



**L-Università
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Shaping Minds and Souls: Jesuit Missions and the Mediterranean World

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Shaping Minds and Souls: Jesuit Missions and the Mediterranean World is a pioneering research initiative exploring the Jesuit Order's profound influence on Mediterranean society during the early modern period. This endeavour is being sustained through a collaborative framework between the University of Malta and the Università degli Studi di Palermo. The project examines the interplay between religious formation, art, and architecture, highlighting the Jesuits' integration into Malta's cultural landscape and their broader impact across the Mediterranean.

Designed to support the ongoing conservation of the Jesuits' Church Complex in Valletta, the project links historical research with heritage preservation. It emphasises the Jesuit mission in Malta, particularly the foundation of the Collegium Melitense, and situates it within the broader context of the Jesuit mission in the Mediterranean. By aligning academic inquiry with conservation efforts, the initiative seeks to underline the cultural and spiritual significance of the complex, including its rich artistic heritage.

Central to the project is an international symposium scheduled for May 2025, which will bring together scholars to explore themes such as Jesuit missionary strategies, educational foundations, and artistic contributions. Archival research across Malta and Rome will illuminate the Jesuits' role in shaping local and regional religious and cultural dynamics.

Outcomes include a peer-reviewed volume and digital proceedings, ensuring broad dissemination of findings. By fostering interdisciplinary scholarship and supporting heritage conservation, this initiative highlights the Jesuits' lasting legacy in shaping Mediterranean society and contributes to global Jesuit studies.