. 2018).

THE WAY FORWARD

We need to take collective action in tackling loneliness as a public health threat. Gerst-Emerson and Jayawardhana (2015) emphasise the point that “loneliness and social isolation are often overlooked, despite being vital public health concerns, with mortality risk comparable to well-established risk factors such as cigarette smoking and even exceeding the influence of physical activity and obesity” (p.1013). While “we do not yet know whether efforts to reduce isolation and loneliness can actually improve health” (Singer, 2018, np), there are studies that do suggest increasing social networks can improve health (Eng, Rimm, Fitzmaurice, and Kawachi, 2002; Ciechanowski, Wagner, Schmalings, Schwartz, Williams, Diehr, Kulzer, Gray, Collier, and LoGerfo, 2004, Teo, Choi, Andrea, Valenstein, Newsom, Dobscha and Zivin, 2015).

While central Government cannot solve loneliness alone, it can play a role in galvanising the key players, catalysing action, assessing and comparing progress, and holding those who need to act, accountable. All stakeholders – Government, academics, front line practitioners and other experts – need to collect data on who loneliness affects in Malta and when, and collect evidence and measure impact of initiatives that tackle loneliness. To this end, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing has carried out extensive research on this phenomenon in Malta and some thought provoking though worrying results have emerged. Results of this 2019 research show that 186,000 persons over the age of eleven are suffering from some degree of loneliness. One in three young people in Malta, aged 11-19 years are moderately lonely. Participants aged 35-54 years reported the highest rates of severe loneliness (Clark, Azzopardi and Bonnici, 2019, p.54). These figures are a cause for concern, especially given that we still think of Malta as made up of very closely-knit communities, where the sense of family is very strong and where different entities, including the church provide opportunities for people to come together.

We need to equip people with information on the triggers of loneliness and where to seek help. Funds need to be made available to catalyse action in communities – local councils, parishes, and business leaders. We need to ensure that our general medical practitioners and professionals in the social services understand the impact of loneliness on both physical and mental health, so that medical and social care assessments of individuals take into account the impact of loneliness, and direct people to appropriate local services and opportunities.

One approach to loneliness is preventative: we can stop loneliness becoming chronic and tackle the needs of groups that are socially excluded and at risk of isolation. But the success of such measures depends on creating a new climate in which we can better manage our need for social connection. We need to create connection-friendly communities – community and voluntary sector groups have a responsibility to make sure that their work helps people to connect and build relationships. This might be about developing new services, and building the evidence for what works in tackling loneliness. Or it might be as simple as making sure everyone feels welcome in our groups, and making special effort to help those who might need a bit of extra support to take the first step in joining in.

We need to create initiatives that build bridges between generations, and more inclusive communities that encourage cohesion and unity. We need to have long-term strategies and social policies that strengthen communities and encourage community involvement. Abrams (2018) strongly recommends that all policies must be put to the ‘loneliness test’. She goes on to say that examining any reductions to services or policy changes for their potential impact on loneliness, would help address many connected issues. The more we understand unwanted isolation, the more we see the impact on related areas of people’s wellbeing. It is truly time for loneliness to become a more common consideration for all public services.

CONCLUSION

Tackling loneliness is a multi-generational challenge and it will take time before we see a society-wide change and to see positive outcomes. By squandering ‘social capital’ in the individualistic pursuit of greater wealth, or treating these social networks as incidental or secondary, are we neglecting a part of life that makes us happy and keeps us healthy for longer?

The spread of this phenomenon may just about be the wake-up call we need to act sooner rather than later. This conversation on loneliness needs to continue. It will serve to raise awareness and reduce the stigma that it carries. And while large-scale interventions may be necessary to tackle it effectively, each one of us can take action to defeat it. We can be catalysts of change in the communities we work and live in, in our very own circles of family and friends.

REFERENCES

- Abrams, Z., (2018). All policies must be put to the “loneliness test”. *New Statesman*, UK 15th October, 2018. <https://www.newstatesman.com/spotlight/healthcare/2018/10/why-all-policies-must-be-put-loneliness-test>
- Adams, T. (2016). Loneliness Uncovered – Interview with John Cacioppo. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/feb/28/loneliness-is-like-an-iceberg-john-cacioppo-social-neuroscience-interview>
- Brody, J., (2017). The surprising effects of loneliness on health. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/11/well/mind/how-loneliness-affects-our-health.html>
- Cacioppo, J. T. and Hawkley, L. C. (August 2007). Aging and Loneliness: Downhill Quickly? *Current Directions in Psychological Science* <http://psychology.uchicago.edu/people/faculty/cacioppo/CHASRS.shtml>
- Cacioppo, J. T. and Patrick, W. (2008). *Loneliness: Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.
- Carabott, S. (2018). Help! - When the phone is the shoulder to lean on. *The Times of Malta*, September, 3, 2018). <https://app.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20180903/local/help-when-the-phone-is-the-shoulder-to-lean-on.688152>
- Ciechanowski, P., Wagner, E., Schmalting, K., Schwartz, K., Williams, B., Diehr, P., Kuler, J., Gray, S., Collier, C., and LoGerfo, J. (2004). Community-integrated home-based depression treatment in older adults: A randomized controlled trial. *JAMA* 2004; 291:13:1569-157
- Clark, M., Azzopardi, A., and Bonnici, J. (2019). The Prevalence of Loneliness in Malta: A nationally representative study of the Maltese population. Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta
- Eng, P.M., Rimm, E.B., Fitzmaurice, G, Kawachi I. (2002). Social ties and changes in social ties in relation to subsequent total and cause specific mortality and coronary heart disease incidence in men. *Am J Epidemiology* 2002;155:8:700-709
- Estroff Marano, H. (2003). The Dangers of Loneliness. *Psychology Today*. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2015 May; 105(5): 1013-1019. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.302427
- Gerst-Emerson, K., and Jayawardhana, J. (2015). Loneliness as a Public Health Issue: The Impact of Loneliness on Health Care Utilization Among Older Adults. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2015 May; 105(5): 1013-1019. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2014.302427
- Griffin, J., (2010). *The Lonely Society*. Mental Health Foundation. London
- Harris, R., (2015). The loneliness epidemic: we're more connected than ever - but are we feeling more alone? <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/the-loneliness-epidemic-more-connected-than-ever-but-feeling-more-alone-10143206.html>
- Hawkley, L.C., Cacioppo, J.T., (2010). Loneliness Matters: A Theoretical and Empirical Review of Consequences and Mechanisms. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, Volume 40, Issue 2, 1 October 2010, Pages 218-227, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12160-010-9210-8>
- Holt-Lunstad, J., Smith, T., Baker, M., Harris, T., and Stephenson, D., (2015). Loneliness and Social Isolation as Risk Factors for Mortality: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Perspectives on Psychological Science* 2015, Vol. 10(2) 227-237 Sage Publications DOI: 10.1177/1745691614568352
- Mental Health Foundation. (2016). *Fundamental Facts About Mental Health 2016*. Mental Health Foundation: London.
- Singer, C., (2018). Health Effects of Social Isolation and Loneliness. In *Journal of Ageing Life Care*. <https://www.aginglifecarejournal.org/health-effects-of-social-isolation-and-loneliness/>
- Singh, A., and Misra, N., (2009). Loneliness, depression and sociability in old age. *Ind Psychiatry J*. 2009 Jan-Jun; 18(1): 51-55. doi: 10.4103/0972-6748.57861
- Teo AR, Choi HJ, Andrea SB, Valenstein M, Newsom JT, Dobscha SK and Zivin K. (2015). Does mode of contact with different types of social relationships predict depression in older adults? Evidence from a nationally representative survey. *JAGS* 2015; 63:10:2014-2022
- Yesikar, V., Dixit, S., Kant Guleri, S., (2014). Loneliness in the housewives in rising metro culture. *IOSR Journal of Dental and Medical Sciences (IOSR-JDMS)* e-ISSN: 2279- 0853, p-ISSN: 2279-0861. Volume 13, Issue 1 Ver I. (Jan. 2014), PP 63-66 www.iosrjournals.org www.iosrjournals.org 63 | <http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jdms/papers/Vol13-issue1/Version-1/Q013116366.pdf>

Housing in Malta: The cultural goals vs. institutionalised means conundrum

*Dr Maria Brown
Visiting Senior Lecturer
Faculty for Social Wellbeing*

INTRODUCTION

The current housing situation in Malta needs to be contextualized in a mainstreamed culture where home ownership is considered as the ideal tenure status (Parliamentary Secretariat for Social Accommodation, 2018). As 78.2% of all households in Malta own their main dwelling and 60% of households belong to mortgage-free owners (National Statistics Office, 2018), the inequality between those who own their main dwelling and those who do not is more than the quantitative difference of 21.8%. There is a qualitative inequality threatening social wellbeing that may be clarified by Robert K. Merton's sociological analysis (1968). Merton explained that deviance results when mainstreamed cultural goals cannot be accomplished through socially acceptable institutionalised means. In layperson's terms this is a carrot chase scenario where giving up the chase is associated with social disorientation (anomie or normlessness), which Merton associates with the rise of innovative and technically expedient yet often illegal means used to access the culturally desirable goals. In other sociological research, anomie has also been associated with suicide (Durkheim, 1979).

The above breeds a social justice-oriented rationale for incentives targeting increased home ownership, such as Malta's 2019 Budget incentives that include the equity-sharing scheme for people who have turned 40 and are interested in buying a home, as well as stamp duty reduction for first-time buyers and second-time buyers (Scicluna, 2018).

PROACTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Furthermore, ownership of dwellings for purposes that go beyond home ownership, particularly by small and medium newly emerged renting enterprises, testifies to proactive entrepreneurship that is likely to trigger decreases in state welfare expenditure. This is an optimal development considering that, until recently, policy analysis associated state welfare provision in Malta with being "too extensive and abused by society" (Azzopardi, 2011, p. 73); with welfare dependency and as requiring better monitoring on benefit claims and tax evasion (Azzopardi, 2011).

Nevertheless, this does not necessarily translate to increased social wellbeing for the projected shrinking cohort of the disadvantaged. Decline in at risk of poverty rates may be spuriously correlated to a shrinking gap between financial and social resources of those who are at risk of poverty and of those who are thriving. The risk of out of sight, out of mind is high.

Thus, figures tabled at Parliament in 2018 that account for 27 individuals sleeping rough between 2013 and 2018 testify to a situation where the size of the community is by no means comparable to the qualitative disparity with general standard of living. Homelessness in Malta has been qualified as an institutionalised phenomenon as YMCA accounted for 30 individuals requesting its beds each night. The phenomenon has also been tagged as the hidden scandal due to legislation prohibiting and formally sanctioning homelessness. Civil society has also drawn attention to the discourse limitations inherent to the use of the term 'homelessness' because it factors in only 'rooflessness'. Consequently, data tabled at Parliament excluded people hosted

at shelters or other institutions, people who lived in inadequate housing, on beaches, in cars, people who squatted in abandoned places or wore clothes found in donation piles that successfully camouflaged them as ‘normal’ (Carabott, 2018).

RENT SECTOR

In analysis, the burgeoning renting sector has acted as an eye-opener. Not immune to incongruence between goals and means, renting as a housing alternative triggered public outcry, civil society and Government initiatives. In the Faculty for Social Wellbeing’s contribution during the consultation period concerning the White Paper ‘Renting as a Housing Alternative’ (Parliamentary Secretariat for Social Accommodation, 2018), those living in relatively low-cost residential rental units, who do not own property and earn relatively low salaries were identified as risking the hardest hit of the rent-wage disparity and, consequently, as a key priority for intervention.

It was also argued that the same cohort’s wellbeing is at risk of an instant rise in rent prices by lessors to hedge against a possible Government cap, particularly in the view of the White Paper’s proposal to peg rent increases to the Property Price Index, which would be followed by Government’s consideration of capping rent prices. Consequently, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing recommended measures to monitor and discourage potential abuse during the transition period occurring between the publication of the White Paper and implementation of the finalised Act. Aspects at risk of abuse during the said period include rent prices, contract duration and stability, as well as evictions - whether these would be legally forced or occur by lessees giving up on unaffordable leases.

CONCLUSION

Homelessness, eviction, undesired uprooting, insecurity, substandard dwellings and un-homeliness are minefields in politics of housing. Preventive and responsive policy-making calls for empirically informed policy, for policy that is based on rigorous research. This should include action research, longitudinal research and tracer studies. Updated and specialised demographic research that accounts for household demographics and composition is also a must to plan affordable and sustainable housing, particularly in view of the rise in divorce and separation rates and related rise in single parent and reconstituted families.

In times of economic prosperity, equity-inspired politics and policies need to safeguard shrinking cohorts of economically and socially disadvantaged persons from being considered as negligible not just numerically, but also literally. Investment in research is key to counteract speculative evaluations, political footballs and reactionary (rather than responsive) politics and policy-making.

REFERENCES

- Azzopardi, R. M. (2011). *Social policies in Malta*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat, pp. 73-74.
- Carabott, S. (2018). Number of officially homeless in Malta is ‘not a reality’ Data excludes many people, YMCA warns. *Times of Malta*. Retrieved from <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181006/local/number-of-officially-homeless-in-malta-is-not-a-reality,690850>
- Durkheim, E. (1979). *Suicide: A study in sociology*. New York: The Free Press.
- Merton, R. K. (1968). *Social theory and social structure*. New York, NY, US: Free Press.
- National Statistics Office. (2018). *Statistics on income and living conditions 2017: Main dwellings*. Malta: NSO. Retrieved January 31 2018, from https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_C1/Living_Conditions_and_Culture_Statistics/Documents/2018/News2018_159.pdf
- Parliamentary Secretariat for Social Accommodation (PSSA). (2018). *White paper renting as a housing alternative*. Malta: PSSA. Retrieved January 31 2019, from https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MFSS/Documents/White%20Paper%20Booklet.pdf
- Scicluna, E. (2018). [Budget Speech 2019] *Malta: Ministry for finance*. Retrieved January 31 2019, from https://mfim.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Documents/The_Budget_2019/Budget_speech_English_2019.PDF

Homelessness

*Ann Marie Cutajar
Research Officer
Faculty for Social Wellbeing*

INTRODUCTION

Defining 'homelessness' and the 'homeless person' might not be the most straightforward task. The definition of homelessness varies according to the person defining it, the purposes of defining it and the different lenses used to examine and describe the phenomenon and its prevention and management. Irrespective of whether one intends to explore or measure homelessness, the resulting outcomes will depend on the particular definition used and the approach taken.

The way in which we define homelessness is important because, when attempting to quantify the number of homeless persons, results will depend on the definition and methods which are used to count the homeless. Adopting a narrow definition of homelessness risks ignoring the large number of persons living in dire conditions and situations and those who are far from living in safe and secure housing.

A substantial proportion of the homeless population is not accessible to researchers. Most are invisible, sometimes also by choice, often due to embarrassment, stigma or unwanted social control. Those sleeping rough, those living in unstable housing arrangements, those living in vehicles and those doubled up with friends and family are excluded from being counted. Quantifying the homeless population in Malta is even more problematic. This is because data on homelessness is lacking, and also because very often the numbers of homeless persons presented by authorities merely reflect those persons reported to be sleeping outdoors.

CAUSES

The main causes of homelessness amongst the homeless population in Malta are social problems, such as domestic violence; difficult childhood experiences; childhood homelessness (including out-of-home placements and any other situation in which children live a separated life from their immediate family); dysfunctional marriages; the loss of significant others such as parents; unhealthy or dysfunctional relationships with family members; unemployment; debt; addictive behaviour (one's own or that of family members); mental health conditions; past imprisonment; and a lack of secure accommodation further to leaving care (Demanuele, 2004; Mifsud, 2009). All these factors contribute to the risk of homelessness as well as prolong the state of homelessness.

Research also shows the crucial role of immediate family as the main source of support and stability in the Maltese society (Vakili-Zad, 2006; Mifsud, 2009). Therefore, the lack of such support acts as a risk factor in relation to homelessness. Moreover, strong family ties and support act as important factors to move out of the homeless state. In fact, literature shows that a large number of homeless persons in the Maltese population do not have, or have lost, a support network (Demanuele, 2004; Vakili-Zad, 2006; Busuttil, 2007; Mifsud, 2009).

The fact that homeless persons sleeping rough on Maltese streets are not visible in the same way as can be witnessed in other countries must not hinder the Maltese society and authorities from acknowledging the existence of homelessness and addressing this issue. One reason behind such invisibility could be that, given

the small size of Malta where everyone knows one another, and in a context wherein owning a home is valued, one might feel a sense of shame if spotted sleeping rough. Thus, the most common kind of homelessness in Malta involves people living in inadequate and insecure housing.

NOT JUST AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

Homelessness is not merely an economic issue. In fact, socio-economic issues produce the necessary conditions which place particular individuals and groups in the community at a greater risk of becoming homeless and at a disadvantage when trying to move out of the homeless state. Remarkable economic growth and the need for foreign labour to make up for resulting labour shortages has given rise to increasing rental prices in Malta. This does not help the situation of homeless persons or persons at risk of homelessness. Old houses which could have otherwise been used for cheaper renting are now being sold, demolished and converted into numerous apartments which generate a higher income for owners. Many explain that, while the bank would not offer the necessary financial assistance to purchase a home, it is also very difficult to rent accommodation while on social benefits or engaged in low paying employment (Mifsud, 2009).

The homeless are not a single entity but rather a highly heterogeneous group with a variety of problems and needs, and the homeless population contains sub-types that need to be distinguished. In doing so, we can more fully understand the human dimension of this major problem in both rich and poor nations. Amongst the increasing number of people experiencing housing difficulties, there are particular groups who are at a higher disadvantage and thus facing greater risks of becoming homeless when compared to other individuals. Structural conditions mostly impact on groups with particular attributes. In fact, variables such as age, gender, race, mental health, disability and poverty have, nearly always, acted as predictors of homeless situations (Johnson, Scutella, Tseng, & Wood, 2015).

The needs of homeless individuals are not just material. All individuals need a sense of belonging and human fulfillment. Thus, social care is just as important as physical care, when it comes to wellbeing. Homeless persons tend to have weaker personal support network resources, as they face various challenges for maintaining and developing networks of supportive relationships. The provision of valid and effective social support services is crucial for homeless persons who would otherwise rely on their immediate social surroundings.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Another crucial factor to improve the state of the homeless person is the provision of training services. It is important to have educational programmes which address issues such as employment and job development; financial planning; discrimination; family support and communication; diversity; and cultural connections. Nevertheless, it might not always be easy to engage homeless persons in training programmes due to the difficulties encountered to reach such persons and the reluctance from their end, being more preoccupied with resolving their housing problem.

When it comes to interventions aimed at preventing homelessness, the State has an obligation to prevent homelessness by ensuring the physical infrastructure for adequate housing; encouraging the supply of affordable housing; and providing measures such as housing subsidies to assist groups or individuals in society who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the right to adequate housing. Specific assistance should be given to persons, men or women, fleeing domestic violence since such individuals and their children are driven back to their violent homes if no alternative accommodation is found once their period at the shelter expires. Homeless persons are offered a period of approximately six months at shelters and very often they would still be waiting for their social housing application to be processed when it is time for them to leave the shelter. In view of the significant social housing list and the ever-rising prices for renting adequate

accommodation, homeless persons in Malta find themselves in a continuous struggle for accommodation. Homelessness is not an issue which can be automatically resolved by improving the housing market or the overall economy. Rather, any attempt to eliminate homelessness must identify and target the causal factors of such a phenomenon. Apart from the number of persons who are actually homeless, it is also vital to gain in-depth knowledge on those who are at risk of becoming homeless. Therefore, solutions should not only be found for those who have no home but also for those who live in inadequate housing conditions, those who live with friends or family, those planning to leave abusive and violent homes and those paying more than half of their income for rent or housing loans. Moreover, solutions for homelessness situations must be based on a flexible and on-going process of evaluation.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Housing rights have increased in importance in international human rights instruments and States are obliged to adopt the necessary measures and policy to exercise the right to adequate housing for all. Such policy must clearly define its objectives while particularly focusing on the disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. It should also identify the resources available to reach its objectives in the most cost-effective way in a given time-frame. Results also need to be monitored and adequate measures for violations should be planned. Nevertheless, housing rights still remain a rather vague issue under the Maltese legislation which lacks any express provisions to guarantee adequate housing for persons living in Malta. Thus, the State's housing obligations stem from international instruments which Malta ratified. One must bear in mind that in virtue of Malta's dualist system, international law does not become part of domestic law automatically and must be passed through an Act of Parliament.

CONCLUSION

Homelessness is considered a result of both structural and individual factors which intersect and contribute to a person entering into and exiting homelessness. Evidence shows us that certain groups of people in a particular society and at a particular time are at a greater risk of entering into homelessness and at a lesser chance of exiting the homelessness state. This means that analysing the interaction between personal and contextual factors is crucial for the development of valid and effective policy to target this issue. Identifying the main groups of people in Maltese society who face the highest risks of becoming homeless is the first step to tackling the homelessness phenomenon. Focusing on and suggesting permanent shelter accommodation, services, and benefits results in targets towards emergency assistance, rather than towards providing stability and preventing the movement into and out of homelessness. Such interventions usually target individuals rather than groups in society, thus ignoring socio-economic factors which produce the necessary conditions which place particular groups at a higher risk of becoming homeless.

REFERENCES

- Busuttill, D. (2007). *Yearning for compassion: the silent plight of the homeless in Malta*. (Unpublished Bachelor Dissertation). University of Malta, Malta.
- Demanuele, K. (2004). *Homelessness in Malta - a public policy approach* (Unpublished Master's Dissertation). University of Malta, Malta.
- Johnson, G., Scutella, R., Tseng, Y., & Wood, G. (2015). Entries and exits from homelessness: a dynamic analysis of the relationship between structural conditions and individual characteristics. *AHURI Final Report Series-Project: The interrelationship between structural factors and individual risk factors in explaining homelessness-AHURI Final Report No. 248, 248*, 1-67.
- Mifsud, M. (2009). *The unexplored journey to homelessness: the social factors that may contribute to adult homelessness in Malta* (Unpublished Bachelor Dissertation). University of Malta, Malta.
- Vakili-Zad, C. (2006). Counting the homeless in Malta. *Journal of housing and the built environment*, 21(2), 141-157.

On Mental health and Homelessness

*Dr Paulann Grech
Department of Mental Health
Faculty of Health Sciences*

INTRODUCTION

It has often been described as the island of ‘sun and blue skies’. So it is, with our long lazy summers and a short winter that, at its worst, still allows the sun to smile through on most days. The people of Malta have been portrayed as being friendly, generous, witty and loud – even our car horns seem to exceed the acceptable decibel range, especially when honked in the middle of the night to express righteous indignation! Yet beneath this vibrant carnival of colours and expressions lies a somewhat sordid reality that is still relatively unexplored, partly due to a lack of awareness but perhaps also brought about by a tendency to ‘sweep dirt underneath the carpet’, ignore that which bothers, make-do and trudge along. Alas, over the recent years, a number of factors, especially the rise of the social media empire, have given a voice to those who have been mute for long decades. Two notorious issues that have slowly but surely crept out of their hiding place are those of mental health and homelessness. Typically addressed as separate areas, both have been traditionally placed at the bottom rank of the societal ladder, best dealt with by donning a pair of blinkers and focusing on the more glamorous aspects of life, thus effectively rendering these issues invisible. Mostly, invisibility refers to limited resources, in particular financial and human ones, that are specifically dedicated to address such causes.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

To this extent, Mental Health Care has often been described as the ‘Cinderella’ of health services. If so, the issue of homelessness can then definitely be considered as the ‘Ugly Duckling’ of society. A look at the past five years shows that public attention has been captured by shocking images of the state of mental health services in Malta. The description of such services as being a throwback to Victorian times (Dalli, 2016), as well as the purported suboptimal working and living conditions at Mount Carmel Hospital have exposed what has been regarded as one of ‘Malta’s dirtiest secrets’ (Diacono, 2018). On a parallel level, the issue of homelessness, similarly regarded as ‘the best kept secret in Malta’ (Vakili-Zad, 2006) has been placed under the spotlight. Pictures of migrants sleeping on wooden pellets and using make-shift alfresco showers started to clutter the local newspapers. The death of a homeless Somali man underneath the Marsa bridge was also crucial in highlighting the potential consequences of being homeless even if living in the relatively safe island of the ‘sun and blue skies’.

So what happens when these two worlds collide and the homeless become mentally ill or the mentally ill become homeless? Unfortunately, the resulting picture is not a pretty one at all. Perhaps one should first acknowledge the fact that there is a reciprocal link between mental health and homelessness which, in a seemingly chicken-egg scenario, seem to be inextricably linked to each other. This is not really hard to discern because, more than anything, homelessness is a psychological state and not just a physical one. This is even more compounded by its invisible status. Thus, feelings associated with homelessness such as fear for physical safety, survival anxiety, shame, anger and loneliness are major threats to a person’s mental well-being.

Consecutively, suboptimal mental well-being may very well disrupt a person's ability to carry out the essential aspects of daily life such as attending to one's personal hygiene, taking the necessary precautions against disease and more alarmingly, the ability to make good decisions. This combination of factors can present major challenges in obtaining/keeping employment and a residence. Conclusively, the poor mental health itself will then act as a powerful catalyst in keeping the individual literally stuck in a rut and being pulled in all directions by the forces of his/her mental difficulties, poverty and the homeless state. Non-local research on the link between mental health and homelessness exists. For instance, a 2009 systematic review by Fazel et al. explored the estimated prevalence of mental disorders in a total of 5,684 homeless individuals based in the US, UK, mainland Europe and Australia. Their main finding was that the prevalence of serious mental disorders was raised in comparison to the expected rates in the general population. Similarly, in another systematic review by Hodgson et al. (2013), the prevalence of psychiatric problems among young homeless people ranged from 48% to 98%, indicating that at least half of these youngsters had a clinical psychiatric diagnosis.

LOCAL STATISTICS ARE SCARCE

One may wonder whether similar results would be obtained if research in this area had to be carried out in Malta. Whilst local statistics regarding the number of homeless people in Malta are scarce, the existing ones provided by authorities have been harshly criticized as being an inaccurate representation of reality, mainly due to a definition of homelessness that is too narrow. Thus, as an example, defining homelessness as merely being out on the streets automatically omits those living in inadequate housing and in institutions. Whilst there seem to be no local official statistics on the link between homelessness and mental health, a look at the most recent electoral register shows that 55 individuals have their 'home' address listed as Mount Carmel Hospital. This leads one to question why these people have to seemingly resort to declaring that 'home' is a psychiatric hospital. Whilst I am sure that a myriad of different answers can be provided to this question, speculations may shed some light. Perhaps some of these 55 individuals are those who we term as 'chronic patients', referring to the ones who have been institutionalized for decades.

Let us not forget here that the local psychiatric hospital's patient discharge rate has been officially reported to be lower than the average in the EU, whilst the patient's length of inpatient stay remains one of the highest (Ministry for Health, 2018). These two facts, brought about by many factors, may very well be contributing to psychiatric chronicity and possibly dependence on the psychiatric system, to the extent that the hospital becomes one's permanent home. Some of these 55 individuals may also be the 'revolving door' patients who are seemingly stuck in the dreaded vicious cycle of receiving treatment; getting discharged; failing to make ends meet and getting re-admitted to the psychiatric hospital. In particular, one has to mention those individuals who have addiction problems such as substance misuse – invariably these have the added burden of being even more stigmatized than sufferers of other mental illnesses such as depression or anxiety disorders. To this extent, substance misuse has featured in many studies and is considered as being one of the most common causes of homelessness, irrelevant of whether the addiction was initially triggered by homelessness or the actual cause of it (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2009). Upon reflection, such a link is quite understandable since in many cases of homelessness, survival is more important than anything else. If survival requires being in a permanent state of intoxication to nullify one's emotions, then so be it.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, one may wonder whether the Cinderella-Ugly Duckling combo of homelessness and mental illness can ever somehow transform into a stunning princess and a gracious swan. Well, an instant magical fix would require a potent Fairy Godmother with a turbo wand – since these seem to be quite short in supply, the notion of immediate change can be simply ruled out.

Primarily it must be acknowledged that the needs of mentally ill people experiencing homelessness are similar to those without mental illnesses; physical safety, education, transportation, affordable housing and affordable medical treatment. It is not very useful to assess and attempt to ameliorate an individual's mental state if they do not even know when their next decent meal is going to come along. Thus physical and mental needs have to be addressed simultaneously.

A wise man once said that 'the first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance.' (Branden, 1986). Whilst statistics and theoretical speculations provide some mileage to raising awareness on the topic, let us not further depersonalise the homeless (and possibly mentally ill) person by excluding them from discussions on themselves. It is time to give a voice back to these people. It is time for research to be carried out with them and not on them. We need to focus on research that elicits narratives which convert 'yet another homeless person' into 'Rebecca – the young single anxious mother of two who has just lost her job and is risking being kicked out of her rented apartment'. Such research may help Gerald, the pensioner, to describe the physical and emotional torture that he is enduring in trying to keep up appearances whilst knowing that he will probably not be able to pay the water and electricity bill. And who knows... anyone can be the next Rebecca or Gerald... mostly it boils down to luck/faith and/or the ability to make good decisions – two factors that cannot be permanently guaranteed for anyone, irrelevant of status or intelligence. The tables can indeed turn very quickly.

REFERENCES

- Branden, N. (1986). *The Psychology of High Self-Esteem*. USA: Nightingale Conant
- Dalli, K. (2016). Malta's Mental Health system is a throwback to "Victorian-style" services. *Times of Malta*. Retrieved from: <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160130/local/maltas-mental-health-system-is-a-throwback-to-victorian-style-services.600563>
- Diacono, T. (2018). I've worked at Mount Carmel and the situation is horrendous. *Lovin Malta*. Retrieved from: <https://lovinmalta.com/news/news-breaking/ive-worked-at-mount-carmel-and-the-situation-is-horrendous>
- Fazel, S., Khosla, V., Doll, H., & Geddes, J. (2008). The prevalence of mental disorders among the homeless in western countries: systematic review and meta-regression analysis. *PLoS medicine*, 5(12), e225. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.0050225.
- Hodgson, K. J., Shelton, K. H., van den Bree, M. B., & Los, F. J. (2013). Psychopathology in young people experiencing homelessness: a systematic review. *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(6), e24-e37. Retrieved from https://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/Mental_Illness.pdf
- Vakili-Zad, C. (2006). Counting the Homeless in Malta. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*. 21(2), 141-157. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-006-9039-4>
- Ministry for Health (2018). *A Mental Health Strategy for Malta 2020-2030 - A Public consultation Document*. Retrieved from: https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/Documents/National-Health-Strategies/Mental_Health_Strategy_EN.pdf

Raising the Threshold: Towards the Professionalisation of Residential Child Caregivers

Dr. Marian Muscat Azzopardi
Visiting Lecturer
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

INTRODUCTION

This paper focuses on an essential lacuna in the social welfare provisions that address the wellbeing of children taken into care by the State. It draws attention to one aspect of out-of-home child residential care: the status and role of ‘care workers’. It highlights the importance of introducing statutory measures and resources to ensure that the frontline child care workforce is afforded the professional status that this essential role merits. The criticism of the social welfare problem outlined below is not directed at the level of individuals who are working in out-of-home child care. It is situated in the wider context in which they carry out their work.

The currently proposed Child Protection (Alternative Care) Bill (CPA) is intended, inter alia, “to provide for appropriate alternative care and protection for children deprived of parental care or at the risk of being so” (Art 1 (2)). It invites reflection on the current position regarding what the Bill refers to as child ‘residential care’. The 2018 Social Care Standards Authority Act provides for ‘the regulation of social welfare provided to individuals by public or private entities...’ (Art 1 (1)). These are timely and welcome pieces of legislation. However, more needs to be done.

SOCIAL WELFARE PROVISION

Children in Out-of-Home Care require specialised and reparative upbringing. Currently, their day-to-day care is provided by persons employed as care workers. The CPA specifies that, inter alia, homes that provide residential child care are to ‘provide initial and on-going training to its staff’ (42(j)). However, there is no reference to minimum entry qualifications or an official register of these key workers. This is not the case in other areas of social welfare provision. The provisions laid out in the 2018 Care Workers Bill do not apply to the specialised quality care that is required to address the holistic wellbeing of children. In fact, the Care Workers Bill defines ‘care work’ as “the provision of personal and practical care services for people with a wide range of illnesses and disabilities including primarily the assistance to service users including both elderly residents or patients and, or their relatives with activities of daily living.” Evidently, this job description is not applicable to the area of residential child care. In residential child care, the persons responsible for the day-to-day care of children are also sharing the responsibility for the holistic development and the upbringing of the child. Their contribution is essential to the 24/7 provision of warm, individualised and holistic care to children within a safe and nurturing environment.

Studies commissioned by the Commissioner for Children have pointed to the requirements regarding frontline professionals in this field. Even though the focus of the Office of the Commissioner’s publication “A Fair Deal” (2006) is narrower, many of the conclusions drawn are applicable to the inclusive and broader area of out-of-home child care. In her synthesis of this study’s main recommendations that were made by a team of experts, Naudi (2006) cogently states:

“6.3 Caring for professionals

Current, as well as past, working conditions for professionals in this field have left much to be desired. These bring about high staff turnover and therefore the loss of knowledge gained from experience. Conditions of work of those who will be recruited to work in this area need to be good enough to ensure the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified personnel (pay; opportunities; training; supervision; support from other professionals; horizontal development).” (p. 13)

Conclusions reached in more recent studies regarding out-of-home child care also call for greater recognition of the professional nature of frontline work. In the Commissioner for Children’s 2012 research study, Abela et al. succinctly encapsulated the salient features of this issue:

“Care workers in this field need to be properly selected, trained, supervised and also adequately well-paid. This is because the occupation of a care worker is complex and challenging and must be regarded to be at par with the work of other helping professionals.” (p. 100)

The above concurs with the feedback received through public consultation with stakeholders carried out by the Department for Social Welfare Standards (DSWS) (2006). Care providers stated that national minimum qualifications and the professionalization of the sector was required.

CLOSE COLLABORATION

Working in close collaboration with stakeholders that included children in care and young persons who had been in care, National Standards of Out-of-home Child Care were developed within the DSWS and officially launched in 2009. The standards identified the areas of work and the main goals or outcomes that the out-of-home care sector is expected to achieve. The introduction to these standards is clear about the need for the statutory requirement of suitable qualifications of frontline professionals:

“In order for the standards to be implemented, the competent authorities need to establish the required qualifications of those persons who are responsible for your care and ensure that resources are available for such qualifications to be attained. This will enable the DSWS to ensure that the persons in whose care you are entrusted have the minimum qualifications required.” (p. ix)

In 2012, following intensive collaboration with stakeholders, the DSWS developed draft occupational standards for the sector (DSWS, 2012). In 2014, the DSWS also started collaboration with the National Commission for Further and Higher Education for the publication and public consultation of these occupational standards (DSWS, 2014). It is hoped that these qualifications will be pegged at an appropriate level and refer to a job title that distinguishes it from that of a care worker.

FRONTLINE WORK

Stakeholders have long suggested that the job title of ‘care worker’ should no longer be applied to frontline work with children in care. Furthermore, a more appropriate and correct nomenclature reflecting the status of this occupation would also make it more feasible for the State to provide the necessary funding and working conditions to attract and retain professionals in this field. This will allow the profession to be pegged at a higher level than it is at present, without affecting the level of the sector of care work that falls under the 2018 Care workers Bill. Furthermore, the motivation for focussing on the need for official recognition of the

professional nature of front-line work is based on two main reasons. One reason is that the qualifications of other professionals working in the sector are already regulated and accredited. The other reason is that front-line workers are the ones in whose hands the specialised day-to-day upbringing and reparative care of children is entrusted.

CONCLUSION

Similar arguments have been brought forward in the U.K. where it is also widely believed that the time is ripe for a conceptual reappraisal of the very nature of the complex task of formal care with a view to giving it the recognition of a profession in its own right (Smith, 2009). In view of this, leading scholars in the field have been extolling the merits of the European Social Pedagogy model of care that has proved to provide much more successful outcomes for children in care (Cameron & Moss, 2007). It is believed that this profession has an important role to play alongside the other professions such as those of the social worker and the psychologist. Comparative research has shown that the participation of the social pedagogue alongside other professions in the out-of-home care of children and young persons is positively correlated to better outcomes along four main indicators: school-leaving age, employment, teen pregnancy and criminal activities (Petrie et al., 2006). In Malta, we could benefit from borrowing insights from such a successful model of care.

To conclude, the ideal of residential care as a positive choice that has good outcomes for children is what should motivate us to aim for a higher professional threshold in the sector. This will be in line with the 2010 UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children which specify that:

“In order to meet the specific psychoemotional, social and other needs of each child without parental care, States should take all necessary measures to ensure that the legislative, policy and financial conditions exist to provide for adequate alternative care options” (Art.53, p.10).

REFERENCES

- Abela, A., Abdilla, N., Abela, C., Camilleri, J., Mercieca, G., & Mercieca, G. (2012). *Children in out-of-home care in Malta*. Office of the Commissioner for Children, Malta.
- Cameron, C., & Moss, P. (2007). *Care work in Europe: Current understandings and future directions*. London: Routledge.
- Department Social Welfare Standards. (2006). *Report on the public consultation on: The draft code of conduct and practice for social service workers*. Retrieved from https://family.gov.mt/en/DSWS/Documents/consultation_code_conduct.pdf
- Department Social Welfare Standards. (2009). *National standards for out-of-home child care*. Retrieved from https://family.gov.mt/en/DSWS/Documents/Out-of-home-child-care/national_standards.pdf
- Department Social Welfare Standards. (2012). *Annual report*. Retrieved from <https://family.gov.mt/en/DSWS/Documents/DSWS%20Publications/Annual%20reports/annual%20report%202012.pdf>
- Department Social Welfare Standards. (2014). *Annual report*. Retrieved from <https://family.gov.mt/en/DSWS/Documents/DSWS%20Publications/Annual%20reports/DSWS%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf>
- Naudi, M. (2006). *A fair deal: a study on children and young people with very challenging behaviour*. Valletta: Office of the Commissioner for Children.
- Petrie, P., Boddy, J., Cameron, C., Wigfall, V., & Simon, A. (2006). *Working with children in care: European perspectives*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Smith, M. (2009). *Rethinking residential child care, positive perspectives*. Policy Press. UK.
- United Nations. (2010). *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children*. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org>

Staff Academic Profiles

Name and Title: Dr Gianmarco Alberti
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Geographic Information Science
- Spatial forensics
- Applied quantitative methods

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Alberti, G., Grima, R. & Vella, N.C. 2018, "The use of geographic information system and 1860s cadastral data to model agricultural suitability before heavy mechanization. A case study from Malta", *PLoS ONE*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. e0192039-e0192039.
- Alberti, G. 2018, "TRANSIT: a GIS toolbox for estimating the duration of ancient sail-powered navigation", *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, vol. 45, no. 6, pp. 510-528.
- Beh, E.J., Lombardo, R. & Alberti, G. 2018, "Correspondence analysis and the Freeman-Tukey statistic: A study of archaeological data", *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, vol. 128, pp. 73-86.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- LARSOCs (Low Altitude Remote Sensing Of Compact Sites) project, funded by The University of Malta and by the Research, Innovation, Development Trust Fund (RIDT) (2016-2017)
- 'FRAGSUS' project (Fragility and Sustainability in the restricted island environments of Malta), funded by ERC (2014-2018).

Email Address (Work): gianmarco.alberti@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/gianmarcoalberti>

Campus Address: Room 332 Humanities Building (FEMA)-University of Malta, Msida

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tFrJKQ0AAAAJ&hl=en>

Other Social Media: <https://malta.academia.edu/GianmarcoAlberti>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gianmarco_Alberti4

Name and Title: Dr. Clarie Azzopardi Lane
Status: Resident Academic, Head of Department
Department/s: Department of Disability Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Sexuality and disability; sexual health, parenting, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual expression, sexual exploration
- Sex education and persons with intellectual disability
- Sexual health and persons with disability

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- “I do them so often that I forgot what they’re called”! Preventative sexual health screening and women with disability *Journal: Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare* (in print)
- Intimate relationships and persons with learning disability. *Tizard Learning Disability Review*.
- Muted Voices: The Unexplored Sexuality of Persons with Learning Disability in Malta. *British Journal of Learning Disability* (in print)

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- Sexual Lives and Respectful Relationships : Resource for teaching sex education in Maltese

Email Address (Work): claire.azzopardi-lane@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/clairezopardilane>

UM Campus Address: Humanities A, Rm. 114, University of Malta

Name and Title: Prof Paul A. Bartolo
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Inclusive education, social inclusion, culturally responsive practice, holistic education
- Professional development and practice in psychology, psycho-educational assessment
- Qualitative research methods

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Cefai, C.; Bartolo P. A.; Cavioni. V; Downes, P. (2018). Strengthening Social and Emotional Education as a core curricular area across the EU. A review of the international evidence, NESET II report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.
- European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education. (2016). *Inclusive Early Childhood Education: An analysis of 32 European examples*. (P. Bartolo, E. Björck-Åkesson, C. Giné and M. Kyriazopoulou, eds.). Odense, Denmark.
- Grech, L., Bartolo, P., Camilleri, L. Everatt, J. (2018). English reading comprehension in Malta: An evaluation of the use of the Neale Analysis of Reading Ability. *Malta Review of Educational Research*, 12(2), 172-195.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- Inclusive Early Childhood Education Project [European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education]
- The Changing Role of Specialist Provision in Enhancing Inclusive Education Project [European Agency ...]
- “PROMEHS Promoting Mental Health at Schools” [Erasmus+ KA3]

Email Address (Work): paul.a.bartolo@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/paulabartolo>

Campus Address: Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Room 242, Old Humanities Building, University of Malta, Msida

Skype Address: paul.a.bartolo

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=20YxkWQAAAAJ&hl=en>

Other Social Media: Research Gate | https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paul_Bartolo

Name and Title: Dr Kristina Bettenzana
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Severe and Enduring Mental Illness
- Suicide
- Acquired Brain Injury & Neurodegenerative Disorders

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Postvention and the Psychiatrist’s Reaction to Patient Suicide

The main purpose of this study is to examine the emotional response of psychiatrists to patient suicide, and any interventions or actions taken.

Suicide rates have been increasing steadily world-wide. Studies have consistently shown that a substantial number of psychiatrists have experienced at least one case of patient suicide. This suggests that this phenomenon is not rarely experienced by psychiatrists. Various studies have shown that the stress levels experienced by psychiatrists after their patients’ suicide have had a deleterious impact on their personal and professional lives. Indeed, patient suicide has been described as an occupational hazard for psychiatrists working in direct patient care. Despite this, there is a paucity of research in this area, particularly in the local context. Furthermore, there are no formal guidelines or procedures to support and inform psychiatrists when experience a patient suicide. In view of this, the aim of this study is to conduct an in depth exploration of the psychiatrists’ emotional response to patient suicide, and any interventions or actions taken. The information gathered from this research will be used to propose guidelines on postvention strategies.

2. The Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure as a measure of harm avoidance and incompleteness in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Studies investigating harm avoidance and incompleteness in obsessive-compulsive disorder have been limited to the use of questionnaire measures and behavioural tasks. Despite their utility, these methodologies are unable to capture cognitions that are not readily accessible through introspection or that are difficult to articulate, as they operate on a more visceral level. The current study explored harm avoidance and incompleteness using an implicit measure, the Implicit Relational Assessment Procedure. Three behavioural tasks based on the main symptom dimensions (contamination/washing, checking, symmetry/ordering) and a series of self-report measures were used for comparative and validation purposes. The group with high obsessive-compulsive tendencies demonstrated no negative bias towards harm avoidance/incompleteness-related stimuli. No associations were identified between scores on the implicit measure and the explicit measures (questionnaires and behavioural task). The findings are interpreted in the light of extant literature with reference to the limitations of the current study.

Email Address (Work): Kristina.vella@um.edu.mt

Name and Title: Dr. Olga Bogolyubova
Status: Resident Academic
Department: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- *Psychological Trauma and Its Impact on Health*
- *Health and Behavior on Social Media*
- *Mental Health Literacy*

LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

- Bogolyubova, O., Upravitelev, P., Churilova, A., & Ledovaya, Y. (2018). Expression of Psychological Distress on Instagram Using Hashtags in Russian and English: A Comparative Analysis. *SAGE Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244018811409>
- Bogolyubova, O., Panicheva, P., Tikhonov, R., Ivanov, V., Ledovaya, Y. (2018). Dark Personalities on Facebook: Harmful Online Behaviors and Language. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 78, pp. 151-159 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2017.09.032>
- Bogolyubova, O., Tikhonov, R., Ivanov, V., Panicheva, P., & Ledovaya, Y. (2017). Violence Exposure, Posttraumatic Stress, and Subjective Well-Being in a Sample of Russian Adults: A Facebook-Based Study. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260517698279>

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- Lay Perceptions of Mental Health: A Cross-Cultural Investigation (unfunded)
- Dark Personality Traits, Conspiracy Beliefs and HIV Risk in a Sample of Russian Facebook Users (unfunded)

Email Address (Work): olga.bogolyubova@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/olgabogolyubova>

UM Campus Address: Library Basement, Office 107

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/olga-bogolyubova-62974b8a/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=XNGMjzMAAAAJ&hl=en>

Name and Title: Dr Patricia Bonello
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Social Policy and Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Professional identity and the way this is sustained, particularly in social work, through aspects such as supervision, spirituality and resilience.
- Gender-based violence and domestic violence and their roots in patriarchal society.
- Children in alternative care - the various accommodation arrangements made for them and how these meet their needs.

Email Address (Work): patricia.bonello@um.edu.mt

UM Campus Address: Department of Social Policy and Social Work
Room 123
New Humanities B (FEMA) Building
University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080

Name and Title: Ms. Claire-Suzanne Borg
Status: Prospective Student
Department/s: Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Communication at Work
- Communication and productivity at Work
- Productivity and Job Satisfaction

Email Address (Work): claire.s.borg@psypotential.com

Skype Address: [claire-suzanne](https://www.skype.com/people/claire-suzanne)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/claairesuzanneborg/>

Name and Title: Mr Kurt Borg
Status: Casual Lecturer
Department/s: Department of Disability Studies; Faculty for Social Wellbeing

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Narratives of Trauma, Disability, and Illness
- Ethics and Political Theory
- Contemporary Philosophy, especially Poststructuralism, Michel Foucault and Judith Butler

LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

- Narrating Disability, Trauma and Pain: The Doing and Undoing of the Self in Language [*Word and Text: A Journal of Literary Studies and Linguistics*, Volume 8, November 2018, Pages 169-186]
- Narrating Trauma: Judith Butler on Narrative Coherence and the Politics of Self-Narration [*Life Writing*, Volume 15, Number 3, July 2018, Pages 447-465]
- The CounterText Interview: Judith Butler [*CounterText: A Journal for the Study of the Post-Literary*, Volume 3, Number 2, August 2017, Pages 115-129 (with Aaron Aquilina)]

Email Address (Work): kurt.borg@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/kurtborg>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=UJGpnNIAAAA&hl=en>

Other Social Media: <http://whenpraxisbecomesunbearable.tumblr.com/>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kurt_Borg3

Name and Title: Dr Maria Brown
Status: Visiting Senior Lecturer, Research Support Officer III
Department/s: Department of Youth & Community Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Sociology
- Community Development
- Adult Education, Non-formal Education

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Briguglio M. & Brown, M. (2018). Civil society perspectives on green jobs in sustainable energy: The case of European Malta. In *Energy & Environment (online first)*. DOI: 10.1177/0958305X18813685
- Pulis, A., Brown, M. & Georgakopoulos, A. (2017). Education for sustainable development in non-formal set-ups: Diagnosing a culture of inertia. In Leal Filho, W., Mifsud, M. & Pace, P. (Eds.) *Handbook of Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development (World Sustainability Series)* (pp. 45-59). Cham (Switzerland): Springer.
- Briguglio, M. & Brown, M. (Eds.). (2016). *Sociology of the Maltese Islands*. Malta: Miller.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- Evaluating Learner Centred Education as a tool for social change in Adult Education programmes for migrants: a European comparative study (University of Cyprus)
- Star Kids – Reaching out: Improving the life chances of vulnerable children (EU Funds for Malta 2014-2010)
- **3.RECAST Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe** (COST Action CA16211).

Email Address (Work): maria.brown@um.edu.mt3

Email Address (Personal): mbrown1919@gmail.com

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/mariabrown>

Campus Address: Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Portacabin 110, First Floor
Carpark 6
University of Malta, Msida

Skype Address: mbro1919

Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/MariaBrown1919>

Facebook Account: <https://www.facebook.com/mariabrown.sociology>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-brown-30ba7536/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citationsuser=xI8ZlAcAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Other Social Media: <https://www.instagram.com/mariabrown.sociology/>

Name and Title: Dr Trevor Calafato
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Lombroso
- 2.Terrorism and related security issues
- Homicide

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- **Knisja 2000 - Multiculturalism: Hidden hate**, publication date 2018, publication description Maltese Dominican Province (Chapter)
- **Assessing Prostitution Policies in Europe: Malta** publication date Oct 2017 publication description Routledge (Chapter)
- **Rescue Techniques for Emergency Response: An introductory manual for European Volunteer Rescuers** publication date May 2017 publication description Ideasoft (Edited book)

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- Captive - Cultural Agent - Promoting and targeting interventions vs violence and enslavement
- SERA - Secularisation, Radicalisation
- FAIR - Fighting Against Inmate Radicalisation

Email Address (Work): trevor.calafato@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/trevorcalafato>

UM Campus Address: Department of Criminology
Rm 428 Block B New Humanities Bld
University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080
Malta

Twitter Account: @TCalafato

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/trevor-calafato-b8060725/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=iNjpcuoAAAAJ&hl=en>

Name and Title: Ms Amy Camilleri Zahra
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Disability Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- The intersection between gender and disability, including representation of disabled women and the lived experiences of disabled women
- Disability policy particularly the implementation of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Equal Opportunities Act

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Williams, V., Camilleri Zahra A. and Gauci, V. (in print) Book Chapter: Disabled People and Social Wellbeing: What's Good For Us Is Good For Everyone, In Vella, S., Falzon, R. and Azzopardi, A. (eds). Perspectives of Social Wellbeing: A Reader. The Netherlands: Koninklijke Brill NCallus, A.M. and Camilleri-Zahra, A. 2017. 'Nothing about us without us': disabled people determining their human rights through the UNCRPD.
- Mediterranean Review of Human Rights Inception Issue: Conference Proceedings 'The Role of Human Rights Bodies in Promoting a Human Rights Culture'.

Email Address (Work): amy.camilleri-zahra@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/amycamillerizahra>

Twitter Account: @AmyJZahra

Name and Title: Dr Julian Caruana
Status: Senior Visiting Lecturer
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Refugee Mental Health
- The relationship between religiosity/spirituality and psychological well-being
- Migration, Integration and Identity

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- The mental health services for detained asylum seekers in Malta A Taylor-East, R., Rossi, A., Caruana, J., Grech BJPsych International 13 (2), 32-35
 - Struggling to survive. An investigation into the risk of poverty among asylum seekers in Malta J Caruana
 - Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Malta and aditus foundation
 - Care in Captivity? Analysis of the provision of care for detained asylum seekers experiencing mental health problems
 - A Rossi, J Caruana
 - Jesuit Refugee Service
4. Detention Visitors Manual, Psychological Support Chapter
A. Rossi, J. Caruana (2015)
JRS Europe

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- Postvention and the Psychiatrist's Reaction to Patient Suicide

Email Address (Work): julian.j.caruana@um.edu.mt

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=qHPJBgYAAAAJ&hl=en>

Name and Title: Ms. Claire Casha
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Family Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Fatherhood
- Post-separation parenting issues including child maintenance payment
- The practice of family law professionals

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Abela, A., Casha, C., Debono, M., & Lauri, M. A. (2015). Attitudes about remarriage in Malta. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 56(5), 369-387. doi: 10.1080/10502556.2015.1046799

Email Address (Work): claire.casha@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/clairecasha>

UM Campus Address: Cabin 10, Block A, Portacabins in Car Park 6, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

Skype Address: [claire.casha](https://www.skype.com/people/claire.casha)

LinkedIn: <https://mt.linkedin.com/in/clairecasha>

Academia: <https://malta.academia.edu/ClaireCasha>

ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Claire_Casha3

Name and Title: Dr Joanne Cassar
Status: Resident Academic
Department: Department of Youth and Community Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Young people’s sexualities and adolescent romantic relationships
- Sexuality education
- The construction of gender identities
- Young people and body image

LATEST PUBLICATIONS:

- No way am I throwing you out! Adjustments in space and time for parents of gay sons [Journal of Family Studies, 2018, DOI: 10.1080/13229400.2018.1523020]
- Ethical implications in teaching and learning about intimate partner violence and femicide prevention [Education Inquiry, 2018 DOI: 10.1080/20004508.2018.1476001]
- Ruptured dreams: Female students’ talk about boys as past ‘lovers’ [International Academic Forum Journal of Education, Volume 6, Issue 1, 28 February 2018, Pages 43-57]

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- Young migrant women in secondary education: Promoting understanding and mutual understanding through dialogue and exchange [European Social Fund]
- Leisure trends among young people in Malta [Office of the Commissioner for Children and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh]
- Appearance matters: Tackling the physical and psychosocial consequences of dissatisfaction with appearance [COST Action IS1210]

Email Address (Work): joanne.cassar@um.edu.mt
UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/joannecassar>
UM Campus Address: Room 204, Binja Guze’ Cassar Pullicino
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanne-cassar-aaa83621/>
Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=joanne+cassar&oq=
ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joanne_Cassar
Academia: <https://malta.academia.edu/JoanneCassar>

Name and Title: Dr Gottfried Catania
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Ethical behaviour at work
2. Workplace motivation
3. Technostress and its effects at work and on the family

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. De Giovanni, K. & Catania, G. (2018). The impact of technostress on personal well-being – an analysis of individual and group differences. *Symposia Melitensia*, 14, 77-90.
2. Catania, G & De Giovanni, K. (2017). The effect of technostress on the work-life interface. *The Work-Life Balance Bulletin*, 1, 17-19.
3. Catania, G. & Darmanin Kissaun, G. (2016). The Repertory Grid Technique – an idiographic technique used to elicit tacit knowledge in Subject Matter Experts. In G. Sammut & S. Salvatore (eds.), *The Yearbook of Idiographic Science: Methods of Psychological Intervention*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Email Address (Work): Gottfried,Catania@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): gottfried71@gmail.com

UM Campus Address: Room 214, Old Humanities Building, University of Malta, Msida

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=mlWKOUYAAAAJ&hl=en>

Name and Title: Professor Carmel Cefai
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- 1 Mental Health in School
2. Resilience and wellbeing in children and young people
3. Social and emotional learning

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Cefai, C. Bartolo, P., Cavioni, V. & Downes, P. (2018) Strengthening Social and Emotional Education as a key curricular area across the EU. A review of the international evidence. NESET Report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union
- Cefai, C. & Cooper, P. (Editors) (2017) Mental health promotion in schools: Cross cultural narratives and perspectives. Netherlands: Sense Publications
- Cefai, C & Spiteri Pizzuto, S. (2017) Listening to the voices of young children in a Nurture Class. *Emotional and Behaviour Difficulties*, 22:3, 248-260, DOI:10.1080/13632752.2017.1331987
- Cefai, C. (2017) Fostering resilience in vulnerable children. In H. Cowie and C. Myers (eds) *School Bullying and Mental Health: Risks, Intervention and Prevention*. London: Routledge
- Cefai, C. (2017) "Surfing the Waves": Building resilience to promote children's mental health. In Phillip Slee, Grace Skrzypiec & Carmel Cefai (editors) *Child and Adolescent Well-being and Violence Prevention in Schools*. Oxon, UK: Routledge.
- Cefai, C., Arlove, A., Duca, M., Galea, N., Muscat, M. & Cavioni, V. (2018). RESCUR Surfing the Waves: An evaluation of a resilience programme in the early years. *Journal of Pastoral Care in Education*. DOI: 10.1080/02643944.2018.1479224.
- Cefai, C (2018) Healthy Habits and Healthy Spaces: Children's views on their use of time and space. In W.S. Toscano & L. Rodriguez de la Vega (editors) *Handbook of Leisure, Physical Activity, Sports, Recreation and Quality of Life*. NY,USA: Springer Publications
- Shieh, J.J. & Cefai, C. (2017) Assessment of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education: A Case Analysis of University in the South of Europe. *Malta Review of Educational Research*, 11 (1), 29-47.
- Slee, P, Skrzypiec, G. & Cefai, C. (editors) (2017) *Child and Adolescent Well-being and Violence Prevention in Schools*. Oxon, UK: Routledge.
- Slezackova, A., Cefai, C., & Cejkova, E. (2018). The role of life values in subjective well-being among Czech and Maltese university students. *Horizons in Psychology*, 27, 35-47
- Slezackova, A., Cefai, C., & Prosek, T. (2018). Psychosocial correlates and predictors of perceived hope across cultures: A study of Czech and Maltese contexts. In A. M. Krafft, P. Perrig-Chiello, & A. M. Walker (Eds.) *Hope for a Good Life. Results of the Hope-Barometer International Research Program*. (pp. 165-197). NY: Springer.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. The health and wellbeing of overseas children in Malta [Externally Funded Project/RIDT]
2. Enhancing Resilience through Teacher Education ENRETE (EU funded project)
3. Early Childhood Education - building sustainable motivation and value paradigm for life (MOV-UP)[EU funded project]
4. Training Hope, Wellbeing, and Resilience in Vulnerable Early School Leavers (THRIVE) [EU funded project]
5. Promoting Mental Health in School (PROMEHS) [EU funded project]
6. International Study on the Subjective Wellbeing of Children (ISCWEB) (third wave)
7. Multinational qualitative study on the children's wellbeing (CUWB)
8. Transnational Collaboration on Bullying, Migration and Integration at School Level (TRIBES) [COST Action]

Email Address (Work): carmel.cefai@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/carmelcefai> , www.um.edu.mt/cres

Campus Address: Room 241, Old Humanities Building, University of Malta, Msida

Office telephone: +356 2340 2345

Name and Title: Dr JosAnn Cutajar
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Gender Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Community engagement and development
2. Social justice
3. Gender and policy

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Cutajar, J. (2018). "The symbiotic relationship between space, place and performance". In S. Mei & L.Mesiti (Eds.), *Displace Altifest* (pp.14-25). Malta: Valletta 2018, TeatrinGestAzione and Altifest-International Company Live Art.
2. Cutajar, J. (2018). "Multiculturalism today". In R. Gatt (Ed.) *L-isfida tal-Multikulturalizmu* (pp.19-28). Malta: Printcare.
3. Cutajar, J. & Adjoe, C. (2016). Whose knowledge, whose voices? Power, agency and resistance in Disability Studies for the Global South. In S. Grech & K. Soldatic (Eds.) *Disability in the Global South: the Critical Handbook* (503-516). Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Ltd.
4. Cutajar, J. (2014). *Bormla: a struggling community*. Malta: Faraxa.
5. Cutajar, J. (2018). Gozitan Women: a study on the transition from marriage into widowhood. *The Gozo Observer*, 37, pp 17-26.
6. Cutajar, J. & Vella, J. (2017) Contentious' politics and the production of place – the case of Cottonera, *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. GENDERACTION, Horizon 2020, Grant Agreement Number 741466, 30 March 2017-31 March 2021.
2. STAR KIDS, Malta Communications Authority, 2 January 2018 - 5 October 2018.
3. QUAL, Horizon 2020, March 2019-March 2021.
Gender Audit, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta.
Inclusive Language Policy, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta.

Email Address (Work): josann.cutajar@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/josanncutajar>

UM Campus Address: Room 114
Guzè Cassar Pullicino Building
University of Malta
Msida
+356 2340 3103

Skype Address: J. Cutajar

Twitter Account: @JosannCutajar

Facebook Account: JosAnn Cutajar

LinkedIn: JosAnn Cutajar

Google Scholar: JosAnn Cutajar

Name and Title: Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Psychotherapy, Psychopathology
2. Motivations of Clinical Psychologists, training of clinical psychologists
3. Personality

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Darmanin-Kissaun, G., & Catania, C. (in press) Same roots different branches: The study of personality by researchers from different disciplines. *Symposia Melitensia* 211-223
- Catania, G., & Darmanin Kissaun, G. (2016). The Repertory Grid Technique: An idiographic technique used to elicit tacit knowledge in Subject Matter Experts. In G. Sammut & S. Salvatore (Eds.), *Yearbook of Idiographic Science: Methods of Intervention*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Darmanin Kissaun, G. (2016). Malta's great mother archetype, individuation and separation in psychotherapy. In C.Cefai, & L.Lagana (Eds.), *Psychology and the Arts: Perceptions and perspectives*. Malta: University of Malta Publishing House.
- Darmanin Kissaun, G., & Catania, C. (2016). Photographs as aids in eliciting existential themes in cognitively intact elderly adults: A case study. In C.Cefai, & L.Lagana (Eds.), *Psychology and the Arts: Perceptions and perspectives*. Malta: University of Malta Publishing House
- Sammut, G., Clark, M., & Darmanin Kissaun, G. (2014). Dialogue, Linguistic Hinges and Semantic Barriers: Social Psychological Uses and Functions of a Vulgar Term. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 44: 326–346. doi: 10.1111/jtsb.12045

Email Address (Work): greta.darmanin-kissaun@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/gretadarmaninkissaun>

Campus Address: Room 125, Department of Psychology, Old Humanities Building, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta, Msida MSD2080

Name and Title: Dr Katya De Giovanni
Status: Resident Academic – Senior Lecturer and Director
Department/s: Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

- Organisational Change and Leadership
- Aviation Psychology and Human Factors
- School to Work Transitions and Career Development

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- De Giovanni, K. (2019). Preventing Personal Short Circuits: Thriving as an operator in the electronics industry. Standard Paper. Division of Occupational Psychology Annual Conference, British Psychological Society. (January 2019)
- De Giovanni, K. & Catania, G. (2019). Thriving or Surviving? Determinants of Career Moves in a Small Island States. Standard Paper. Division of Occupational Psychology Annual Conference, British Psychological Society. (January 2019)
- Spiteri, M., & De Giovanni, K. (2018) School as Experienced by Early School Leavers. Malta Review of Educational Research. Malta Review of Educational Research (Dec 2018) Malta.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

- European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities – COST Project
- OMEGA-NET – Network on the Co-ordination and Harmonisation of European Occupational Cohorts – COST Project

Email Address (Work): katya.degiovanni@um.edu.mt
Email Address (Personal): katya.degiovanni@gmail.com
UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/katyadegiovanni>
UM Campus Address: Room 240, Old Humanities Block, Msida Campus
Skype Address: [anastacia0810](https://www.skype.com/people/anastacia0810)
Twitter Account: [katyadegiovanni](https://twitter.com/katyadegiovanni)
Facebook Account: <https://www.facebook.com/katya.degiovanni>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katya-de-giovanni-72274364/>
Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=cOsYtmcAAAAJ&hl=en>
Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Katya_Degiovanni

Name and Title: Lorleen Farrugia
Status: PhD Candidate, Casual Academic
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Children, youth, technology and new media
2. Social representations of risk
3. Ethical issues in research with children

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Farrugia, L. (2018). Self-Other positioning: Insights into children's understanding of risks in new media. In L. Peja, N. Carpentier, F. Colombo, M. F. Murru, S. Tosoni, R. Kilborn,... P. Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt (Eds.) *Current Perspectives on Communication and Media Research* (pp. 233-245). Bremen: Edition Lumiere.
2. Farrugia, L., Lauri, M. A., Borg, J., & O'Neill, B. (2018). Have You Asked for It? An Exploratory Study About Maltese Adolescents' Use of Ask. fm. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 0743558418775365.
3. Farrugia, L. & Lauri, M. A. (2018). Maltese Parents' Awareness and Management of Risks their Children Face Online (pp. 135-146) in G. Mascheroni, C. Ponte & A. Jorge (Eds.) *Digital Parenting. The Challenges for Families in the Digital Age*. Göteborg: Nordicom.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Children's social representations of risks in new media [Doctoral Studies]
2. EU Kids Online [Research Network]

Email Address (Work): lorleen.farrugia@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/lorleenfarrugia>

Campus Address: Room 106, M.A. Vassalli Lecture Centre (GW), University of Malta Msida

Skype Address: [lorleen.farrugia](https://www.skype.com/people/lorleen.farrugia)

Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/lorleenfarrugia>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lorleenfarrugia/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&authuser=1&user=SVzeagEAAAAJ>

Name and Title: Prof. Marvin Formosa
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Ageing and Dementia Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Ageing
2. Educational Gerontology
3. Geriatric care

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Formosa, M. (2018). *Active and healthy ageing in Malta: Gerontological and geriatric inquiries*. Malta: BDL Publishers.
2. Formosa, M. (2018). National policies for healthy ageing in Malta: Achievements and limitations. *Healthy Aging Research*, 7(1), 1-6.
3. Formosa, M. & Cassar P. (2019). Visual art dialogues in long-term care facilities: An action research study. *International Journal of Education and Ageing*

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Centre for Third Age Education [Tempus project]
2. Social exclusion in later life [COST Action]
3. University of the Third Age Malta [University funds]

Email Address (Work): marvin.formosa@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/marvinformosa>

UM Campus Address: Room 227, University of the Third Age building
University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080.

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=BJGimg8AAAAJ&hl=en>

Name and Title: Professor Saviour Formosa
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Environmental Criminology*
2. *Remote Sensing & LIDAR*
3. *3D Technologies - Virtuality*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Furlani, S., Antonioli, F., Gambin, T., Biolchi, S., Formosa, S., Lo Presti, V., Mantovani, M., Anzidei, M., Calcagnile, L., & Quarta, G., (2018). Submerged speleothem in Malta indicates tectonic stability throughout the Holocene, *The Holocene*, Vol 278(10). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959683618782613>
2. Formosa S., (Ed). (2017). *Emergent Realities for Social Wellbeing: Environmental, Spatial and Social Pathways*, University of Malta, Msida, ISBN 978-99957-908-1-3
3. Formosa, S., (2017). The SIntegraM Stairway to Integrative Spatialisation - eroding barriers to access and harmonisation IN Buhmann E., Ervin S., and Pietsch M., (Eds.): *Peer Reviewed Proceedings of Digital Landscape Architecture 2017*, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. Wichmann Verlag, Berlin

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. SIntegraM: Spatial Data Integration for the Maltese Islands - ERDF
2. SpatialTRAIN - ESF
3. pLotteR - ERDF

Email Address (Work): saviour.formosa@um.edu.mt
UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/saviourformosa>
UM Campus Address: 333, Humanities B
ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Saviour_Formosa

Name and Title: Dr Natalie Kenely
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Social Policy and Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Reflective practice in social work
2. Emotional intelligence and transformational leadership
3. Resilience and wellbeing

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

- Kenely, Natalie (2019). Emotional intelligence, resilience and wellbeing. In S. Vella, R. Falzon and A. Azzopardi (Eds.), *Perspectives on Wellbeing: A reader* (pp. 21-34). Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Sense.

Email Address (Work): natalie.kenely@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): nataliekenely@gmail.com

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/nataliekenely>

UM Campus Address: Department of Social Policy and Social Work
Faculty for Social Wellbeing
New Humanities Building B, Room 121
University of Malta, Msida, Malta (Europe) Msida MSD2080

Skype Address: nataliekenely

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalie-kenely-phd-514b32b/>

Name and Title: Professor Louis Laganà, Ph.D. (Lough).
Status: Associate Professor, University of Malta (resident until 2018)
Department/s: Psychology and Digital Art.

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Psychoanalytic approach to Art and Aesthetics.*
2. *Modern and Contemporary Art History with special interest on Maltese Art.*
3. *Jungian Aesthetics and Art Therapy.*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. *Poetry in Geometry*, The Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities, iafor 2018, The Arts Centre, Kobe, Japan, 30 March - 1 April 2018, http://25qt511nswfi49iayd31ch80-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/papers/akah2018/ACAH2018_40575.pdf
2. *Two Generations of Maltese Artistic Families - Joseph Cassar & Maria Rossella Dalmas and Albert L. Caruana & Doranne Alden Caruana*, Vol. 3., APS Bank., 2016.
3. *Psychology and the Arts: Perceptions and Perspectives*, edited by Carmel Cefai & Louis Laganà, Published by Malta University Publishing, 2016.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *The Art and Life of Ġanni Bonnici* (sculptor).
2. *Maltese Contemporary Artists.*
3. *Psychoanalysis and Art*

Email Address (Work): louis.lagana@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): dartist1953@yahoo.co.uk

Skype Address: Aloysius Lagana (dartist1953)

Facebook Account: <https://www.facebook.com/louis.lagana>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/louis-lagana-7a6a7521/>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=NK-goTMAAAAJ&hl=en>

Other Social Media: <http://malta.academia.edu/LouisLagana>

Name and Title: Prof Mary Anne Lauri
Status: Resident Academic/ Professor
Department/s: Department of Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Media Psychology
2. Social Networking Sites
3. Children and the new media

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Lauri, M.A. and Camilleri-Zahra, A. (2017). Promoting living organ donation. The lived experience of five kidney donors. *Medical Research Archives*, Vol5 (5). May Issue
2. Sammut G. and Lauri M.A. (2017). Intercultural Relations in Malta. In J. W. Berry, *Multicultural Relations*. pp. 231-248.
3. Muscat, J. & Lauri M. A. (2018). The national flag: An agent of prejudice? *Social Psychological Review*, 20(1). p. 5-17.
4. Farrugia, L. & Lauri M.A. (2018). Parents' awareness and management of risks their children face online. In G. Mascheroni, C. Ponte & Ana Jorge (Eds) *Digital Parenting. The Challenges for Families in the Digital Age*. Nordicom Yearbook 2018
5. Farrugia, L., Borg, J., Lauri, M.A. & O'Neill, B. (2018). Have you Asked for it? An Exploratory Study about Maltese Adolescents' use of Ask.fm. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 0743558418775365
6. Borg, J., & Lauri, M. A. (2018). Malta: Media accountability as a two-legged tripod. In Eberwein, T., Fengler, S. and Karmasin, M. (Eds.), *The European handbook of media accountability* (pp. 163-169). London, England: Routledge

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. EUKids Online
2. Safer Internet Programme

Email Address (Work): mary-anne.lauri@um.edu.mt

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mary-anne-lauri-a2bba88b/>

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=search_authors&mauthors=mary+anne+lauri&hl=en&oi=ao

Name and Title: Ms Elaine Schembri Lia
Status: Visiting Academic
Department/s: Psychology, Family Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Clinical Psychology*
2. *Family Therapy and Systemic Practice*
3. *Disability and Chronic Illness*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Not broken but strengthened: Stories of resilience by persons with acquired physical disability and their families, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy, 2017
2. The couple relationship when the female partner has an acquired physical disability, The History of the Family, in press.
3. Couples where one of the partners has an acquired physical disability, Book Chapter, in press.

Email Address (Work): elaine.schembrilia@gmail.com

Skype Address: Elaine Schembri Lia

LinkedIn: Elaine Schembri Lia

Name and Title: Dr Ann Marie Mangion
Status: Visiting
Department/s: Department of Gender Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Feminist Legal Theory*
2. *Research Methods with a focus on Empirical Research Methods*
3. *Feminism*

Email Address (Work): amm67@le.ac.uk

Name and Title: Mr. Daniel Mercieca
Status: Visiting/Casual
Department/s: Psychology, Counselling, Communication Therapy
(Faculty of Health Sciences)

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Children’s Views of Psychotherapy
2. Creative Arts therapies & Child Psychotherapy
3. Sociology of Childhood & Child participation

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. "Children and Public Policy in Malta". National Institute for Childhood, President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (Malta), Nov 2018.
2. "Research into the views of two child reference groups on the arts in research concerning wellbeing". Arts & Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice, Oct 2018.
3. "Use of a reference group in researching children’s views of psychotherapy in Malta" Journal of Child Psychotherapy, Volume 44, 2018 - Issue 2, pg. 243-262, Aug 2018.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

1. 'Children’s Views of Psychotherapy' - PhD research
2. 'Fil-Beraħ' - National Institute for Childhood, PFWS

Email Address (Work): dmerc04@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): danielmercieca2@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-mercieca-78304719/>

Name and Title: Prof Brenda Murphy
Status: Resident Academic
Departments: Department of Gender Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Gender and media, gendered bodies.
2. Semiotics and textual analysis, and feminist research methods to excavate issues around representation, commodification and identity located in media
3. Belonging, diaspora, identity, gendered places and spaces, the construction of identities of various kinds, (national, gender, ethnic etc.) In and through consumption and performances of consumption and spaces of consumption

LATES PUBLICATION/S:

Murphy B. 2019. Gender-positive advertising – challenging gender stereotyping in advertising? In Ross. K. (Ed) Gender and Communications Encyclopedia (forthcoming)

Murphy B. 2019. Framing Couples: stereotypes, romance and idealised romance in the media, In

Abela A, Piscopo S., & Vella, S. (Eds.) Couple Relationships in a Global Context, Understanding love and intimacy across cultures. National Centre of Family Research of the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society; Springer (forthcoming)

Murphy B. 2018. Media guidelines for Journalists reporting Domestic Violence, Malta: Commission for Domestic Violence. https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MEAE/PublishingImages/Pages/Consultations/ReportingDomesticViolence-GuidelinesforJournalistsandMediaContentProducers/Reporting%20Domestic%20Violence%20-%20consultation%20document.pdf

Murphy, B. 2017. 'Malta: A critical mapping of women in the media - absences and contested occupancies - from Boardrooms to Broadcasts'. In Ross K. and Padovani C. (Eds) Gender Equality and the Media: A Challenge for Europe. Routledge Studies in European Communication Research and Education, Routledge: London

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) [National Coordinator] giving rise to National Reports in 2015, 2010, 2005, and 2000. [Murphy B. (2015) Global Media Monitoring Project 2015 (GMMP) National Report (Malta): Murphy B. (2010) Global Media Monitoring Project 2010 GMMP (Malta), <http://www.whomakesthenews.org/images/stories/restricted/national/malta.pdf>; Murphy B. (2005) Global Media Monitoring Project 2005 (GMMP) National Report (Malta), http://www.whomakesthenews.org/research/country_reports.]
2. EU Research: Most recent research was carried out for the FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality (European Parliament Committee) and European Commission on the Mutual Learning Platform. [Murphy, B. 2018. 'Malta – a case study,' In Gender Equality in the Media Sector, FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality (European Parliament Committee) Media Research – Report, Authors: McCracken, K., FitzSimons, A., Priest, S., Girstmair, S., and Murphy, B. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/596839/IPOL_STU\(2018\)596839_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/596839/IPOL_STU(2018)596839_EN.pdf)]

Murphy B. 2019. languishing in inertia - gender issues & media landscapes: from Beijing 1995 to Paris 2018. EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality - Comments Paper – Response to Discussion Paper (France) for EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality - Women and the Media Seminar, France, 12-13 November 2018 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/mlp-gender-equality-seminar-women-and-media-france-12-13-november-2018_en]

3. Collaborative researcher with several institutions:

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), GMMP and COST

National Coordinator for the Gender Monitoring Media Project (GMMP)

With the Presidents Foundation to spearhead gender training for media practitioners.

Expert for the European Commission and European Parliament on issues around Media and Gender.

Research Associate at the University of Malta's Mediterranean Institute

Email Address (Work):	brenda.murphy@um.edu.mt
UM Profile Address:	https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/brendamurphy
UM campus address:	Lecture Centre Room 207 Tal Qroqq Msida Msida
Skype address:	brenda.murphy
Twitter acc:	https://twitter.com/BMurphyMalta
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/brenda.murphy.399826
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/in/brenda-murphy-99007316/
Other Social Media:	https://murphybrenda.wordpress.com/2015/06/15/brewery-for-a-book-launch/ https://malta.academia.edu/BrendaMurphy , https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Brenda_Murphy3 .

Name and Title: Dr Marian Muscat Azzopardi
Status: Casual Academic
Department/s: Department of Social Policy & Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Residential child care policy and the social pedagogy model of quality care, upbringing and the holistic development of the child.
2. Foster Care policy: A children's rights based approach.
3. Ethical issues in ageing with a particular interest in the concepts of autonomy and meaningfulness.

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Muscat Azzopardi Marian (2017) "**Book Review: Population Ageing in Malta: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Marvin Formosa and Charles Scerri** (eds)", Journal: Ageing & Society, Volume 37, Issue 1, January 2017
2. Muscat Azzopardi Marian, DeBono Daniela (2016) "**Let Me Thrive: A Research Study on Foster Care in Malta.** Office of the Commissioner for Children, 1-155, ISBN 978-99957-0-962-4
3. Muscat Azzopardi Marian (2010) "**Where is Home? The Voice of Children and Young Persons Living in Care**", International Journal of Child & Family Welfare, Vol. 13 Nos 3-4, pp. 171-186

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Factors conducive to the attraction/retention of foster carers.
2. Out-of-home child care policy
3. National Occupational Standards for frontline workers in out-of-home child care.

Email Address (Work): mmusc02@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): iktbuli@gmail.com

Name and Title: Dr Marceline Naudi
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Gender Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS AND ACTIVISM:

1. Gender generally
2. Violence against Women, including Femicide
3. LGBTIQ

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Naudi, M. & Stelmaszek, B. (2019, forthcoming). 'Dis/Empowerment under Patriarchy: Intimate Partner Violence'. In: Vella, Falzon, & Azzopardi (Eds). *Perspectives in Social Wellbeing*. Lieden: Brill Publishers, NL
2. Weil, S., Corradi, C. and Naudi, M. (Eds) (2018) *Femicide across Europe: Theory, research and prevention*. Bristol: Policy Press.
3. Naudi, M., Clark, M. & Saliba, H. (2018) *FULL COOPERATION: ZERO VIOLENCE. Barriers to Help-Seeking in Gender-Based Violence Against Women: A Research Study*. Valletta: Ministry for European Affairs & Equality, Valletta, Malta

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Full Cooperation Zero Violence Project co-funded by DG Justice, European Commission (ended December 2018)
2. Bystanders Response to Sexual Harassment among Young People Project co-financed by DG Justice, European Commission (ended November 2018)
3. European Observatory on Femicide currently hosted by the Department of Gender Studies UM, resulting out of COST action IS1206 Femicide Across Europe (Ongoing)

Email Address (Work): marceline.naudi@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/marcelinenaudi>

UM Campus Address: Room 122, Humanities B (FEMA), University of Malta, Msida.

Skype Address: marceline.naudi

Name and Title: Dr. Gisella Orsini
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Gender Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Health, Body and Gender
2. Eating Disorders
3. Health Systems in Small States

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Engaging communities by displacing bodies [in Displace Altofest (2018) Valletta 2018 Foundation, Silvia Mei and Loretta Mesiti (Ed)]
2. “Hunger Hurts, but Starving Works”. The Moral Conversion to Eating Disorders [Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry, Volume 4, Issue 1, March 2017, Pages 111-141]

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. ALTOFEST [Valletta 2018 Foundation]
2. Exiled Homes [Valletta 2018 Foundation]
3. SMSHealth.Eu – European Integration, Small States and Health [Erasmus +]

Email Address (Work): gisella.orsini@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/gisellaorsini>

UM Campus Address: Department of Gender Studies - Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Room 110, Car Park 6, University of Malta, Msida.
gisella.orsini

Name and Title: Dr Charles Pace
Status: Visiting Snr. Lecturer
Department/s: Department of Social Policy & Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Malta's welfare state
2. Adaptation to new context in policy transfer, especially in mental health, social and migrant care in the community.
3. Epistemological, spirituality and transcendence issues in academia.

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Deusdad Ayala B & Pace C (guest editors) (2016). Journal of Social Service Research. 2016, VOL. 42, NO. 2, 1 Special Issue on, 'Facing the challenges to the development of long-term care for older people in Europe'.
2. Leibetseder, B., Pace, C., et al. (2017). The horizontal 're-mix' in social care. In Martinelli F et al. Social Services Disrupted. Changes, Challenges and Policy Implications for Europe in Times of Austerity. Cheltenham: Elgar.
3. Pace C (2019, forthcoming). The Maltese welfare state. In Schubert K, Hegelich S & Bazant K (eds.). Handbook of European Welfare Systems. London: Routledge

Email Address (Work): charles.pace@um.edu.mt
UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/charlespace>
LinkedIn: <https://mt.linkedin.com/in/charles-pace-44210731>

Name and Title: Dr Maria Pisani
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Youth & Community Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Forced Migration*
2. *Youth Studies & Youth Work*
3. *Citizenship & inclusion*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Pisani, M., Basarab, T., Bello, B., & Laine, S. (2019). *Between insecurity and hope: reflections on youth work with young refugees*. Strasbourg: European Commission & Council of Europe.
2. Vaughan-Williams N & Pisani, M (2018), "Migrating borders, bordering lives", *Social and Cultural Geography*
3. Pisani, M. (2018). Illegal young bodies and the failings of liberal democracy: some reflections on the European Union's 'refugee crisis' and its implications for juvenile justice. In B. Goldsen, *Juvenile Justice in Europe: Past, Present and Future, 1st Edition*. London: Routledge.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Crossing the Mediterranean Sea by Boat: Mapping and Documenting Migratory Journeys and Experiences (Funded by UK ESRC)
2. On Being Moved: Refugee Perceptions of Being Moved to Malta (Funded by JRS Malta, aditus Foudation & Integra Foundation)
3. *Becoming a Part of Europe (BPE) How Youth Work can support young migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (Funded by EC Erasmus+)*

Email Address (Work): maria.pisani@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/mariapisani>

Name and Title: Dr Claudia Psaila
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Social Policy & Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Spirituality and practice: psychology/psychotherapy/social work/wellbeing
2. The personal and professional development of helping professionals
3. Reflective practice; mindfulness and self-care/practice

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Psaila, C. (*forthcoming*) Spirituality: The cornerstone of wellbeing? In S. Vella, R. Falzon and A. Azzopardi (Eds.) *Perspectives on wellbeing: A reader*. Sense Publications.
2. Psaila, C. (2017). Spirituality and religion in Maltese social work practice: A taboo? In B. R. Crisp (Ed.) *The Routledge handbook of religion, spirituality and social work*. London: Routledge.
3. Psaila, C. 2014, "Mental health practitioners' understanding and experience of spirituality and religion: Implications for practice", *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 189-203.

Email Address (Work): claudia.psaila@um.edu.mt
UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/claudiapsaila>
UM Campus Address: Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Room 121, New Humanities Building, Department of Social Policy & Social Work, University of Malta, Msida
Skype Address: claudiapsaila
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-claudia-psaila-8174799/>

Name and Title: Dr Alexia Rossi
Status: Senior Visiting Lecturer
Department/s: Department of Psychology; Department of Family Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Psychological Trauma*
2. *Post-trauma Resilience and Post-traumatic Growth*
3. *Refugee Mental Health*
4. *Migration, Integration and Well-being*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. The mental health services for detained asylum seekers in Malta
A Taylor-East, R., Rossi, A., Caruana, J., Grech
BJPsych International 13 (2), 32-35
2. Detention Visitors Manual, Psychological Support Chapter
A. Rossi, J. Caruana (2015)
JRS Europe
3. Care in Captivity? Analysis of the provision of care for detained asylum seekers experiencing mental health problems
A Rossi, J Caruana
Jesuit Refugee Service
4. Stronger Together
S. Gafa, M. Naudi, A. Rossi (2017)
Fempower Issue 28

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *Postvention and the Psychiatrist's Reaction to Patient Suicide*

Email Address (Work): alexia.rossi@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): alexiamrossi@gmail.com

Skype Address: alexiarossi1

Facebook Account: Alexia Rossi

LinkedIn: Alexia Rossi

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=r1r86Y4AAAAJ&hl=en&authuser=1>

Name and Title: Ms. Isotta Rossoni
Status: Casual Lecturer
Department: Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. The relationship between sex work and trafficking
2. Agency in the context of sex work and trafficking
3. Immigration detention as a new form of punitiveness

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Rossoni, I., Formosa, S., Formosa-Pace, J., Calafato, T. and Scicluna, S. (2018). *Migrant women’s experiences of sexual and gender-based violence and help-seeking journeys: Focus on Malta*. Available at: <https://captive.euro-cides.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CAPTIVE-Report-University-of-Malta-Malta.pdf>
2. Rossoni, I. (2017). Campsfield 29.11.2014: questioning the legitimacy of immigration detention – views from the voluntary sector. *Early Career Academics Network Bulletin*. London: Howard League for Penal Reform.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. Qualitative research on vulnerability to human trafficking among residents of open centres commissioned by the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security (February-July 2018)
2. Research on GBV among migrant women in Malta through Project CAPTIVE (Cultural Agent – Promoting & Targeting Interventions vs. Violence & Enslavement) (May 2017-November 2018)

Email Address (Work): isotta.rossoni@um.edu.mt

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/isotta-rossoni-89ab57b/>

Name and Title: Gordon Sammut; Ass. Prof
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Psychology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Mentalities*
2. *Social Cognition*
3. *Methodology*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Buhagiar, L.J., Sammut, G., Rochira, A., & Salvatore, S. (2018). There's no such thing as a good Arab: Cultural essentialism and its functions concerning the integration of Arabs in Europe. *Culture & Psychology, 24*(4), 560-576.
2. Sammut, G. (2018). Alternating dominance: Social categorization, group formation and the problem of borders. In B. Wagoner, I. Bresco de Luna & V. Glaveanu (Eds.), *The Road to Actualized Democracy: A psychological exploration* (pp. 129-146). Charlotte, NC: Information Age.
3. Sammut, G., Jovchelovitch, S., Buhagiar, L.J., Veltri, G.A., Redd, R., & Salvatore, S. (2018). Arabs in Europe: Arguments for and against integration. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 24*(4), 398-406.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *European Network for Argumentation and Public Policy Analysis [COST Action]*
2. *National Safety & Security Monitor [Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security]*

Email Address (Work): gordon.sammut@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/gordonsammut>

UM Campus Address: OH214, Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, Msida, MSD2080, Malta

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=HK3INz8AAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Name and Title: Dr Sandra Scicluna, Senior Lecturer
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Department of Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Probation and Prisons*
2. *Gender Based Violence*
3. *Drug abuse and treatment*

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *SERA - Secularisation and Radicalisation a project to prevent the radicalisation of prisoners (Erasmus+)*
2. *CAPTIVE - A project to help women victims or potential victims of gender based violence (EU project - Daphne and Justice)*

Email Address (Work): sandra.scicluna@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/sandrascicluna>

UM Campus Address: Rm 428, New Humanities Building, Block B, University of Malta

Skype Address: Sandra6669

Name and Title: Miriam Teuma
Status: Visiting Lecturer
Department/s: Youth and Community Studies

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. European and international youth policy and implementation
2. Non-formal learning theory and practice
3. Innovative learning methods and practices

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. *“Above the horizon - shifting landscapes in youth work in Malta”*, in Thinking Seriously about Youth Work (2017), EU/Council of Europe Youth Partnership.
2. *“Learning Mobility, Social Inclusion and Flexible Education Pathways in Malta”* in Learning Mobility, Social Inclusion and Non -formal education (2017), EU/Council of Europe Youth Partnership.
3. *“The past made us - perspectives on the development of youth work and social work in Malta”* in The History of Youth Work in Europe (2018), EU/Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

Email Address (Work): miriam.teuma@gov.mt

Email Address (Personal): miriam.teuma@gmail.com

Name and Title: Dr. Mary Grace Vella
Status: Visiting/Part-time Lecturer
Department/s: Department of Criminology;
Department of Social Policy and Social Work;
Department of Sociology,
Department of Youth and Community studies,
Centre for Labour Studies, Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *Micro Politics and Activism (Human Rights, Animal Rights and Environmental Protection)*
2. *Poverty and Social Exclusion*
3. *Crime and Deviance*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. 'Abortion: Breaking the Barriers of Patriarchy' [In Symposia Melitensia Conference Proceedings Number 15 (2018)]
2. 'Art and Politics', 'Sustainable Development: Global Political Commitment' and 'Scientific Research Methods'. [In M. Debono, J. Gravina, C. Pollacco, D. Sultana, and M.G.Vella (Eds.), *Systems of Knowledge: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (pp.132-139; pp.148-153 and pp.220-225). Miller Distributors Ltd: Malta.]
3. 'Non-Voting: Disconnecting from Partisan Politics' [In Symposia Melitensia Number 14 (2018) pp.405-418]

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. The nature, cause and impact of usury [DG Social Policy within the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity]
2. The availability and affordability of housing for vulnerable groups [Observatory for Living with Dignity within the President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society]
3. Restorative Justice in Prison ['Participation for Employment at CCF: Social Inclusion through Education and Training Project' - University of Malta and Correctional Services].

Email Address (Work): marygrace.vella@um.edu.mt

Email Address (Personal): marygracevella08@gmail.com

UM Profile Address: <https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/marygracevella>

UM Campus Address: Room C416, Department of Systems of Knowledge, Junior College, Msida

Name and Title: Dr Sue Vella
Status: Resident Academic
Department/s: Social Policy & Social Work

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. *European social policy, with a focus on social investment and labour market-social security nexus*
2. *Homelessness, housing risk and social housing*
3. *Social policy perspectives on couple relationships and on families in poverty*

LATEST PUBLICATION/S:

1. Vella, S., Falzon, R. and Azzopardi, A. (Eds.) (2019). *Perspectives on Wellbeing*. NL: Brill
2. Vella, S. (2018). Residential care in Malta. In M. Formosa (ed). *Active and healthy ageing in Malta*. Malta: BDL books.
3. Vella, S. (2017). Welcoming the stranger. Social policy perspectives on asylum seekers in Malta. *Melita Theologica* 67(1), 61-76.

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *Social investment and young people in Europe*
2. *Homelessness in Malta*
3. *Impact of poverty on family functioning*

Email Address (Work): sue.vella@um.edu.mt

UM Profile Address: UM Campus Address: Room 126, New Humanities 'B', Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, Tal-Qroqq, Malta MSD2080

Skype Address: sue.vella3

Name and Title: Mr. Brian Zahra
Status: Visiting Academic
Department/s: Department of Criminology

RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

1. Offence and Criminology Profiling
2. Race, Migration and Human Trafficking
3. Police Leadership

RESEARCH PROJECT/S:

1. *Change Management and Leadership*
2. *Destructive Leadership*

Email Address (Work): brian.zahra@um.edu.mt

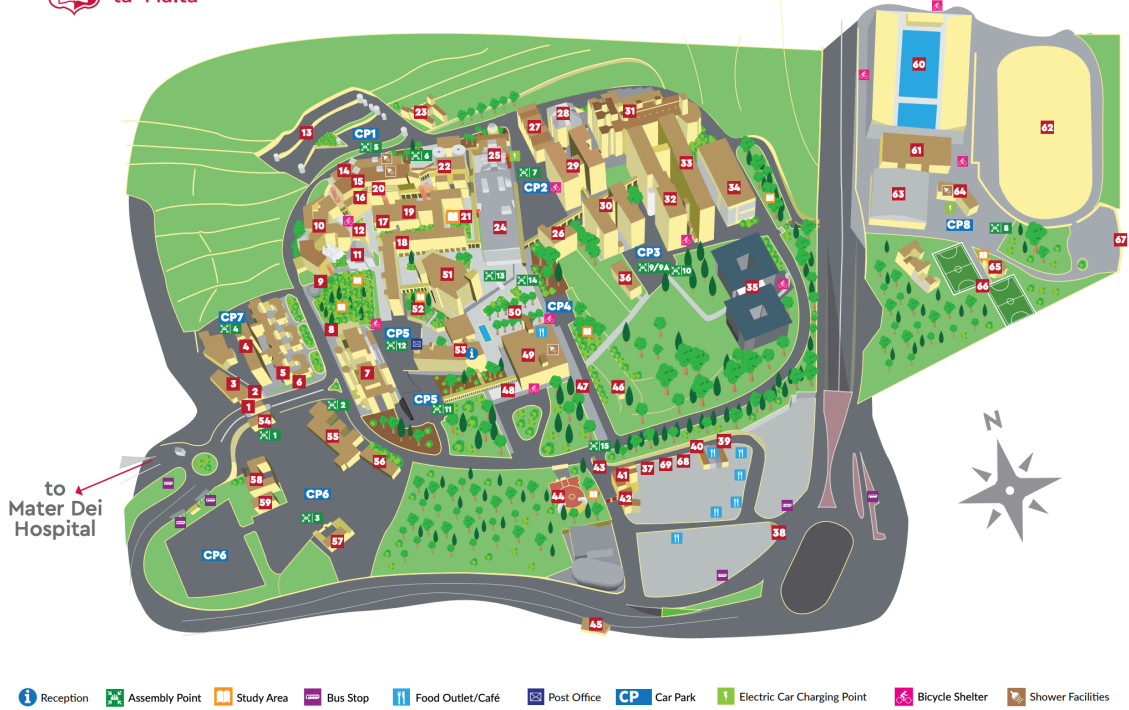
Email Address (Personal): brianzahra75@gmail.com

Facebook Account: <https://www.facebook.com/brian.zahra.56>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-zahra-8a074a5b/>



Msida Campus Map



- i Reception
- x Assembly Point
- Study Area
- Bus Stop
- || Food Outlet/Café
- Post Office
- CP Car Park
- ⚡ Electric Car Charging Point
- Bicycle Shelter
- Shower Facilities

FACULTIES

- 18 **FACULTY OF ARTS**
(all departments except)
12 Art & Art History
58 Classics & Archaeology
12 Geography
12 German
58 Oriental Studies
- 10 **FACULTY FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
(all departments except)
10, 45 Visual Arts
- FACULTY OF DENTAL SURGERY**
(all departments at Mater Dei Hospital except)
32 Dental Surgery
- 15 **FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT & ACCOUNTANCY (FEMA)**
(all departments except)
56 Inclusion & Access to Learning
22 Leadership for Learning & Innovation
- 31 **FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**
- FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
(at Mater Dei Hospital)
- 35 **FACULTY OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**
- 14 **FACULTY OF LAWS**
- 22 **FACULTY OF MEDIA & KNOWLEDGE SCIENCES (MaKS)**
- FACULTY OF MEDICINE & SURGERY**
(all departments at Mater Dei Hospital except)
32 Anatomy
30 Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics
32 Pharmacy
33 Physiology & Biochemistry
- 29 **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
(all departments except)
33 Biology
30 Chemistry
29, 30 Geosciences
30 Metamaterials Unit
- 15 **FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING**
69 Counselling
16 Criminology
14 Disability Studies
18 Family Studies
14 Gender Studies
14 Gerontology

- 18 Psychology
15 Social Policy & Social Work
15 Youth & Community Studies
- 14 **FACULTY OF THEOLOGY**
(all departments except)
18 Philosophy
- INSTITUTES**
- 31, 35 Institute of Aerospace Technologies
18 Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies
14 International Institute for Baroque Studies
- 69 Institute for Climate Change & Sustainable Development
11 Confucius Institute
3 Institute of Digital Games
30, 38 Institute of Earth Systems
- 68 The Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking
4 Institute for European Studies
12 Islands & Small States Institute
56 Institute of Linguistics & Language Technology
12 Institute of Maltese Studies
4 Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)
- 18, 23 Mediterranean Institute
64 Institute of Physical Education & Sport
29 Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy
38 Institute for Sustainable Energy (and in M'Xakk)
- 16 Institute for Tourism, Travel & Culture
- CENTRES**
- 31 Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics
12 Centre for English Language Proficiency
28 Centre for Entrepreneurship & Business Incubation
64 Centre for Environmental Education & Research
15 Centre for Labour Studies
40 Centre for the Liberal Arts & Sciences
18 Centre for Literacy
32 Centre for Molecular Medicine & Biobanking
42 Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health
42 Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine
18 Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research
- SCHOOLS**
- 49 **DOCTORAL SCHOOL**
- 56 **SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS**

- 24 **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION STUDIES**
- BUILDINGS**
- 53 Administration Building
57 Agriculture Farmhouse
58 Archaeology Centre
33 Biomedical Sciences Building (BM)
10 Built Environment Building (BEN)
44 Chapel St Thomas More
30 Chemistry and Pharmacology Building (CHP)
28 Dar Guzeppi Zahra (DGZ)
25 Dun Mikiel Xerri Lecture Centre (LC)
31 Engineering Building (EB)
07 Engineering Workshops
55 Estates & Works Building
35 ICT Building
46 Garden's Lodge
12 Guze Casar Pullicino Building (CCP)
14 Humanities A (Laws, Theology)
15 Humanities B (FEMA)
34 IT Services
24 Library
22 MaKS Building (MKS)
29 Maths & Physics Building (MP)
18 Mediterranean Institute (MDI)
7 Mikiel Anton Vassalli Conference Centre Gateway Building (CW)
07 Old Humanities Building (OH)
32, 33 Biomedical Sciences Building (BM)
59 Portacabins A
56 Portacabins B
38 Portacabins C
23 Ir-Razzett tal-Hursun – Mediterranean Institute Farmhouse
49 University House
- OPEN SPACES**
- 6 Arvid Pardo Monument
21 Arvid Pardo Study Area/
Gnien tal-Paci li-Ibhra
8 Climate Change Monument
48 Dun Karm Monument
9 Greek Theatre – (TESP)
52 Japanese Garden/Gnien l-Istudant
50 Mikiel Anton Vassalli Monument
50 Quadrangle (Atrju Vassalli)
47 Vjal Tessie Camilleri
- FACILITIES & SERVICES**
- 53 Academic Programmes Quality & Resources Unit (APQRU)
18 ACCESS – Disability Support Unit
53 Admissions & Records Office
39 AIMS Support Unit
54, 55 Arts Studio
18 Campus FM
53 Certification Office
44 Chaplaincy
42 Counselling Services

- 49 DegreePlus
40 ERDF/ESF Projects Office
55 Estates, Facilities & Capital Development Directorate
7 Facilities Management Unit
53 Finance Office
54 Gardens Unit
59 Health & Safety Office
53 International Admissions Office
53 International Office
34 IT Services
17 Kids Point (It-Tajra Childcare Centre)
28 Corporate Research & Knowledge Transfer Office
49 Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU)
18 La Petite Auberge de France
53 Legal Services Office
28 Malta University Consulting (MUC)
53 Marketing, Communications & Alumni Office
41 MATSEC Support Unit
53 Messengers' Transport Pool
59 Office for Human Resources Management and Development
53 Office of the Pro-Rectors
53 Office of the Rector
53 Office of the Registrar
53 Office of the Secretary
2 Precincts Office
53 Procurement Directorate
7 Project Support
53 Quality Assurance Unit
53 Reception Desk
56 Registry
38 Research Support Services Directorate
1 Security
18 Spanish Auberge
53 Stipends Office
53 Students Advisory Services
53 Students' Information Management System (SIMS) Office
49 Student Societies

- 28 TAKEOFF Business Incubator
24 University Library
64 University Sports Facilities
- ENTRANCES**
- 1 Main Entrance (West Gate)
43 Old Main Entrance (South Gate)
67 Sports Area Entrance (East Gate)
- THIRD-PARTY SERVICES**
- 49 Agenda Bookshop
7, 18, ATM
49 Canteen
49 HealthPlus
18 HSBC
53 Maltapost
49 Merchandise Shop
13 Nature Trust – Wied Ghollieqa
49 Environment Centre
49 Papierplus Studio
- SPORTS AREA**
- 66 5-a-Side Football Pitches
65 Changing Rooms
62 Football Pitch
61 Malta University Sports Club (MUSC)
63 Multipurpose Sports Hall
60 National Swimming Pool Complex
64 Sports Pavilion
- INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTES**
- 5 International Maritime Law Institute
4 International Ocean Institute
- LECTURE HALLS/ROOMS – ABBREVIATIONS**
- 19 **ALT** Arts Lecture Theatre
30 **CLR** Chemistry Lecture Room
31 **ELT** Engineering Lecture Theatre
25 **LT1** Lecture Theatre 1
25 **LT2** Lecture Theatre 2
24 **LBR** Library Basement
38 **MLT** Media Lecture Rooms
32 **NALR** New Anatomy Lecture Room
- 33 **NBRR** New Biology Resource Room
49 **SHCR** Science Lecture Room
26 **SLT** Science Lecture Theatre
51 **STZ** Sir Temi Zammit Hall
34 **TR** Computer Training Rooms (IT Services)
34 **VC** Video Conference Suite (IT Services)

