



27-31 January

### Seminar Programme and Foyer Activities

#### Monday 27 January

11:00-12:00	Feedback Loops – Screening of Parts I and II of the documentary, followed by a discussion. Venue: Auditorium
12:00-13:00	Feedback Loops – Screening of Parts III and IV of the documentary, followed by a discussion. Venue: Auditorium

#### Hsieb Hiele in collaboration with the Environmental Committee

10:00-12:00	Marine sciences. How can we relate? A talk by Prof. Alan Deidun Venue: Sala 247
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In the Foyer: Combating the Injustices of the Fashion Industry – An Exhibition.

Fis-salott: Screening of video clips with an environmental theme.

#### Tuesday 28 January

10:00-11:00	Opening ceremony festAmbjent 2025 - Eco-poetry in various languages. Professor Valerie Sollars (Pro-rector for Strategic Planning and Sustainability at the University of Malta), Mr Paul Xuereb (Junior College Principal) and Ms Jacqueline Rotin (Chairperson of the JC Environmental Committee) will address the audience. Venue: Foyer
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In the Foyer:

Combating the Injustices of the Fashion Industry – An Exhibition.

Bake sale in aid of JC cats.

Plant Sale – Buy sustainable indigenous plants for your loved ones for Valentine!

Stands: Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre, Institute of Earth Systems, Earth Systems Association, Movement Graffiti, BirdLife Malta, National Animal Movement.

Fis-salott: Screening of video clips with an environmental theme.

#### Wednesday 29 January

10:00-11:00	<b>W29/10 Closing the Loop. Circular Economy- A New Approach for Responsible and Sustainable Consumption and Production</b> Suzanne Maas and Beth Fiteni Venue: Auditorium
11:00-12:00	<b>W29/11 Career Choices for a Sustainable World</b> Ms Christabel Saliba Venue: C321

In the Foyer:

Combating the Injustices of the Fashion Industry – An Exhibition.

Bake sale in aid of JC cats.

Stands: Institute of Earth Systems, Earth Systems Association, BirdLife Malta, National Animal Movement, Friends of the Earth. Students' initiatives: JA students' projects – Opuntis, Żiffa Maltija, Anova, Novaco, Oasis and Dawra jew Tnejn.

Fis-salott: Screening of video clips with an environmental theme.



27-31 January

**Thursday 30 January**

09:00	<b>T30/09 Why you should finish your food</b> Ms Kristina Felice Pace Venue: A301
10:00	<b>T30/10 Exploring air pollution: Key concepts and impacts</b> Prof Noel Aquilina, Mr Renato Camilleri and Mr Ben Tabone Adami Venue: Auditorium
11:00	<b>T30/11 The status of the dragonflies of the Maltese Islands</b> Dr Godwin Degabriele Venue: Auditorium
12:00	<b>T30/12 Living with water scarcity – Malta’s natural freshwater resources</b> Dr Julian Mamo Venue: A301
13:00	<b>T30/13 An introduction to the marine species and habitats of the Mediterranean sea</b> Dr Angela G Bartolo Venue: A301

In the Foyer:

Combating the Injustices of the Fashion Industry – An Exhibition  
Fis-salott: Screening of video clips with an environmental theme

**Friday 31 January**

09:30-10:30	Tree Planting in collaboration with Ilwien and il-Perla Childcare centres Venue: Junior College Grounds
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In the Foyer:

Combating the Injustices of the Fashion Industry – An Exhibition  
Fis-salott: Screening of video clips with an environmental theme

## Details of seminars and activities

### **M27/10 Marine sciences. How can we relate? A talk by Prof. Alan Deidun**

Venue: Sala 247

Prof Alan Deidun

Monday 27 January 10:00- 12:00

Professor Alan Deidun will be delivering an engaging informal talk aimed at inspiring students with his journey of discovering a passion for the ocean. From his early days as a student at the Junior College to his current achievements, he will share personal experiences, including the challenges he has faced and the rewarding aspects of working in this field. Through his insights, Professor Deidun hopes to encourage students to deepen their knowledge of marine sciences, consider careers in the sector, and explore innovative ways to channel their own interests into meaningful pursuits.

### **W29/10 Closing the Loop. Circular Economy - A New Approach for Responsible and Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Venue: Auditorium

Suzanne Maas and Beth Fiteni

Wednesday 29 January 10:00

*A presentation to engage in discussion about circular economy, zero waste, and what we each can do.*

Suzanne is the Climate Campaign Coordinator, working on topics related to climate change, energy and mobility, and developing our Fossil Free Malta campaign. She joined Friends of the Earth Malta some years ago, working as project coordinator for the AgroKatina and Nature Therapy projects and thereafter as a volunteer board member. Suzanne originally comes from an island in the Netherlands and has a Masters degree in Environmental Science (Wageningen University, NL) and a PhD in Sustainable Mobility with the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development at the University of Malta. Her research focused on the use of bicycle sharing systems and the promotion of cycling in a Southern European context. Having grown up in the Netherlands, she was pretty much born on a bicycle, and has been an active cyclist – and cycling activist – in Malta during the 10+ years she has been living and working here. She lectures part-time at the University of Malta on units related to transport, climate and research methods in geography.

Beth Fiteni is the Circular Economy and Resource Use Campaign Manager. Beth has a Masters Degree in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, as well as thirty years of experience working in the environmental movement for non-profit organisations in the U.S. Since 2011, she was Founder and Director of Green Inside and Out, a nonprofit based in New York, and hosted The Sustainable Living Podcast, as well as radio show at WUSB Stony Brook University. Beth was a founding member of the Long Island Organics Council and Taking a Lead on Zero Waste, which focus on composting and waste reduction efforts. She has also worked on clean energy policy, pesticides and other toxins. She is the author of the book, “The Green Wardrobe Guide – Finding EcoChic Fashions that Look Great and Help Save the Planet.”

Beth has served on numerous Boards of Directors for NGOs and won several awards for her work, including the US EPA’s Environmental Quality award in 2010. Beth offered a TEDx Talk at Adelphi University in March 2018 entitled, “The Toxic Talk – Your Power Over Pollutants.” She is half-Maltese and loves Malta.

## **W29/11 Career Choices for a sustainable world**

Venue: C321

Ms Christabel Saliba

Wednesday 29 January 11:00

*This workshop, titled Career Choices for a Changing World, introduces 17-year-old students to the importance of sustainability in career planning. The session begins with an overview of sustainability and its relevance to modern career choices using the Ikigai (生き甲斐) concept. Students are then engaged in a quick, interactive quiz on climate change, followed by a case study on sustainable fashion design, highlighting the career journey of Lindsay Azzopardi, a 3D Sustainable Fashion Designer.*

*Through group discussions, students explore how different career sectors can contribute to sustainability while reflecting on the importance of connecting career choices with sustainable development goals. The session also includes a deep dive into current green job trends, inspiring students to consider sustainable career paths, such as renewable energy, sustainable fashion, and environmental conservation.*

*The workshop concludes with a wrap-up and reflection, encouraging students to consider one actionable step towards exploring sustainable careers and furthering their understanding of how to positively impact the planet through their career choices.*

Ms Christabel Saliba is the Student Advisor at Junior College, specialising in guiding students towards meaningful academic and career choices. Passionate about environmental sustainability, she has developed initiatives to help students reflect on their values in relation to their career paths. With years of experience in teaching and guidance, Christabel focuses on integrating sustainable and socially responsible practices into career planning.

She believes every individual can make a positive impact through their career and encourages them to explore sustainable options in today's evolving job market.

## **T30/09 Why you should finish your food**

Venue: A301

Ms Kristina Felice Pace

Thursday 30 January 09:00

*In this interactive workshop, we will delve into the environmental consequences of food waste, from resource depletion to greenhouse gas emissions. Participants will learn actionable strategies for reducing food waste at home and explore creative ways to repurpose surplus food. Together, we'll uncover how small changes can contribute to a more sustainable future.*

Kristina Felice Pace is a graduate of the University of Malta with first-class honours in Earth Systems. Her academic expertise centres on sustainability and environmental science, with a focus on food waste, which she explored in her thesis.

Kristina has been working in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), specifically on the implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). She has also held leadership roles as the KSU Vice President and Commissioner and Student Representative on the Board of Studies for Earth Systems, contributing to academic and student-focused initiatives.

### **T30/10 Exploring air pollution: Key concepts and impacts**

Venue: Auditorium

Prof Noel Aquilina, Mr Renato Camilleri and Mr Ben Tabone Adami

Thursday 30 January 10:00

*The seminar is designed to equip students with essential knowledge about air pollution and its effects on the environment and human health. This seminar will highlight the major types of air pollutants, providing insights into both outdoor and indoor pollution sources.*

*Students will learn about:*

- 1. Pollutants: Learn about key air pollutants, including particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide, and explore their sources and how they contribute to environmental degradation.*
- 2. Pollution Episodes: Delve into recent natural and anthropogenic pollution episodes, understanding their causes, impacts, and lessons learned.*
- 3. Health Effects: Highlight the impact of air pollution on human health, focusing on respiratory and cardiovascular issues and especially vulnerable populations.*
- 4. Indoor Pollutants: Explore the often-overlooked issue of indoor air pollution, identify common sources such as cooking, fire retardants, and tobacco smoke, and discuss strategies to improve indoor air quality.*

*By the end of the seminar, students will be familiar with the sources and impacts of air pollution and empowered with knowledge to advocate cleaner air.*

Prof Aquilina received his PhD at the University of Birmingham. He completed his post-doctorate at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the Energy Technologies Area-Indoor Environment, USA, and was a visiting researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, USA. He is an associate professor in atmospheric chemistry and exposure science at the Department of Chemistry of the University of Malta and an Affiliate Researcher within the Thirdhand Smoke Consortium of the University of California. Prof Aquilina made a substantial contribution to research in exposure science, particularly on particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) obtained from low-volume samples. He was involved in initial studies linking parent airborne PAHs to their metabolites. His research group, since 2010, has been involved in applying machine learning algorithms to applications of exposure to pollutants.

Mr Camilleri is currently reading for a PhD at the University of Malta which focuses on modelling indoor particulate matter. In his Master of Science in Chemistry, he studied the impact of fireworks burning on particulate atmospheric pollution in Malta. He published several papers on particulate airborne pollution, and his current research focuses on applying machine learning algorithms to model particulate matter. He is a senior lecturer in Chemistry at the Junior College and has served as the Subject Coordinator for the department since 2012.

Mr Tabone Adami completed his Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Chemistry at the University of Malta, graduating in 2022. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Chemistry on ambient air pollution. His ongoing MSc research is titled 'Mapping the Diurnal Variation of Black Carbon in Various Maltese Streets Along with a Health Impact Assessment,' which aims to understand the levels of this unregulated pollutant and its potential health implications due to exposure.

### **T30/11 The status of the dragonflies of the Maltese Islands**

Venue: Auditorium

Dr Godwin Degabriele

Thursday 30 January 11:00

*The activity involves a presentation aimed at introducing the different dragonfly and damselfly species that have been recorded in the Maltese Islands, and how the current local environmental scenarios are affecting the status of these species. It will also raise questions concerning whether there can be way forward to address the decline in local populations of some of the species.*

*A small collection of mounted representative specimens of the local species of butterflies will also be provided during the event.*

Dr. Godwin Degabriele is an entomologist and holds a Ph.D. from the Institute of Earth Systems, University of Malta, specializing in the diversity of thrips (Insecta (Hexapoda): Thysanoptera) of the Maltese Islands. He has also extensively studied the dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) of the Maltese Islands and has authored a number of papers on both local Thysanoptera and Odonata. Dr Degabriele is also a trained butterfly farmer, having received his training at the Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly Farm, UK. He is also a Fellowship Member of the Royal Entomological Society (FRES).

Dr. Degabriele has also obtained a Master's Degree in Science Education (with distinction), from the University of Malta. He has formed part of the team who coordinated the "Learning Outcomes Framework" project, which aimed at redesigning the Maltese curricula at all levels of education. For the last past twelve years he has occupied the position of Senior Lecturer II at the Biology Department, University of Malta Junior College.

### **T30/12 Living with water scarcity – Malta's natural freshwater resources**

Venue: A301

Dr Julian Mamo

Thursday 30 January 12:00

*The session will explore water management in Malta, one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. It will focus on Malta's natural freshwater resources, groundwater and surface waters, the challenges they face, and innovative solutions to protect this essential resource for the future.*

Dr. Julian Mamo has been working in water management for 15 years with a focus on assessing available water resources in arid and semi-arid environments and managing the use of traditional water resources (groundwater and surface waters) with non-conventional water supplies (wastewater reclamation and desalination). Julian has a PhD in Water Science and Technology from the University of Girona (Spain), an MSc in Water Management from Cranfield University (UK), and a B.Eng. (Hons) degree from the University of Malta. He has worked both in the private and public sectors and has undertaken work in Malta, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, and the UAE. Julian is currently an academic at the Institute of Earth Systems, Environmental Management & Planning Division, focusing on water resource management.

### **T30/13 An introduction to the marine species and habitats of the Mediterranean Sea**

Venue: A301

Dr. Angela G. Bartolo

Thursday 30 January 13:00

*The Mediterranean Sea is a marine biodiversity hotspot that hosts many endemic species. This sea also has its emblematic species including the sea turtles that nest along its coast, the Mediterranean monk seal and various cetaceans. The Mediterranean's diverse habitats are just as noteworthy. These include the seagrass meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*, as well as the rich communities of macroalgae—brown, red, and green—that form dense underwater forests, among others.*

*The presentation will discuss the species and habitats of the Mediterranean Sea, highlighting their ecological importance and examining current conservation challenges and initiatives.*

Dr. Angela G. Bartolo is a marine biologist with a background in research and environmental management. She has received her Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Aberdeen in 2022 where she focused on culturing marine species in the laboratory, applying DNA techniques, and conducting taxonomic and biogeographic studies. She lectures with the Division of Environmental Management and Planning within the Institute of Earth Systems at the University of Malta and also supervises students from the University of Aberdeen.

Her professional experience is underpinned by over a decade of work at the Environment and Resources Authority in Malta. During this time, she has been deeply involved in implementing EU Directives such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive as well as contributions to Malta's international obligations including the Barcelona Convention and supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG 14), which focuses on life below water.

### **Foyer Activities**

#### **Inauguration of the third edition of *festAmbjent* at JC (28 January at 10:00)**

The reading of Eco-poetry in Maltese (Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti), English (The Department of English and the Book Chat Club), Spanish and German (The Department of Foreign Languages), Italian and Norwegian (The JC International Office – Fashion Revolution Erasmus Project)

#### **Confronting the Injustices of the Fashion Industry (27-31 January)**

An exhibition and installation prepared by Ms Jacqueline Rotin, Chairperson of the JC Environmental Committee, which aims at raising awareness on the effects of the fashion industry on humans, animals and the planet.

### **Fis-Salott (27-31 January)**

Sit down and relax, and watch some of the videos with an environmental theme that will be screened throughout the whole week. The videos feature the work of various environmental activists in their struggles to safeguard their local and the global environment. Also listen to 'Nature Speaking' in a number of video clips by Conservation International.

### **Botany – Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre (28 January)**

Different aspects from Argotti will be showcased, namely the History, Herbarium (plant taxonomy), Experimentation (Essential oil production), Seed science (Seed storage lab with associated quality check of seeds and proper storing) and Conservation (both in regards to our botanical conservation but also historical conservation). A number of plants will be presented, representing the local flora of different Maltese habitats and consequently plants response to different habitat specific challenges.

### **Plant sale (28 January)**

Sustain your relationships with sustainable actions! Local indigenous plants grown at the Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre will be sold at no profit in order to promote the concept of giving local indigenous plants to your loved ones for Valentine's.

### **The Institute of Earth Systems and Earth Systems Association - ESA (28-29 January)**

Learn about the work that is done at The Institute of Earth Systems, which was set up with the primary aim of carrying out teaching and research in environmental and rural sciences, with a focus on Earth's complex and dynamic systems. Meet students of the ESA, who represent the students reading for the B.Sc (Hons) in Earth Systems, and participate in interactive activities that will be organised at the stand.

### **Bake sale (28-29 January)**

In aid of JC cats

### **Students' Initiatives (29 January)**

Students of the Junior Achievement Malta, Company Programme who have developed products which have an eco-friendly dimension will be demonstrating their work and selling their products at the stand.