



6 - 7 March

Seminar Programme and Foyer Activities – Revised Venues

Wednesday 6 March

09:00	W06/09 Teaching and research on Earth Observation at the Institute of Earth Systems Prof Charles Galdies Venue: A301	
10:00	W06/10i naqra natura Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti JC Kamra: A301	W06/10ii Refashioning preloved clothing: Towards sustainable fashion Ms Dana Carmont Venue: C321
11:00	W06/11 A Sociological Analysis of Public Opinion and Protest Efficacy Dr Valerie Visanich Venue: A301	
12:00	W06/12 Exploring the unseen: understanding biodiversity through scientific discovery. Dr Noel Vella (BICREF) Venue: A301	
13:00	W06/13 The status of the butterflies of the Maltese Islands Dr Godwin Degabriele Venue: A301	
14:00	W06/14 Maltese habitats: an introduction Prof Patrick Schembri Venue: Auditorium Compulsory for Biology students – All staff and students are welcome to attend.	

In the Foyer:

War: A Human Tragedy - An Environmental Disaster (An Exhibition 4-8 March)

Sign a poppy – Your commitment to peace

Bake sale in aid of JC cats

The World through Printing (An Art Exhibition)

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

Photos and videos may be taken on both days. These may be used on JC online and social media, and by the JC Environmental Committee during the promotion of its activities at JC. Videos will be taken on Wednesday 6 March and will be used for the tv programme Animal Diaries on TVM.



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Seminar Programme and Foyer Activities

Thursday 7 March

09:00	TH07/09 We Are All Climate Neurotics Mr Kurt Zammit Venue: A301
10:00	TH07/10 The bRIGHT Bite Ms Esther Sammut Carbone Venue: A301
11:00	TH07/11 Animals are family – for life! National Animal Movement Venue: A301
12:00	TH07/12 “Birds without borders” by Mark Trapani – Bird conservation daily life in Malta Nastasya Koroleva and Nua Donaj Venue: A301
Presentation of microscopes to Birdlife and Nature Trust – FEE Malta	
13:00	TH07/13 Nature Trust – FEE Malta - Plants that keep our waters clean and alive Mr James Gabarretta and Ms Martina Cutajar Venue: A301

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Details of seminars and activities

W06/09 Teaching and research on Earth Observation at the Institute of Earth Systems

Venue: **A301**

Prof. Charles Galdies

Wednesday 6 March 09:00

Environmental monitoring plays a crucial role in understanding and mitigating the impacts of human activities on the Earth's ecosystems. Earth exploration techniques offer powerful tools for observing, analyzing, and predicting environmental changes at various scales. This presentation focuses on the integration of earth exploration methodologies into environmental monitoring practices, emphasizing both the pedagogical aspects of teaching these techniques and their practical applications.

Prof. Charles Galdies is an Associate Professor with the Division of Environmental Management and Planning within the Institute of Earth Systems. He has received his Ph.D. in Remote Sensing and GIS from Durham University (UK) in 2005. He studied ways to improve small-scale weather and ocean forecasting in the central Mediterranean region using novel remote sensing observations of the ocean and atmosphere. Prof. Galdies previously served as Chief Meteorological Officer of the Malta Meteorological Office from 2007 to 2011. He was also the Permanent Representative of the Government of Malta with the World Meteorological Organisation.

W06/10i naqra natura

Kamra: **A301**

Letturi tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti JC

L-Erbgħa 6 ta' Marzu 10:00

Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti fil-JC se jkun qed joffri sessjoni ta' qari u kritika ta' poeziji miktubin minn għadd ta' poeti Maltin li jittrattaw it-tema ambjentali. Din għandha tkun okkażjoni tajba għal min irid isaħħaħ il-ħila tiegħu fis-sengħa tal-kritika letterarja u għal dawk kollha li jridu japprezzaw kif in-natura serviet u għadha sservi bħala għajn ta' ispirazzjoni għall-kitba tal-poezija.

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W06/10ii Refashioning preloved clothing: Towards sustainable fashion

Venue: **C321**

Ms Dana Carmont

Wednesday 6 March 10:00

During this workshop, Ms Dana Carmont will explain and demonstrate how one can be resourceful by making use of preloved clothing waste, showing how this clothing waste can be transformed into wearable fashion garments.

Ms Dana Carmont is a serial entrepreneur and creator of a project intended for fashion design interns to enhance their skills with preloved fabric items, including curtains, jeans, ties and table cloths where these materials are transformed into wearable fashionable garments.

W06/11 A Sociological Analysis of Public Opinion and Protest Efficacy

Venue: **A301**

Dr Valerie Visanich

Wednesday 6 March 11:00

Public opinion data regarding environmental concerns are central to a better understanding of the effects of social movements in sensitising environmental issues, and at times changing political decisions. In August 2021, Transport Malta issued an expression of interest for the design, construction and operation of a 700-berth yacht marina in the bay of Marsaskala, a fast-growing locality in the south east of the Maltese Islands. A social movement made up of residents, non-residents, an environmental NGO and local stakeholders organised a number of protests following the publication of the marina plans. The aim of this lecture is to identify underlying factors causing individuals' concerns on the proposed development. It explores the environmental movement surrounding this concern and analyses survey data on public opinion. It does so to better understand the extent of specific areas of impact that the proposed marina would have on the community of Marsaskala. Specifically, it focuses on how this would impinge on the everyday life of citizens. Results point to the social, environmental and economic impacts that this development would have, particularly on the community infrastructure of the locality of Marsaskala. Discussion focuses on how the ongoing impact on public opinion and protest, not only on mobilising public opinion but impacting political decisions.

Dr Valerie Visanich, PhD, is a Senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology, at the University of Malta. Her research interests are within the fields of the sociology of the arts, visual sociology and cultural policy. She is a co-editor (with Victoria Alexander and Christopher Mathieu) of the book series *The Sociology and Management of the Arts* (Routledge). Currently, she is a board member of the European Sociological Association, Research Network Sociology of Art (RN02) and had previously occupied the position of a chairperson between 2017-2019, within this European research network. Her recent publication is a co-edited book with Christopher Mathieu entitled *Accomplishing Cultural Policy in Europe: Financing, Governance and Responsiveness* (2022, Routledge). Other publications include her monograph entitled *Education, Individualization and Neoliberalism: Youth in Southern Europe* (2019, Bloomsbury). Locally, she was the lead researcher in various tendered national projects, including the 'Strategy for Culture for all Regions in Malta and Gozo' as well co-authored the recent National Cultural Policy in Malta 2021.

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W06/12 Exploring the unseen: understanding biodiversity through scientific discovery.

Venue: **A301**

Dr Noel Vella (BICREF)

Wednesday 6 March 12:00

This presentation will focus on research conducted by BICREF (the Biological Conservation Research Foundation), highlighting the importance of conserving biodiversity. It will also address the challenges these ecosystems face, including environmental changes. This insightful presentation aims to inspire greater appreciation and responsibility towards the conservation of local biodiversity.

Dr. Noel Vella is a researcher specializing in the application of molecular tools for the conservation and the management of biodiversity, with a particular focus on marine species. He has contributed to the understanding of the evolutionary relationships and genetic population structures of these species. His research has been conducted in affiliation with the University of Malta and the NGO BICREF.

W06/13 The status of the butterflies of the Maltese Islands

Venue: **A301**

Dr Godwin Degabriele

Wednesday 6 March 13:00

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

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.

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W06/14 Maltese habitats: An introduction (Compulsory for Biology students – All JC staff and students are welcome to attend.)

Venue: **Auditorium**

Prof Patrick Schembri

Wednesday 6 March 14:00

The Maltese Islands, despite their small size, are home to a relatively large variety of living organisms. These include a number of species that only thrive on the islands. The main vegetational assemblages are maquis, garigue and steppe; minor ones include patches of woodland, coastal wetlands, sand dunes, freshwater, and rupestral communities; the latter are the most scientifically important in view of the large number of endemic species they support. The presentation will shed light on the particular ecological characteristics of the Maltese Islands.

Prof. Patrick J Schembri B.Sc.(Melit.),M.Sc. (Melit.),Ph.D.(Glas.),C.Biol.,F.R.S.B. is a professor in the Department of Biology of the University of Malta. His research interests are marine benthic ecology, faunistics of the Maltese Islands with particular reference to biogeography, and human impact on Mediterranean island ecosystems. He has authored numerous papers in refereed scientific journals and various other works including reports, conference papers, book chapters and books, as well as numerous popular articles on biological topics.

TH07/09 We are all climate neurotics

Venue: **A301**

Mr Kurt Zammit

Thursday 7 March 09:00

Kurt Zammit will be proposing a lens through which to understand the narratives people have of climate change by bringing together Sándor Ferenczi and Friedrich Nietzsche's accounts of the forces that drive humans.

Kurt Zammit is currently studying Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Malta, with a particular interest in abnormality, mental health, and power.

TH07/10 The bRIGHT Bite

Venue: **A301**

Ms Esther Sammut Carbone

Thursday 7 March 10:00

This workshop aims at exploring the problematic trends related to the food industry and the consumer power to bring about change towards sustainable food production and consumption practices. This includes the relevance of informing ourselves to make responsible choices in everyday life. The session involves interactive activities and discussion.

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Ms Esther Sammut Carbone (B.Sc. UoM, PGCE, M. Efs London Southbank University) has coordinated the Xrobb l-Għagin Outdoor ESD Program for the past ten years. A former teacher of Physics and Chemistry, she has also dedicated many years to voluntary environmental education with Nature Trust FEE Malta.

TH07/11 Animals are family – for life!

Venue: **A301**

National Animal Movement

Thursday 7 March 11:00

During this session, animal activists and dog rescuers will explain the problems/difficulties they face in their daily lives as rescuers, why these problems take place and what can be done to have citizens ensure they too are not part of the problem. Maxine Borg will then provide an overview of what it takes to be a bottle-feeder or a cat fosterer and how it helps saves so many lives.

Althea Galea and Christa Cilia are both dog rescuers and activists, and Maxine Borg is a new-born kitten first aider & activist.

TH07/12 “Birds without borders” by Mark Trapani – Bird conservation daily life in Malta

Venue: **A301**

Nastasya Koroleva and Nua Donaj

Thursday 7 March 12:00

“Birds Without Borders” is a short documentary by Mark Trapani that shows an insider's perspective on the monitoring of bird poaching in Malta. While the question of permitting spring hunting may seem straightforward, this film delves into the intricacies, providing a viewpoint from individuals who witness the reality firsthand. Participants will be invited to watch this exclusive documentary, as it has not been published elsewhere, and participate in a discussion about the challenges of bird conservation in Malta. Check out the trailer on: <https://youtu.be/JEvmykAT0uk?si=cY1Vngc83xK2tKsh>

Nastasya Koroleva and Nua Donaj, representatives of BirdLife Malta education department plan and lead public events, work with the youth group and coordinate volunteers.

TH07/13 Plants that keep our waters clean and alive

Venue: **A301**

Mr James Gabarretta and Ms Martina Cutajar

Thursday 7 March 13:00

This workshop will delve into the role of plants in maintaining good water quality and mitigating the effects of pollution in the wetlands and the marine environment. Through a practical look at the work of Nature Trust Malta, the session will provide insight into how Malta's environment can be improved through the conservation work of environmental organisations such as Nature Trust Malta.

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Mr James Gabarretta works at Nature Trust FEE Malta, as a Site Manager of two small wetlands. His background lies in Environmental Engineering and Education for Sustainable Development. Through his work he has experimented with several systems aimed improving water quality while promoting the development of biodiversity at the sites under his management.

Martina also works for Nature Trust FEE Malta, as Site Manager for the Ċirkewwa Marine Park. She has graduated with the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from the University of Malta and has been working on the Ċirkewwa Marine Park for the past 4 years. The Marine Park is a stepping stone for protecting the marine environment locally, and through data collection on habitats and species within the Ċirkewwa Marine Park as well as extensive stakeholder engagement, Martina has formulated a management plan for the park which will drive all the conservation efforts for habitats and species within this zone.

Foyer Activities

War: A Human Tragedy – An Environmental Disaster: An exhibition prepared by Ms Jacqueline Rotin, Chairperson of the JC Environmental Committee, which aims at raising awareness on the effects of war on the environment and the promotion of peace. Our environment is another casualty of war which is often ignored, and as demonstrated throughout this exhibition, our environment is harmed before and during wars, and long after they end, compromising our survival, and that of all the other species on Earth.

Sign a poppy – Your commitment to positive peace: An initiative of the students of the Enrichment Programmes offered by the JC Environmental Committee. After going through the exhibition, students are being encouraged to sign a poppy and place it in one of the planters next to the exhibition as a commitment to be critical of the increasing glamourisation of arms, militarisation, violence, injustice and war, and to strive for justice and peaceful solutions to conflicts. It is a call for peace for our own sake, for our planet and for all the other species who share this planet with us.

The World through Printing: An Art exhibition with artwork made by students of the Department of the Creative Arts and Design.

Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre: At the stand, one can explore a variety of plants showing a range of xerophytic adaptations to a more dry habitat, mainly succulence, smaller leaves, hairs and shedding of leaves. Sections on conservation, seed science, a herbarium, history and honey production will also feature. Honey produced at Argotti will also be available for sale.

The Institute of Earth Systems and Earth Systems Association (ESA): The ESA students, who represent the students reading for the B.Sc (Hons) in Earth Systems will be organising the activity ‘Seeing our world from a microscopic level’, where you will step into the unseen world of air pollution and pollen with their interactive stand! They will be bringing the microscopic to the massive with live slides that reveal what’s really floating around in the air we breathe. It’s an eye-opener that will change the way you see the air around you and inspire you to protect our planet and health! Moreover, you can discover the range of courses offered by the Institute of Earth Systems. An air quality monitor will also be set up in order to show visitors how air quality monitoring is carried out.

Bake sale: In aid of JC cats.

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