



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty for Social Wellbeing

UNITY⁷

Department of **Gerontology & Dementia Studies**

2023

FREE

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“The team of administrators, researchers, academics, students and Ph.D. candidates have provided me with comfort, knowing well-enough that most of them share my passion of democratising knowledge and taking it back to the community.”



PROF. ANDREW AZZOPARDI
Dean

“What has characterised us as a Faculty is not homogeneity but our ability to bring difference to the table and try to use everyone’s skills to bring about social transformation.”



CHARLENE FABRI
Editor

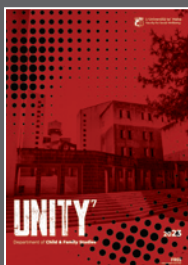
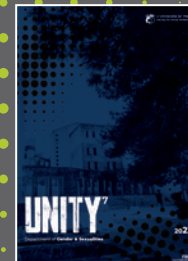
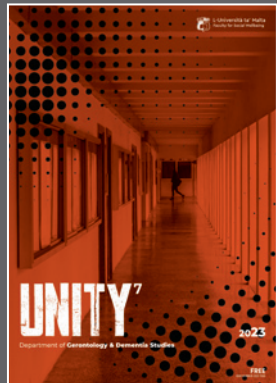
Understanding gerontology, geriatrics and dementia is crucial in navigating the complexities of an ageing population.



Empowering individuals with a critical mindset enables them to challenge ageism and the anti-ageing undertone of society, advocate for social justice, and promote inclusive policies. By fostering a generation of informed ageing and dementia advocates, we can create a society that values and supports the well-being of older adults, ensuring a brighter future for all.

DR CHRISTIAN BORG XUEREB
Head of Department

UNITY⁷
2023



All the content of this magazine was written by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Charlene Fabri unless indicated otherwise.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the Faculty for Social Wellbeing Unity 7 magazine do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Faculty.

Contact us on: socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

COVER STORY

This year’s art work concept focuses on the notion of intersectionality and connectedness together with a sense of vision. Moving into our 12th year since the setting up of the Faculty in 2012, this colour palette helps us blend uniqueness and individuality of disciplines and areas of study and yet identify as one organisation with a corporate outlook. The innovative design of having a number of mini-mags, for the first time a magazine completely dedicated to children and packed in a unique way to convey the message of freshness, compactness and a drive to go forward. The personalized and interactive element of the magazine combines well with the theme of **UNITY** of this year, namely that of, ‘What does the Faculty mean to you?’



From left to right: Dr Christian Borg Xuereb, Patrick Barbara & Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane

Patrick Barbara
Alumnus, Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Patrick has successfully completed the Masters in Gerontology and Geriatrics. He has been involved in the psychogeriatric sector for the past four years and has worked in collaboration with Prof. Mamo in the public sector to improve the service for older persons suffering from mental illness. His ethos is that people deserve to have the best possible service irrespective of their background and that older persons need to be seen as full members of society.

**SOCIAL COMMITMENT
AWARDEE**

**DR JACQUELINE AZZOPARDI
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
AWARDEE**



From left to right: Dr Gottfried Catania, Joe Vella & Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco

Joe Vella

Joe entertains about 15 homes for older persons in Malta and Gozo by singing various popular songs in Italian, English, Spanish and Maltese to entertain. His wife accompanies him and interacts and dances with the residents.

An ageing population is both a success story of human endeavours and achievements, but also constitutes its own challenges. Hence, the Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies aims to cultivate agents of change dedicated to empowering the ageing population and its related fields. With a strong emphasis on skills development, the Department equips students with a deep understanding of gerontology and dementia, enabling them to address the challenges faced by older adults. Through comprehensive research, innovative approaches, and practical training, students learn to promote well-being, enhance quality of life, and advocate for the rights and needs of seniors. Ultimately, the Department's raison d'être lies in fostering compassionate leaders who can positively impact the lives of older individuals and shape a more inclusive and supportive society.

Disclaimer: Not all courses listed are offered every academic year

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Department of
**Gerontology &
Dementia Studies**

Faculty for **Social Wellbeing**

Higher Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics

Full-time/1.5 years

Master of Arts in Ageing and Dementia Studies

Part-time (blended)/3 years

Master of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Full-time/1.5 years

M.Phil./Ph.D.

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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WOMEN SEEKING SOCIAL CHANGE. RAISING THEIR VOICE: VISIBILITY, PARTICIPATION AND THE EVOLUTION OF WOMEN IN CURRENT AFFAIRS MEDIA AND ACTIVISM IN MALTA



The documentation of the lived experiences of women journalists and activists in Malta, and research into the trajectory and progression of women as active operators and content generators within news and current affairs media, contributes towards understanding why, in spite of increased participation, women are still underrepresented.

The development of mass media platforms, as well as the impact that technological progress has on increased access available within the field, are yet to have a significant impact on the democratic deficit that persists, and understanding the context within which change needs to happen is imperative for a more inclusive media landscape.

LOUISELLE VASSALLO

M.Phil./Ph.D. Candidate



“43.5% of Maltese experience some form of loneliness.”

The Prevalence of Loneliness in Malta: A nationally representative study of the Maltese population - Faculty for Social Wellbeing (2019)

The full report can be accessed from
<https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/ourresearch/researchprojects/>

Faculty Vlog

The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has its own Vlog whereby Research Support Officers, Administrators, M.Phil./Ph.D. Candidates and Academics share their views about society.


You can access all Vlogs either via our website:


www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing


or our FB page: @um.socialwellbeing

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I have just completed my Master of Gerontology and Geriatric and for me the Faculty means an opening, an opportunity for everybody wherever you are coming from; doctors, nurses, social workers like myself, the old or the young.

MARISA CANNATACI

Master of Gerontology
and Geriatrics



I just completed my course. For me the Faculty besides being an institution that caters for many people it is also an opportunity to meet different cultures. I am an adult learner and I believe that I can learn throughout my life.

TEA CECIK

Master of Gerontology
and Geriatrics



Dín I-Art Helwa

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Why did Hondoq ir-Rummien become a part of so many people's lives?

In August 2023, the appeal by developers regarding the 22-year dispute at Hondoq ir-Rummien Gozo, was denied by the Maltese Court of Appeals. The Hondoq ir-Rummien case serves as an example of the influence Malta's civil society has on public discourse and policy.

According to Briguglio et al. (2023), "civil society" refers to organised groups that work for the good of citizens without the involvement of the government or for-profit businesses. The Hondoq Bay issue highlights the ability of civil society to mobilise the local population by using local environmental and community groups as well as national NGOs. It underscores the role of civil society in protecting the environment and disseminating information about the region's ecological significance and the risks of unchecked development. Civil society greatly increased public awareness of the potential impacts of the development. The activism evidences the importance of cooperation, the effectiveness of peaceful change, and the strength of constructive discussion. It serves as an example of how civil society may drive change and influence policy through campaigning and public pressure.

Briguglio, L., Briguglio, M., Bunwaree, S. & Slatter, C. (Eds). (2023). Handbook of Civil Society and Social Movements in Small States. Routledge.

PROF. MARILYN CLARK
Academic

The odds were heavily stacked in favour of the proposed development at Hondoq... the 2006 local plan revision had conveniently left the door open for the development to materialise, in what was essentially a dramatic U-turn from the previous proposed nature park status for the same site.

The usual surge in employment opportunities and economic activity that the development would usher in were peddled out to drum up support for the development, but it was evident, from an early stage, that the majority of Gozitans were against the development. Mayor Paul Buttigieg managed to marshal a formidable alliance of activists, hailing from different walks of life, including the social, economic and natural sciences, involving both technical, dispassionate opinions and impassioned, heartfelt ones, besides straining every sinew to mobilise public opinion through his effective use of different mediatic platforms. Activism under his sterling overview managed to turn the tide at Hondoq ir-Rummien and to achieve the unthinkable.

PROF. ALAN DEIDUN
Stakeholder



Based on several considerations ranging from religious to political, ethical to scientific, cultural to philanthropic, civil society represents the values and interests of its members.

This phenomenon proves that the third sector can reach and position itself at the same level as government and businesses. It also confirms that tipping the balance in its favour is possible. But in a non-static and systemic society, it is unwise to conclude that this balance has reached a status quo. This shift took decades of crusading. It is a never-ending struggle with multidirectional forces.

NOEL XERRI
Student



Who we are! **What we do!**

For generations, the Red Cross symbol has been a beacon of trust, of help and of hope worldwide. Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality are the seven Fundamental Principles that sum up the organisational ethics and are intrinsically at the core of its approach to helping people in need natural disasters, emergencies and during armed conflict.

In line with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, and its millions of members, the Malta Red Cross (MRC), provides compassionate care to those in need of relief, care and commitment when it's needed most.

No other relief organisation has such a vast array of different capabilities as the Red Cross when it comes to providing immediate care.

On a daily basis, the MRC provides First Aid education, Lifeguarding duties, First aid cover at Mass events, Ambulance Response to Incidents, Water Rescue, and helps third country nationals in Restoring Family Links.

MRC welcomes individuals who are intrigued by challenge, interested in stepping up and opt to belong to such an internationally renowned, aid-oriented organisation.

Become a Malta Red Cross Volunteer

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“ I am Bernard Borg Pellicano

Social Worker at Youth in Focus,
FSWS (Directorate for Alternative Care)

A decade of us 2012-2022

FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING

Looking back at the setting up of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing,
to commemorate its 10th Anniversary.



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