



Welcome

Welcome to the 15th edition of the Connect Newsletter issued from the Office of the Dean. These last couple of years have been challenging, to put it mildly, trying to keep the study programs, research and faculty events going whilst also juggling a pandemic. The Deputy Deans, Faculty Manager and Heads with the continuous support of the admin team, RSOs and all the academic members of staff have been crucial in steering the 'ship' in the right direction and through the contribution of every single member of this Faculty community we have managed to keep providing the best possible service to our students.

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi | Dean

Would you like to link up with the Faculty 'socials'?

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Faculty activities in brief:

- ⊗ The Faculty slogan for this academic year, which happens to be the run up to the 10th Anniversary (July 2022) is, '*Hear*' to engage. Over the past decade, the Faculty has made good on its objective to strengthen links with society, by developing partnerships with national and international stakeholders, including government entities, social services, businesses, civil society, and other institutions. All the while, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing is rooted in a primary commitment to academic freedom and institutional autonomy, with care for staff and students as a top priority. In taking a visionary approach to education, research, and innovation, and by bringing these together to strengthen social wellbeing, the Faculty has proven itself a valuable pioneer for wellbeing in the Maltese society.
- ⊗ Dr Chantal Avellino has been **appointed as resident academic** with the Department of Psychology.
- ⊗ Ms Graziella Vella has been recruited as a Faculty RSO who will be working on a number of research projects the Faculty is engaged in and which you can find on: um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/ourresearch
- ⊗ The College of Heads, the Faculty Ph.D. Committee, the Faculty Board, RPSC and the various ad hoc committees within the Faculty kept meeting regularly notwithstanding the pandemic. Their operations have temporarily been transferred online. We are now at a stage of migrating back to face-to-face meetings.
- ⊗ The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Prof. Mary Anne Lauri (Department of Psychology) attended **Senate meetings** regularly.
- ⊗ A number of **Continuing Professional Development** (CPD) courses were organised by the Departments of Child and Family Studies, Criminology, and Disability Studies.
- ⊗ The Department of Counselling issued a call for **abstracts** for the 6th Counselling Research Conference.
- ⊗ The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) in collaboration with the Faculty, launched the **Disability Studies Scholarship Grant**.
- ⊗ The Faculty is providing a lot of content on its socials and traditional media to **promote its courses**.
- ⊗ The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and RSO Annabel Cuff presented the research which was commissioned by Dar Kenn Ghal Sahhtek during a conference entitled 'Eating disorders in Minors: Local findings and perspectives'.
- ⊗ After two years, the Faculty organised the **Let's Toast the Faculty** event in September 2021. It was great meeting up again.
- ⊗ On 16 September 2021, the **Dean's Award Ceremony** was streamed on Facebook LIVE due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. This included a welcome message by the Dean, a fun Q&A featuring the Deputy Deans, features on our awardees such as Sr Adele Baldacchino (Lifetime Achievement Award) and Reb Xiberras (Social Commitment Award).
- ⊗ The Faculty organised a **webinar** in September 2021 in collaboration with the Relationships are Forever Foundation, which focused on "Therapy Cards: Toolbox to aid the therapeutic".
- ⊗ The Faculty's **Freshers' Away Day** was organised in October 2021. Due to COVID-19 measures, the away day was repeated twice; a group attending the morning session whereas the second group attended the afternoon session.
- ⊗ The Faculty led by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean, had a **courtesy visit** with the newly appointed Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations Mr Jesmond Saliba and the Permanent Secretary Mr Matthew Vella.

- ⊗ The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi had an **informal meeting** with the newly appointed Minister of Education and Sport Dr Clifton Grima.
- ⊗ The Faculty announced two new **full-time Ph.D. scholarships** in collaboration with Tranel International Limited.
- ⊗ In October 2021, the Dean, Deputy Deans, Research Support Officers together with the PA to the Dean paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.
- ⊗ The Faculty in collaboration with RISe Foundation organised an art exhibition **The Journey Within**, a first of its kind and as part of the recently signed MoU.
- ⊗ In October 2021, the CRPD in collaboration with the Faculty organised the **Disability Services: Do they work?** This was a webinar to launch a research study carried out by the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.
- ⊗ We have a new set of **freebies** which we are distributing amongst our freshers and in schools.
- ⊗ The 5th edition of **Unity**, the Faculty's magazine was launched in October 2021.
- ⊗ In October 2021, the Faculty signed an **MoU** with the Housing Authority on the Care Plan project.
- ⊗ In November 2021, the Faculty in collaboration with the Maltese Association of Public Health Medicine organised a COVID-19 **Symposium** entitled "COVID-19 Life Changer: Impacts, Challenges, Well-Being, Way-Forward".
- ⊗ The Department of Criminology trusted Dr Luke Buhagiar to present the Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Memorial Lecture which focused on the **Intergroup Relations and Conflict Prevention Mixed-methods research and the way forward**.
- ⊗ The Faculty launched the **Wall Murals** and new furniture as part of its project to revamp the floor leading to the main offices of the Faculty.
- ⊗ Ms Audrey Friggieri (Department of Youth and Community Studies) presented her Ph.D. research on "You Never Really Know me! The lived experience of young people in Malta who are disengaged from education, employment or training" as part of the **Brown-Bag Seminars** organised by the Research, Publications and Scholarships Committee.
- ⊗ Dr Trevor Calafato (Department of Criminology) has taken over from Dr Ruth Falzon as Head of **RPSC**.
- ⊗ Dr Ruth Falzon (Department of Counselling) has taken over from Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane (Deputy Dean) the Headship of **FREC**.
- ⊗ Dr Pat Bonello (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) together with Ms Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office) have worked on a **new document** that has brought the research of students in one compendium.
- ⊗ In December 2021, the Faculty published its **Events Programme** that shall be organised throughout the academic year 2021/22 as part of the run up to the 10th Anniversary.
- ⊗ A **Faculty Conference** was held in December 2021 and focused on "Praxis in Social Wellbeing: Brief Reflections".
- ⊗ The Faculty organised a **Faculty Christmas Concert** in collaboration with KSU which included short messages by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi (Dean), Mr Neil Zahra (KSU President), and various students studying with the Faculty. Music was provided by *The Busker*.
- ⊗ The launch of the Faculty's main floor refurbishment was launched during **Christmas Drinks**.
- ⊗ The newly-designed streamers, work of Mr Matthew Borg from *Boldmark* (and Corporate Dispatch) were launched in December 2021.

- ① The Ph.D. Sub-Committee made up of Prof. Andrew Azzopardi (Dean), Prof. Mary Anne Lauri (Department of Psychology), Prof. Paul Bartolo (Department of Psychology), Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane (Department of Disability Studies, Department of Gender and Sexualities, and Deputy Dean) and Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Department of Child and Family Studies) organized a **writing-retreat day** for all our Faculty Ph.D. candidates.
- ① A **public lecture** was delivered in January 2022 by Dr Dominic Garcia on “Offenders or Victims? Investigating using Hypertext” as part of the training workshops organized by the Research, Publications and Scholarships Committee
- ① The initiative **CROM** is reaping benefits and the Faculty has been involved in supporting the children’s Manifesto.
- ① A number of Faculty members of staff are involved in the **Platform for Migration** led by the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi.
- ① The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi has been appointed Chair of the **Cottonera Resource Centre (CRC)** with Dr Katya Degiovanni (Department of Psychology) as Director and other members of the academic staff sit on it.
- ① An **Open Dialogue** was held in January 2022 focusing on “The killing of Paulina - The scourge of sexual & gender-based violence” which was very well-attended.
- ① The Faculty, after consulting with the faculty community came up with a pre-election document “A Social Pact: Electoral Proposals for political parties following consultation amongst stakeholders within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing”. This pre-election document can be accessed on: um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/485343/FacultySocialPact_Printrevised.pdf
- ① In February 2022, the Faculty launched its **campaign for recruiting** new students for academic year 2022/23 by launching a cover version of Ivan Grech’s solo (Winter Moods Front-man) **Somebody Like You**. This song speaks about the uniqueness of people and how our communities need to appreciate this singularity. You may find the song on: facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing/videos/488533852891999
- ① The **Dean’s Awards 2021** photo shoot was held in February 2022. All awardees were given their token and a certificate. These will later be streamed on the Faculty’s Facebook page which can be found on: facebook.com/um.socialwellbeing
- ① The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi accompanied by Dr Kristina Bettenza (Deputy Dean, Department of Psychology), Prof. Joanne Cassar (HoD, Department of Youth & Community Studies), Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco (HoD, Department of Child & Family Studies), Dr Sandra Scicluna (HoD, Department of Criminology) and Ms Charlene Fabri (PA to the Dean) paid a **courtesy visit** to his Excellency the Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna in February 2022. A number of social issues were discussed with potential areas for collaboration.
- ① An invitation to contribute towards the Faculty’s *Gazzetta* ‘Unity’ (*newspaper*) was circulated. The launch of the *Gazzetta* is scheduled for March 2022, spearheaded by editor Prof. Marvin Formosa, in collaboration with MaltaToday.
- ① An invitation to all students was circulated to participate in this year’s **Dean’s Forum**, which will be held in April 2022 with a maximum number of interested students since this event started.

Department of Child and Family Studies

- ⊗ Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco is the Maltese representative managing committee member on the 2020 COST Action CA18123 MT Evidence-based family and parenting support evaluation strategies: Eurofam net. She's also taking part in the following externally funded projects: Positive Parenting Strategy Perinatal Mental Health Project funded by the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights; and the Prevalence Study with the Commission of Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence funded by the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance.
- ⊗ Prof. Angela Abela, Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco and Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri are participating in an ongoing project in conjunction with Vid Specialised University, Oslo, Norway on a project entitled 'Curriculum in Family Therapy and Systemic Practice: Students' Experiences and Competencies'.
- ⊗ Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco chaired a panel at a conference on Pre-Consultation on Family (Social Sector) organised by the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights, in July 2021.
- ⊗ Prof. Angela Abela is participating in the following two research programs; a research on Blended Families funded by the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society; and a research on a Pilot Study which evaluates the screening procedures and some of the interventions which will be offered as part of the Positive Parenting Strategy funded by the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights.
- ⊗ Prof. Abela was invited to be part of the Strategy Group of International Commission on Couple and Family Relations and participating in ongoing discussions. She was also appointed as co-leader on the Working Group: Developing a theoretical Framework around Family Support with Carmel Devaney, (Ireland) and Harriett Churchill (UK) as part of a COST Programme entitled 'The European Family Support Network' (2019-2024).
- ⊗ In September 2021, Prof. Abela co-organised an international Webinar entitled Supporting Children and Families during Covid 19 and beyond: Combatting poverty, coping with work and family & enhancing wellbeing with the participation of Mary Daly, University of Oxford, Annemie Driekens, COFACE, & Claudia Marinetti, Mental Health Europe as part of the COST Action on Child and Family Support Action. She also chaired the international conference entitled Qualitative Research on Mental Health, in which she also interviewed Rebecca Cremona, Director of the film 'Simshar'. The conference was due to be held in Malta but was held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ⊗ Prof. Angela Abela was appointed by the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyons, France as Examiner and Chair of the Board of Examiners of a Ph.D. thesis entitled Kids out of control? Clinical judgement and psychiatric reception of ADHD in modern Turkey.
- ⊗ Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri has been acting as a University representative on CROM Children's Human Rights Observatory Malta since October 2021.
- ⊗ Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri is taking part in a pilot study evaluating the implementation and evaluation of the Safe Dates programme – an evidence-based prevention programme targeting dating violence prevention, with Grade 10 (Form 4) students in four State Schools (2020-2022), and also taking part in a study on Safety in Childhood: A prevalence study of childhood abuse experiences in Malta (2020-2022). Both projects are commissioned by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence.
- ⊗ Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri is the Malta representative managing committee member on the 2020 COST Action CA19106 Multi sectoral responses to Child Abuse and Neglect in Europe: Incidence and Trends (Euro – CAN).

- ⊗ Dr Sammut Scerri attended the following conferences: “Qualitative research on mental health”, Malta on the 9 to 11 September, 2021 held online at the University of Malta, Valetta campus; and the AFT virtual conference 2021, in collaboration with Friends of KCC and CMM institute “Making Better Social Worlds for the 21st Century; Legacies and expanding horizons” from the 23 to 25 September, 2021, (18 CPD hrs).
- ⊗ In November 2021, Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri held a presentation on ‘Children’s perceptions of their relationship with their parents in the context of domestic violence’ during a conference organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services.

Department of Counselling

- ⊗ The Department of Counselling was entrusted with the editorship of the Counselling and Psychotherapy Research Journal International Edition.
- ⊗ Dr Roberta Attard took part in a training session on PTSD in children do the University of Sarawak. She also collaborated in a workshop for QRMH8.
- ⊗ Dr Roberta Attard has attended the following conferences: Working with Suicidal Clients, University of Malta; Qualitative Research Workshop, University of Malta; Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis 1 and 2, University of Malta; Team Ethnography Training, University of Malta; Conference on Gender Research, MGRM/Department of Gender Studies; Online Counselling Skills for Counselling Trainees, Anne Stokes, University of Malta; Qualitative Research in Mental Health 8 Conference; and Winning & Repairing Trust in the Talking Therapies, University of Malta.
- ⊗ Dr Marlene Cauchi, together with Prof. Jeannie Wright and Dr Ruth Falzon, have collaborated internationally regarding a Training on qualitative research - Nigeria association for Counselling.
- ⊗ Dr Marlene Cauchi organises yearly seminars for priests regarding ongoing formation.
- ⊗ Ms Niamh Pisani has attended the following conferences: Working with Suicidal Clients, University of Malta; Winning & Repairing Trust in the Talking Therapies, University of Malta; and Kindness begins at home: Self-Compassion for those who care.
- ⊗ Dr Ruth Falzon is internationally collaborating with other researchers from Turkey and Australia by comparing school Counsellor training/roles/legislation. She is also a representative for the Malta Dyslexia Association on the scientific committee for an Erasmus Plus Project: Dyslexia@work.
- ⊗ Dr Ruth Falzon has attended the following conferences: International Dyslexia Conference (November 2021); Winning & Repairing Trust in the Talking Therapies, University of Malta; EDA webinar on Neurodiverse profiles and COVID-19 (October 2021); Relational Supervision (MACP – 3hrs – November 2021); presented on inclusive strategies conference with Dr Agius Ferrante in November 2021.
- ⊗ Dr Ruth Falzon has also a number of recent publications which are either in press or else at final proofing stages, scheduled to be published in 2022.
- ⊗ Dr Dione Mifsud has organised the following seminars: PERKAMA International, Unico; Online Counselling; Adlerian Counselling; and Trust Relationships in Counselling.
- ⊗ Dr Dione Mifsud has attended the following conferences: MhGAP; UNESCO NGOs (CONGO); BACP Annual Conference; and was a Keynote speaker at UNICO.

Department of Criminology

- ⊗ Dr Gianmarco Alberti is a member of the Malta team in the DataSkills Project led by the University of Gloucestershire.
- ⊗ Dr Mary Grace Vella has attended the following conferences: Strategija għall-Akkomodazzjoni Soċjali (8 October); and Junior College Annual Multidisciplinary Conference (14-15 September).

Department of Disability Studies

- ⊗ The Department of Disability Studies met with Hon Julia Farrugia Portelli and Parliamentary Secretary Mr Matthew Vella regarding the Certificate Course as a day course (September 2021), with Ms Melanie Magri, Director at Agenzija Sapport regarding Certificate Programme of Studies (October 2021), and with Ms Glenda Curmi, Director at Agenzija Sapport regarding the Certificate's Programme of Studies (December 2021).
- ⊗ Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane is a member on the Special Research Interest Group (SIRG) on Parenting and Disability, hosted by the International Association of Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD).
- ⊗ Dr Azzopardi Lane is collaborating internationally with the EU-Arab Network on Disability Research, and she's also an affiliated member for the Disability and Intimate Citizenship Research and Advocacy Hub, housed at the University of Calgary and developed in partnership with McMaster University.
- ⊗ Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane co-organised a LGBTIQ Research Symposium with Dr Marceline Naudi; and she organised a dialogue with Lord Herbert.
- ⊗ Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane attended the following conferences: Breaking the News; On the Margins: Threats to LGBTIQ; and Disability Services – Do they Work?
- ⊗ Dr Anne-Marie Callus is a member of the Executive Editors Board of Disability & Society.
- ⊗ Dr Anne-Marie Callus organised 3 webinars on behalf of the Department of Disability Studies in collaboration with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Opening Doors Association Malta from December 2021 to June 2022.
- ⊗ Dr Callus attended the following conferences where she presented a paper: Disability, normality and the super-human (9th Alter Conference); and Co-Creating opportunities for people with intellectual disability in higher education. Speech for the Multiplier Event of the project 'Training University Teachers for the Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities' coordinated by the University of Burgos, Spain.
- ⊗ In 2021, together with Vella, S., Dr Callus published an article titled 'The independent living moment and capitalism: Challenges and contributions' in the Studies in Social Wellbeing which can be found on um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/78769.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Victoria Gauci is taking part in two externally funded projects: PRIME-VR2; and European Disability Expertise.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Victoria Gauci attended the following conferences: Launch of Cavetta Project (October 2021); European Disability Expertise Annual Conference (November 2021); WHO Rehabilitation Programme Webinar Part 1 (November 2021); and Alessia's Project, Video Launch (December 2021).
- ⊗ Dr Gauci was a guest on Dr George Cremona's programme on Calypso Radio (October 2021), and she appeared as a guest on a TV Programme hosted by Marthese Brincat (October 2021).

Department of Gender and Sexualities

- ④ The Department of Gender and Sexualities organised an event in collaboration with the British High Commission, titled 'A Dialogue with Lord Herbert the UK Prime Minister's Envoy on LGBTQ Rights' (October 2021). The programme included an input by Lord Herbert, and by Dr Neil Falzon, a local human rights lawyer followed by comments and questions from the floor.
- ④ The Department of Gender and Sexualities has always emphasised the importance of community engagement and activism. It organised and participated in numerous activities marking the United Nations' 16 days of activism, which officially span from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. The Department, through Dr Marceline Naudi and Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane, and in collaboration with the Women's Rights' Foundation, organised a round table on sexual violence with stakeholders, to explore how the situation for sexual assault survivors on a local level can be improved. Following this event, a coalition to present an activist front is also being planned. Another event that the Department was involved in - through Prof. JosAnn Cutajar - raised awareness regarding gender-based violence, whilst also providing information with regard to the support services that exist on Campus. Departmental students also took part in this event.
- ④ Through Dr Naudi, the Department participated in the launch of the Malta Observatory on Femicide, which was held at the Commission on Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence on the 3rd December 2021.
- ④ Prof. JosAnn Cutajar was involved in the Gender Action Project - Gender Equality in the ERA Community to Innovate Policy Implementation Coordination and Support Action, Horizon 2020 project funded in the SwafS-19-2016 call. Project ended in September 2021.
- ④ Prof. Cutajar will be involved in the following projects: GEPARD Erasmus + Cooperation partnerships in higher education entitled "Gender Equality Programme in Academia - Raising Diversity" with Acronym GEPARD; the ESF.02.162/1 - RESEARCH SERVICES FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE Y-ASSIST PILOT PROJECT (The Malta Trust Foundation); and the EQUAL - 831630 - AMD-831630-11 - 2019-2021 EQUAL, DG JUST - Women and Political Parties in Malta.
- ④ European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE) funded study on Legal Responses to Femicide: Dr Marceline Naudi formed part of this one-year study which included looking at legal processes and compensation and reparation across five EU member states, Spain, Romania, Germany, Portugal and France. The core research group, of which Dr Marceline Naudi formed part as Senior Quality Reviewer, were members of the European Observatory on Femicide. Professionals and victims (family members of killed women) were interviewed and desk research carried out. The project ended in December 2021, and a final report will be issued over the next few months.
- ④ Prof. Brenda Murphy has engaged with numerous bodies in relation to Gender and Media - She has been instrumental in ensuring that Malta join the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG); she has worked with UniTwin UnESCO throughout the year on Gender, Media and ICT Network - planning and running Media Training and dissemination through the UNESCO network and designed and ran train the trainer programmes for COPEAM.
- ④ The Department of Gender & Sexualities is collaborating internationally with FEM-UnitED: a two-year European funded project which started officially in November 2020. It is supported by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. The partnership spans five EU countries and includes the University of Malta (through Dr Marceline Naudi); the Cyprus University of Technology; the Institute for Empirical Sociological Research at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; the University >

of Zaragoza; and the University of Porto. The project team is also composed of advocacy NGOs and women's specialist services including the Women's Rights Foundation (Malta), and the UMAR–União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta (Portugal). The project aims to improve responses to IPV and DV in order to reduce harm to women and children and prevent femicide. The project also aims for improved systems-wide responses to IPV/DV by creating an evidence base for raised public awareness and the fostering of multi-disciplinary cooperation and capacity building, adopting a gender-specific victim-centred approach. FEM-UnitED is about creating evidence for collaborative policy change to prevent femicide.

- ① Prof. JosAnn Cutajar has organised the CCWR Seminar on Transposing EU Work-Life Balance in Malta, and presented paper on Parental Leave, University of Malta, Valletta Campus (September 2021), and Attended Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament - External Group Meeting with civil society and Commissioner Dr Helena Dalli (September 2021).
- ① Prof. Brenda Murphy is taking part in the following externally funded projects: COST EUGAIN; and COST Cultures of Victimology.
- ① Prof. Brenda Murphy organised and hosted GAMAG Europe WEBINAR “Judges, academics and journalists Escaping Afghanistan” (October 2021).
- ① Prof. Brenda Murphy attended the following conferences: Politics of Representation and the Representation of Politics, University College, Cork (November 2021); EUGAIN WIRE Madrid Workshop Day 1 and EUGAIN CA19122 Workgroup meeting Madrid (October 2021); Invited as speaker COPEAM 2021 Annual Conference organised with RAI on the topic “Media narratives for intercultural and interreligious dialogue” (October 2021); and Invited as speaker for Masters in Women's Studies, UCC to give a lecture on ‘From Academia to Activism, feminist Social Engagement’ (September 2021).
- ① Prof. Brenda Murphy attended the following research projects/meetings: The Need for EU Legal Actions to end trafficking, sexual exploitation and all forms of VAWG, webinar (2021); Motherhood and Culture, Maynooth University, webinar (2021); LEX Research Network Seminar Series Traditional Seminar with Professor Leigh Goodmark - Imperfect Victims: How the Criminal Legal System Punishes Survivors of Gender-Based Violence’, webinar (2021); COST EUGAIN - 1st webinar and launch of the STSM Monthly webinars for COST Cultures of Victimology, webinar (2021); and was a National coordinator for Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) Preparation for GMMP 2020 with the global technical working team discussing the methodology to be used (2021).
- ① Prof. Brenda Murphy has a number of recent publications, one of which is currently in press.
- ① Dr Marceline Naudi is taking part in the following externally funded projects: Femicide in the Mediterranean Region, funded by the Mediterranean Women's Foundation which focused on collecting comparative data on Femicide in 7 Mediterranean Countries; INIA Intersex Project (ongoing); The Cost of Domestic Violence in Malta project, commissioned by the Commission on GBV&DV; and is currently in process of CERV (EU) for project on Wellbeing of LGBTIQ in Malta (HRD Lead Partner).
- ① Dr Marceline Naudi organised the following seminars: LGBTIQ+ Research Symposium; ‘A Dialogue with Lord Herbert’, UK Prime Minister's envoy on LGBTQ in collaboration with the British High Commission Malta; and Different Perspectives on Gender Based Violence.
- ① Dr Marceline Naudi has attended the following conferences: European Conference on Domestic Violence IV conference - facilitated session on femicide and homicide; facilitated session on culture and understanding (September 2021); HRD SOGIGESC Unit Annual Conference (Malta) - facilitated a panel session (September 2021); Work with Perpetrators (WWP) European Network Conference - panel speaker (September 2021); International conference on Women's BioCapital (October 2021); >

WAVE Annual Conference (October 2021); Attended panels in 'Diverse Families: Parenthood and Family beyond Heteronormativity and Gender Binary' conference (October 2021); "The role of foreign policy in advancing gender equality: Addressing the challenges, pushbacks and obstacles faced by women" (October 2021); WeWorld Index presentation (November 2021); delivered key-note at conference organised by the secretary of state in Portugal on dealing with multi-sector intervention in cases of domestic violence (November 2021); delivered key-note at conference organised by the School for Judicial Studies in Portugal on training of judiciary and police in tackling gender-based violence cases (November 2021); Facilitated round table on sexual violence organised by the dept and WRF @ Valletta campus (November 2021); Gender Equality Committee of the CofE - High level panel on VAW (November 2021); 16 days of activism conference by UM (November 2021); SONAR GLOBAL: COVID-19 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP - @ Valletta Campus (November 2021); delivered key-note at the Irish national women's council conference (December 2021); and EU parliamentary network free from violence conference (December 2021).

Department of Gerontology & Dementia Studies

- ⊗ Dr Christian Borg Xuereb is currently working on organising online workshop on Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis under the auspices of the Research, Scholarship and Publication Committee.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Aurora Fenech is collaborating internationally for the following initiatives: Collaborating towards drafting the local report, 'International Living Report on COVID-19 and Long-Term Care'; this report builds on previous LTC-Covid country reports and on a project to support "Social Care COVID Recovery and Resilience in England" funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a collaboration between LSE's Care Policy and Evaluation Centre's (CPEC) and the Nuffield Trust; To compile parts of the aforementioned report, I collaborate on a regular basis with the Social Care Standards Authority (SCSA), Malta; and Collaborating with InCare Europe in the Survey on attitudes, experiences and expectations on long-term care.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Aurora Fenech has attended the following conferences: International Federation on Aging (IFA), organised the 15th Global Conference on Aging (November 2021); COVID-19 Symposium, COVID-19 Life Changer: Impacts, Challenges, Well-Being, Way-Forward, organised by the Maltese Association of Public Health Medicine and the University of Malta (November 2021); 31st Alzheimer Europe Conference, 'Resilience in dementia: Moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic', virtual conference (November/December 2021); 'International Living Report on COVID-19 and Long-Term Care' Workshop, a project to support "Social Care COVID Recovery and Resilience in England" funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a collaboration between LSE's Care Policy and Evaluation Centre's (CPEC) and the Nuffield Trust (December 2021); and 'International Webinar of Human Rights and Older People', organized by Development, Welfare and Research Foundation (DWRF) in collaboration with International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) (December 2021).
- ⊗ Prof. Marvin Formosa has attended the following conferences: Human rights for all ages: Promoting a life course perspective and intergenerational cooperation to combat ageism [virtual]. Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in collaboration with AGE Platform Europe and the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners Associations (November 2021); The impact of COVID-19 on active and healthy ageing. Gerontology and geriatric medicine. Silverage (November 2021); Expert Group Meeting on the Population and Development Report issue No. 9 on 'Building forward better for older persons in the Arab region'. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (December 2021); >

Pluralization, in homogenization, adult learning and education. New life courses, prolonged work and beyond [virtual]. The Ageing and Social Research Environment, Linköping University (December 2021); and World Dementia Council Summit [virtual]. London (December 2021).

- ⊗ Prof. Marvin Formosa was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) from St. Petersburg Institute for Bioregulation and Gerontology, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Department of Psychology

- ⊗ Prof. Paul Bartolo is participating in an externally funded project in promoting Mental Health in Schools (PROMEHS) (2019-2022).
- ⊗ Dr Olga Bogolyubova is the local coordinator of SG4NS--“Serious Games - Developing Emotional Competences for Nursing Students” funded by Erasmus+ KA203 - Strategic Partnerships for higher education (coordinator -- Dr Lisa Alves Gomez, University of Minho, Portugal).
- ⊗ Prof. Marilyn Clark is taking part in the following externally funded projects: COVID-19: International research project exploring the impact of Covid 19. Project lead is Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research (RADAR) Center (https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/radar/Pages/covid_19.aspx) Funded by RADAR centre; and Medical marijuana: medicine and allied health student attitudes, belief and knowledge Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research (RADAR) Center Key Researcher for Malta (in.bgu.ac.il/en/radar/Pages/medical_cannabis.aspx). Funded by RADAR centre
- ⊗ Prof. Clark is collaborating internationally with: the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA); Council of Europe, Pomidou group (COE); and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ⊗ Prof. Marilyn Clark has attended the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia and the Integrated Monitoring System for Illicit Crops (SIMCI) of UNODC- Colombia's Day 3 Conference on Drug Consumption from a gender perspective. The presentation was titled 'Victimization by psychoactive substances consumption: expressions of gender inequality' (September 2021).
- ⊗ Prof. Marilyn Clark has a number of recent publications, one of which is currently in press.
- ⊗ Prof. Carmel Cefai is taking part in the following externally funded projects: Suicide Prevention App (MFWS); Malta Wellbeing Index (MFWS); Child Friendly Communities (Commissioner for Children); Promoting Mental Health in Schools (PROMEHS) (Erasmus+ Partner); SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION – Building inclusive schools and ownership of values (SEEVAL) (Erasmus + Partner); Training Hope, Wellbeing, and Resilience in Vulnerable Early School Leaders (THRIVE) (Erasmus + Partner); and Transnational Collaboration on Bullying, Migration and Integration at School Level (TRIBES) (Erasmus+ Partner). He also collaborates with a number of international associations and/or initiatives.
- ⊗ Prof. Carmel Cefai presented a keynote research presentation at the 4th International Thematic Meeting on Bullying organised by UNESCO (September 2021).
- ⊗ Prof. Carmel Cefai published a number of publications recently.
- ⊗ Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun attended the Qualitative Research in Mental Health (QRMH8) Conference, where she also presented a paper on 'Addressing feelings of shame and inadequacy in the supervision of Maltese trainee psychologists' (September 2021).

- ⊗ Dr Pamela Portelli organised the following seminars: Understanding and treating somatic symptom disorders and related disorders - Psychology Department in Collaboration with the Gozo General Hospital; and the Psychosocial implications of a breast cancer diagnosis - Gozo General Hospital.
- ⊗ Dr Pamela Portelli attended the following conferences: 9 must have trauma treatment techniques; EMDR in the treatment of chronic pain; Suicide and self-harm: Stopping the pain; and Trauma Conference – the Body keeps the score - trauma healing with Bessel van der Kolk.
- ⊗ Dr Marta Sant organised training sessions on supporting suicidal and/or severely distressed students for UM staff in collaboration with the Health and Wellness Centre. She also co-presented a paper with Dr Claudia Psaila entitled 'Online supervision during the COVID-19 pandemic: A ripple effect?' at the British Psychological Society Division of Counselling Psychology Annual Conference 2021.
- ⊗ Together with Mizzi, B., Dr Marta Sant published an article 'Professionals' experiences of selective mutism in children: an interpretative phenomenological analysis' in the Malta Journal of Health Sciences.

Department of Social Policy and Social Work

- ⊗ Dr Sue Vella is collaborating internationally on a COST Project on transdisciplinary approaches to youth disadvantages.
- ⊗ Dr Patricia Bonello is involved in an externally funded research on Deinstitutionalisation and on Services for Domestic Violence Perpetrators.
- ⊗ Dr Patricia Bonello has attended the following conferences: Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis Approaches; WISEflow Training; Gender Based Violence Webinar; Faculty Conference; Reading Lists Workshop; MASW Training - Child Protection Bill; Survivor Engagement in Faith-Based Organisations; FSWS training; Building Bridges to the Social Work Profession; Femicide Webinar; Conference organised by the Social Work Action Network; Webinar on Prostitution and Human Trafficking; Hands Off the Voluntary Sector; Change Against All Odds (MASW); European Conference of Social Work Research; and Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence Conference
- ⊗ Prof. Maureen Cole was one of the representatives of the University of Malta on a project entitled "Mapping and analysis of stakeholder engagement approaches and strategies within the Alliance". This was a project of the reSEArch-EU Alliance.
- ⊗ Prof. Maureen Cole has attended the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision.
- ⊗ Dr Andreana Dibben is collaborating internationally with University College Cork to set up a new ERASMUS agreement.
- ⊗ Dr Claudia Psaila is collaborating internationally as an Academic Erasmus Co-Ordinator in Social Work with University College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Worcester and the University of Strathclyde with regards to hosting students in Malta. As Academic Erasmus Co-Ordinator in Social Work she also established new agreements for social work academic staff with a view to extending the agreement to students with the following Universities: SHR University of Applied Sciences, Dresden and Howest University, Belgium.
- ⊗ Dr Claudia Psaila has co-organised the MCP Seminar: Mandatory Reporting for Practitioners.
- ⊗ Dr Psaila attended and presented at the Annual Conference of the Counselling Psychology Division of the British Psychology Society.
- ⊗ Dr Damian Spiteri has organised a series of six seminars on Adult Education for educators with the Department of Education.

- ⊗ Dr Damian Spiteri has published a recent publication and other has just been accepted for publication.
- ⊗ Dr Daniella Zerafa has attended the EUSARF 2021, a 3-day conference.

Department of Youth and Community Studies

- ⊗ In October 2021, Prof. Joanne Cassar was part of a panel at a seminar on sexuality education organised by MCAST.
- ⊗ Prof. Joanne Cassar is taking part in an externally funded Project, COST Action CA17114 Transdisciplinary solutions to cross sectoral disadvantage in youth. She is also collaborating internationally by exploring new avenues for collaboration with University of Tallinn, Estonia to establish a new Erasmus bilateral agreement; and collaborating on a cultural project called “Deledda in Cammino” (Deledda on the Road) co-produced by the non-profit organisation “García Lorca Theatrical Company” and Fondazione di Sardegna.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Pisani is collaborating internationally with: CoE & EC Youth Partnership; African Network of Youth Policy Experts (Advisory Board, Better Adventure Project), ‘Localities of Welcoming’ (Goldsmiths, University of London and the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP)); and the VILMOUV project (2022-2026).
- ⊗ Dr Maria Pisani organised a seminar on Migrants Voices: Journeys and experiences organised by the Platform for Migration.
- ⊗ Dr Maria Pisani attended the following conferences where she presented the following papers: “Road to nowhere? Exploring refugee youth transitions in Malta” Migrant Voices: journeys and experiences, Platform for Migration, University of Malta (December 2021); and Down the rabbit hole with Sophia and Gaia: decentring youth in youth work. Youth in Europe: Offenburg Talks, Offenburg, Germany (October 2021). She spoke at the following events: Panelist, “Combating and Preventing Hate Speech”, Conference organized by The European Commission Representation & the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Intercontinental Hotel Malta (November 2021); Invited Speaker, ‘Localities of Welcoming – Cultures of Care’, University of London Institute in Paris & Goldsmiths University, Online event (November 2021); and Panelist, ‘Opportunity Knocks’ Organised by the Foundations for Social Welfare Services (November 2021).
- ⊗ Dr Maria Pisani was invited as a guest lecturer for ‘Critical Reflections from the borderlands: clinging to hope’ Summer school co-hosted by the University of Milan Bicocca and the University of Malta “Mobility and Heritage in the Mediterranean”. Lampedusa (September 2021).

Upcoming Faculty activities

- ⊗ **Roundtable meeting** with Heads of departments and administrators of the Faculty.
- ⊗ Setting up of a new research **Faculty App**.
- ⊗ **Stakeholders’ meeting** (Service Users)
- ⊗ **Dean’s Award Ceremony** – To be streamed on Facebook
- ⊗ **Spiritual Celebration:** Peace Unites Us
- ⊗ Launch of **loneliness research** (3 years after the first research run)
- ⊗ **Brown-bag Seminars:** Ms Sharon Martinelli (Department of Counselling) in *March* and Prof. JosAnn Cutajar (Department of Gender & Sexualities) in *May*
- ⊗ **Professorial Lecture Series:** Prof. Paul Bartolo (Department of Psychology)

- ⊗ Launch of Faculty **Gazzetta** (newspaper)
- ⊗ **Dean's Forum**
- ⊗ **Stakeholders' meeting** (Service Providers)
- ⊗ **Coffee with the Dean**
- ⊗ **Animal Sanctuary** student support program
- ⊗ **IPA Training Workshop** organised by RPSC
- ⊗ **Faculty Seminar: Hear to Engage**
- ⊗ **Sports Day** for Faculty Staff, Stakeholders and Students
- ⊗ **Street Theatre** in collaboration with Opening Doors
- ⊗ 10th Anniversary **Classical Music Concert**
- ⊗ Launch of **Publication: The Genesis of the Faculty**
- ⊗ Launch of **Publication: Decade: A report**
- ⊗ Launch of **Publication: VJAĠĠ – Towards societal wellbeing**
- ⊗ 10th Anniversary **Faculty Birthday Party**

Reports completed this academic year:

- ⊗ 'Community Wellbeing and De-institutionalization' and 'Understanding Parental Alienation in Malta', all commissioned by the Ministry for the **Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity (MFCS)**.
- ⊗ 'Service provision and persons with disability', and 'Intersectionality, Gender and sexual identity and disability', both commissioned by the **Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)**.
- ⊗ 'Examining Public Perceptions of Eating Disorders', and 'Examining the Experience of First-Contact Professionals in Dealing with and Diagnosing Eating Disorders' both commissioned by **Fondazzjoni Dar Kenn Għal Saħħtek**.
- ⊗ 'The next step in housing profiling' commissioned by the Housing Authority.
- ⊗ 'Supporting Positive Parenting', and 'Assessment and Intervention team review' both commissioned by **Aġenzija Support**.
- ⊗ 'Examining the Effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on Youths aged 13 to 25' commissioned by **Aġenzija Żgħażaġh**.
- ⊗ 'Training: Migration Issues' commissioned by the **Armed Forces of Malta**.
- ⊗ 'Substance use in adolescence and emerging adulthood: Trends, developments and transitions' commissioned by the **Save a Life Foundation**.
- ⊗ 'Valletta Compendium + Appoġġ għall-Beltin Community Worker' commissioned by the **Alf Mizzi Foundation** and the **Valletta Local Council**.
- ⊗ 'Identifying Migrant Communities in Malta' commissioned by the **Parliamentary Secretariat for Citizenship and Communities**.
- ⊗ 'Mapping the Iklin Community' commissioned by the **Iklin Local Council**.
- ⊗ 'Challenging intergenerational cycles of abuse: Engaging male participants in domestic violence intervention programmes in Malta' commissioned by the Malta Tourism Authority.
- ⊗ 'Mental Health Services for persons with disabilities in Gozo' commissioned by **HILA**.

- ⊗ 'Persons with autism and persons with ADHD: The need to understand and improve services for families in Malta' commissioned by the **Parliament of Malta**.
- ⊗ 'Gender Audit 2'.
- ⊗ **General Opinion Survey** of the Maltese Population.

Signing events with Rector:

The Faculty remains committed to working with stakeholders and providing a space where research and social engagement can be served. This can be attested through the following signed memorandum of understandings, signed by Prof. Alfred Vella, Rector and the following stakeholders:

- ⊗ Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) signed on March 2021
- ⊗ Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) signed on March 2021
- ⊗ Iklin Local council signed on June 2021
- ⊗ Home to Independence & Limitless Abilities (HILA Home Ltd.) signed on July 2021
- ⊗ Commissioner for Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence signed on September 2021
- ⊗ Housing Authority signed on October 2021
- ⊗ Rehabilitation in Society Malta Foundation (RISe) signed on November 2021
- ⊗ Caritas Malta signed on February 2022
- ⊗ Commissioner for the Voluntary Organisations (CVO) signed on February 2022

Appreciation is extended to:

- ⊗ The team of HoDs, who are incredibly supportive, namely; the Deputy Deans, Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane (Head, Department of Disability Studies and Head, Department of Gender and Sexualities) and Dr Kristina Bettenzana (Department of Psychology), Ms. Alison Darmanin (Faculty Manager), Dr Christian Borg Xuereb (Head, Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies), Dr Sandra Scicluna (Head, Department of Criminology), Dr Sue Vella (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Roberta Attard (Head, Department of Counselling), Dr Gottfried Catania (Head, Department of Psychology), Prof. Joanne Cassar (Head, Department of Youth and Community Studies) and Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco (Head, Department of Child and Family Studies).
- ⊗ The Faculty Board members for their important role in running this Faculty.
- ⊗ The academic members of staff, whether resident full-time or part-time, casual or visiting, dissertation and placement supervisors and the students who make this a cohesive Faculty keen to respond to the challenges of society.
- ⊗ The administrative staff and Research Support Officers, both serving the Faculty in the Departments as well as in the Faculty Office, for their unwavering support and commitment.
- ⊗ The many stakeholders who are closely engaged with the Faculty community.
- ⊗ Ms Charlene Fabri (PA to the Dean) for her dedication and constant support.

