An online search was conducted using the UoM digital library (HyDi) with the keywords 'Malta' AND one or more of the following 'immigration, integration, migrants, migration, refugees, asylum' and a publication date between 2012-2018. The search yielded the below relevant results. Several results were excluded on the basis that they are irrelevant to the topic of interest (eg. related to the migration of animals across the Mediterranean) or due to the same item being shown multiple times. Reviews of books or articles, newspaper articles and dissertations not available in an online format were also excluded from the results.

Journal articles

Assimakopoulos, S., & Muskat, R. V. (2018). **Xenophobic and Homophobic Attitudes in Online News Portal Comments in Malta.** *XJENZA, 6*(1), 25-40.

In this paper, the authors present part of the research carried out at the Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology of the University of Malta under the auspices of the EU-funded C.O.N.T.A.C.T. project. The present study, which followed the common methodology of the C.O.N.T.A.C.T. consortium, focuses on the verbal expression of discrimination in Malta. Employing both quantitative and qualitative methods, the authors seek to identify the extent to which comments posted online in reaction to news reports in local portals can be found to encompass discriminatory attitudes towards two target minorities: migrants and members of the LGBTIQ community. The obtained results indicate that, while both xenophobia and homophobia can be detected in some of the comments, the former is much more prevalent than the latter. In an attempt to further probe into the reasons for the emergence of such discriminatory discourse online, the authors additionally administered an online questionnaire and conducted focus group interviews, which provided some insight as to why discriminatory attitudes appear to have recently been on the rise in relation to migrants, while, at the same time, have correspondingly been contained in the case of the LGBTIQ minority group.

Azzopardi, R. (2012). **Recent International and Domestic Migration in the Maltese Archipelago: An Economic Review**. *Island Studies Journal, 7*(1), 49-68.

Migration strategies often permit densely populated island territories to alleviate unemployment, ease pressure on limited resources, and compensate for the absence of economic diversification. This paper evaluates two types of recent migratory flows affecting the Maltese archipelago: international migration to and from the islands triggered or intensified by European Union membership; and domestic, inter-island movements between the 'mainland' (Malta) and the smaller island (Gozo).The descriptive statistics used are based on published data, whilst the qualitative evaluation is derived from focus groups and interviews with stakeholders. Conclusions suggest that emigration remains an overall positive experience at the individual level, with constructive spill-over effects, mingling of cultures and better use of resources at the national level. Such benefits can be expected to increase if authorities design policies which encourage rather than discourage migratory flows.

Bernardie-Tahir, N., & Schmoll, C. (2014). **Opening up the island: A 'counter-islandness' approach to migration in Malta**. *Island Studies Journal, 9*(1), 43-56. Based on qualitative research undertaken since 2010 with African immigrants living in Malta.

This paper is based on qualitative research undertaken since 2010 with African immigrants living in the small island state of Malta. Its purpose is to deconstruct a number of discourses and preconceptions about irregular migration, migrants and islandness. We argue that, in order to better understand the situation of migrants in Malta, we have to engage critically with conventional wisdom that depicts (usually small) islands as isolated, immobile and homogeneous spaces. Using a spatial approach, we pro-

pose the term 'counter-islandness' to describe a migration situation characterized by movement (versus immobility) and articulation of scales (versus isolation). We show how different scales in their complex and multiple interactions contribute to shaping and determining the future and trajectories of the 'undesirables'. We explain how Malta has found itself at the heart of a complex circulatory system, articulating mobilities operating at various scales. We then categorise the role of the island within migratory patterns into three different forms: the island as barrier, hub, and place of settlement. © 2014 - Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Bernardie-Tahir, N., & Schmoll, C. (2014). **The uses of islands in the production of the southern European migration border.** *Island Studies Journal, 9*(1), 3-6.

The political uses of islands under the dynamics of EU border production and management are explored in this four-paper collection. Although the island migration model is not unique per se, irregular migration to southern European islands does have some specific features, including the extraordinary media attention it draws. From this perspective, the scientific analyses offered here aim both to show the particular situation that these islands find themselves in within the European policy framework for controlling irregular immigration and, more generally, to illustrate how these island places are like the development of film into photograph, revealing the issues, complexity and stakes particular to undesirable migrations.

Bradford, S., & Clark, M. (2014). **Strangers on the Shore: Sub-Saharan African "Irregular" Migrants in Malta**. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 12*(1), 9-26.

This study explored narratives of strangerhood from the perspectives of young migrants from sub-Saharan Africa living in Malta. Drawing on Simmel's work, where the stranger is positioned in an ambiguous social space of being both proximal and distant, and also on Douglas' work on pollution, the authors show how migrants attempt to make sense of their frequently stigmatised identities.

Tourists are considered as distinct from migrants in their otherness due to the fact that their residence is temporary, thus posing less of a threat than do migrants. This is in contrast to evident perceptions that tourists undermine traditional values in other parts of the Mediterranean. (Note: One would think that migrants would be considered similarly by Maltese individuals given the common perception that migrants are simply using Malta as a stepping-stone to get to other EU countries, such as Italy). A potentially optimistic view is suggested, where the stranger's presence encourages positive social change.

British colonial control has had a lasting impact on Maltese worldviews and led to fear of social change, as evidenced in core anxieties which focus on the process of European accession, modernisation and progress. The authors suggest that the presence of Black migrants has a powerful effect which symbolises social change and leads to the emergence of social tensions about what it means to be Maltese. Thus it would seem that the Maltese cultural identity is perceived as being threatened, not only by the presence of Black migrants, but also by the process of social change.

The Government's detention policy has a criminalising impact on asylum seekers, fuelling existing racism and xenophobia. Detention also contributes to the symbolisation of migrants as strangers by creating a clear physical boundary between 'us' and 'them', which also exists on an imagined level; immigration creates a sense that external forces are penetrating, and potentially disrupting, the imaginary inside world of the nation state from the outside. The study concludes by touching on the broad implications of the analysis for theorizing the position of migrants, as strangers, in social space and for policy development in this field.

Buhagiar, L., Sammut, G., Rochira, A., & Salvatore, S. (2018). **There's no such thing as a good Arab: Cultural essentialism and its functions concerning the integration of Arabs in Europe**. *Culture & Psychology,* Culture & Psychology, 2018.

Concerns about immigration are salient in the European Union and in Malta in particular. Previous research has demonstrated deep antipathy towards the Arab community in Malta, and social representations of Arabs are mired in a conflation of ethnic and religious categories with negative connotations. This paper presents evidence of the potency, within the public sphere, of negative arguments from cultural essentialism, concerning the integration of Arabs in Europe. The data were obtained abductively from a data corpus containing positive, mixed and negative arguments about Arabs and their integration. Results pointed towards the almost total exclusivity of arguments from cultural essentialism. These posited Arabic culture as an underlying essence that makes integration difficult or impossible. Different forms of culturally essentialist views varied in their emphasis of different aspects of cultural essentialism. Reductionist, determinist, delineatory and temporal aspects of cultural essentialism were all emphasised by respondents. The essentialist exceptions to negative arguments from cultural essentialism were rare and were posed tentatively by participants. Their paucity and manner of delivery substantiate the claim that it is strictly an Arabic cultural essence that is deemed to make integration impossible. Findings are discussed in light of the communicative functions that these dominant argumentative strategies fulfil.

Bugre, M., & Hirsch, S. (2016). **Migrant-Led Integration as Peacebuilding: Forging New Alliances Among Third Country Nationals in Malta**. *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development, 11*(3), 98-102.

This briefing examines an initiative to create a network focused on empowering migrant-led groups in Malta, a 316-km island nation of 425,000 residents in the central Mediterranean. Call the Third Country National Support Network Malta (TSN Malta), the network was designed to convene and support migrant-led organisations advocating for social and structural integration in a context where migrants' presence has been a source of conflict. In its initial stages, TSN Malta drew on insights of peacebuilding practice to establish inclusivity, diversity, self-determination, and collective leadership as the organisation's core values. As organisation members gained experience, the pursuit of integration in Maltese society became more explicitly intertwined with peacebuilding.

De Groot, Rene. (2012). **Nationality, Statelessness and ECHRs Article 8: Comments on Genovese v. Malta**. *European Journal of Migration and Law, 14*(3), 317-325.

This article analyses the landmark European Court of Human Rights case of Genovese v. Malta, which made an invaluable contribution to the field of nationality law. For the first time the European Court clearly ruled that (access to) nationality falls under the scope of protection of the ECHR as part of a person's social identity, which in turn is part of that person's private life. In this article, the authors analyse the case itself as well as its consequences for the nationality laws of several European countries.

DeBono, D. (2013). **'Less than human': The detention of irregular immigrants in Malta**. *Race & Class, 55*(2), 60-81.

The treatment of irregular migrants in Malta is problematic from a human rights perspective, for it contravenes the principle of universalism that is intrinsic to human rights philosophy. Malta is unusual among states in that it imposes mandatory detention on such migrants, including asylum seekers. Based on a reading of foundational documents of the modern human rights movement, especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the article argues that the principle of human dignity underlies the concept of human rights, but that the bypassing of this principle enables the Maltese government to continue its detention policies while claiming to uphold human rights. It is an approach contested by NGOs in this area, which point to the dehumanising effects of detention on migrants. It is not just the appalling conditions in which migrants are held that renders their lives miserable, but the dehumanisation produced by detention itself.

Farmer, A. (2013). **The impact of immigration detention on children**. *Forced Migration Review, (44), 14-16.*

Indonesian law provides for up to ten years of immigration detention without judicial review, and the Indonesian government does not provide migrant children or their families opportunities to obtain legal status, such as to seek asylum. Immigration detention - which often lacks clear time limits - takes its toll on the mental health of many detainees, and this problem is especially severe for children.5 A psychologist who volunteers at an immigration detention centre in Indonesia told HRW that his child clients experience psychological deterioration connected to the prolonged, ill-defined wait: "They lose hope, they lose dreams."

Falzon, M. (2012). **Immigration, Rituals and Transitoriness in the Mediterranean Island of Malta**. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 38*(10), 1661-1680.

In contemporary Malta, sub-Saharan 'boat' immigrants are imagined and represented as transients and sojourners rather than as settlers. The dynamics of these processes include a set of stylised rituals and spectacles of departure and arrival, as well as containment practices linked to sojourn. The former are associated with the notion of islandness and its corollary, borders; the latter may be thought of as a kind of transformation of domestic space into a vulnerable and partially invisible one. The upshot is that, irrespective of its empirical 'truth' value, transience is a product actively and agentively produced by the state and other actors in response to a perceived threat from immigration.

Gerard, A., & Pickering, S. (2012). **The Crime and Punishment of Somali Women's Extra-Legal Arrival in Malta.** *The British Journal of Criminology, 52*(3), 514-533.

This article looks at Somali women's experiences of extra-legal border crossing of the European Union's southern border. Based on qualitative interviews with women who have travelled irregularly to Malta, and key state and non-government organization stakeholders, this article considers the layers of exile and vulnerability engendered by Malta's attempts to secure the EU border. The article traces the gendered and racialized processes of immobilizing irregular migrants through legal and administrative policies of mandatory detention and the Dublin II Regulation, and through social and economic policy in Malta. The article concludes that border control operating at the point of arrival both contains and punishes women, even when they are legally accepted and released, keeping women suspended in a constant 'state of arrival'.

Grech, H, & Cheng, L.R.L. (2016). *Conceptual Framework for Speech Language Pathologists to Work with Migrants : A Focus on Malta*. *Journal of Educational Issues, 2*(2), 141-163.

The goal of this paper is to describe the current state, needs and values of migrants with a focus on relevant global issues and Malta as a case study. It also aims to review services offered to these migrants, identify aspects that require attention and draw up a framework that could be applied to enhance services to the culturally diverse populations, particularly speech therapy. The health care services offered to migrants are reviewed in the light of attitudes and expectations. Professional perceptions and competences to work with these populations are also discussed and perceptions of migrants about services offered to them are taken into consideration. Issues related to equitable professional practice and the training of health care professionals to address needs of the cultural diverse community are discussed. Strategies to implement the conceptual framework are suggested.

Holicza, P., & Stone, A.M. (2016). **Beyond the Headlines: Economic Realities of Migration and the Labour Market in Malta**. *Journal of International Studies, 9*(3), 88-98.

In January 2016, the International Monetary Fund released a report confirming that increased labour mobility to Malta had a positive impact on the country's economy. A mass inflow of non-Maltese workers has boosted Malta's potential growth and offset the declining working Maltese age population. The presence of foreign nationals has dramatically increased in one the world's most densely populated countries. Political discourse, social tensions and the government's slow response addressing the needs of increasingly diverse constituency have proven that Malta is still an island in transition. By establishing the rapid change in demographics and economic expansion, this paper explores the media's

role in informing the public on economic realities and implications that an increase in migrants and im-migrants has had on the economy.

M. I. Grymska, M. I. (2016). **Migration crisis in the European Union in 2014-2016 in the context of electoral preferences radicalization (the case of far right political parties).** *Granì, 19*(6), 26-32.

Peculiarities of the process of electoral preferences radicalization in the European Union countries are characterized. The factors that contribute to this phenomenon are distinguished and special attention is paid to one of the most important prerequisite for growth of far right political parties support in Europe –migration level increase. In order to identify presence or absence of causal links between increase of migration rate and electoral appeal of the far right, relevant statistical data has been collected and analyzed. To determine the migration level, the numbers of asylum seekers in 2013-14 and 2014-15 were used. Three countries with the highest positive and negative difference of the asylum seekers numbers for each period were determined. They include Austria, Denmark, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Finland, Croatia. In each country, the strongest far right political party has been identified and its position has been determined on the basis of electoral support during European Parliament elections of 2009 and 2014 and national elections in 2006-2016. The study found no causal relationships between the number of asylum seekers and the electoral appeal of the largest far right political party in the country, so, despite the undeniable impact of migration on the radicalization of electoral preferences, there is no direct correlation.

Korostelina, K., & Camilleri, L. (2017). **Contact, Perceptions of Threat, and Assessment of Migration Policies in Malta.** *Journal of Identity and Migration Studies, 11*(2), 2-154.

Numerous studies examine the effectiveness of the contact hypothesis in resolving conflict. While ample research has been conducted regarding the prevalence of xenophobia with the rise of the refugee crisis worldwide and increasing perceptions of threat towards immigrants, little has been written on relationships between contact and assessment of immigration policies. This study explores the impact of different forms of contact between the Maltese and the Sub-Saharan African migrants in Malta on perceptions of threat and immigration policies. More specifically, this study asks what are relationships between forms of contact, perceptions of threat, and assessment of migration policies and institutions. The authors posit that perception of threat arrives from different patterns of interaction between the number of immigrants and type of contacts. They also explore the impact of the form of contact and level of threat on general support for migration policies and analyze how different types of threat affect support for particular policies. The study compares the intergroup contact in two localities of Balzan and Marsa that are both home to Open Centers for migrants.

Lemaire, L. (2014). **Islands and a Carceral Environment: Maltese Policy in Terms of Irregular Migration**. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 12*(2), 143-160.

Although security has become a common framework for analyzing dispositifs that aim to control irregular migration, island spaces themselves are seldom considered as security dispositifs. The case of Malta, where detention is mandatory upon arrival, epitomizes what could be conceptualized as a "sentinel island" within the European Union. This article demonstrates how the interaction between political discourse, administrative practices, and migrants' experiences contributes to turning the island into a form of total-institution setting. The empirical data is based on qualitative fieldwork that combines ethnographic observation, migrants' individual narratives and semi-structured interviews conducted with European and national policy makers.

Mainwaring, C. (2012). **Resisting Distalization? Malta and Cyprus' influence on EU Migration and Asylum Policies.** *Refugee Survey Quarterly, 31*(4), 38-66.

This article examines the role that Malta and the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) have played within the European Union in developing regional responses to irregular migration since 2004. It briefly compares their responses to those of other, larger southern Member States and traces the instances where Malta and the RoC have attempted to influence European migration and asylum policies, with varying degrees of success. It looks particularly at attempts by the two States to affect distalization processes, that is, policies that displace responsibility for migration and asylum away from the core of Europe towards its peripheries. In doing so, it questions the assumption that this is largely a one-way process, directed from large, powerful States at Europe's core towards weaker Member States on the periphery. The article argues that, paradoxically, the processes of placing responsibility for migration and asylum on peripheral Member States have given Malta and the RoC more political clout in order to pursue their interests within the European Union.

Mainwaring, C. (2014). **Small States and Nonmaterial Power: Creating Crises and Shaping Migration Policies in Malta, Cyprus, and the European Union**. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 12*(2), 103-122.

This article examines the ways in which Malta and Cyprus negotiate power relations in relation to EU migration governance. The author notes that both countries have adopted a rhetoric on immigration "that stresses their limited capacities in order to attract more support from other EU member states." The argument by both countries that they are made to carry "a disproportionate burden" in terms of asylum applications is interpreted as making use of moral authority as a form of nonmaterial power, in the absence of much material power compared to other EU countries. The author argues that, whilst such an approach has been partially effective in obtaining support from the EU, it has resulted in negative effects on the migrant population and Maltese/Cypriot societies. Both countries are said to be constructing a crisis scenario with regards to migration, through using discourse based on exceptionalism, compared to other EU countries. Through constructing migration as a crisis, this allows Malta/Cyprus to resist accepting responsibility for dealing with the situation and it has also been a successful strategy for gaining considerable financial support from the EU. Yet, despite the efficacy of such an approach, the crisis construction has led to increased xenophobia and the undermining of the EU's liberal values of protection and equality.

Mcdermott, J. (2017). **At home in a strange land: Refugees in Malta try to start over.** *America, 216*(4), 28.

The article discusses the topic of refugees, offering information on the life instances of the refugees from other nations in Malta. It talks about the condition of immigrants and refugees in Malta. The social condition of the families are anxious, and holds issues on visa, and overcrowded population. Families also holds the problem of searching adequate housing, electricity issues and purchasing of food.

Padovese, V., Egidi, A., Melillo Fenech, T., Podda Connor, M., Didero, D., Costanzo, G., & Mirisola, C. (2014). **Migration and determinants of health: Clinical epidemiological characteristics of migrants in Malta (2010–11)**. *Journal of Public Health, 36*(3), 368-374.

Immigrants have a lower morbidity burden compared with their fellow countrymen living in the origin country. However, living conditions during the journey, in transit countries and after arrival can influence their health status. The present study provides a comprehensive picture of this growing population that is in need for health promotion, mental health services and fair policy planning.

Skov, G. (2016). **Transfer Back to Malta: Refugees' Secondary Movement within the European Union**. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies,* 1-17.

The focus of this article is the refugee situation in the small Mediterranean state of Malta and it examines the paradox of why recognized sub-Saharan refugees have the aspiration for leaving Malta, when in fact having been granted protection. Many choose to travel to other places within the EU, but such

secondary movement has consequences, namely transferral back to the responsible Member State. This article investigates how such transferrals are executed having the Dublin/Schengen systems in mind. Importantly this article only concerns beneficiaries of protection in Malta; and thus, not rejected, undocumented, nor pending asylum claims. Article ahead-of-print.

Spiteri, D. (2014). **Experiences of young (minor) asylum seekers in further education in Malta**. *International Journal of Lifelong Education,* 1-16.

This study appraises the particular challenges that minor asylum-seeking migrants who are in the 16–18 age category confront when pursuing their studies in a vocational college in Malta, a central Mediterranean island which is the smallest EU member state. The study explores how they exercise resilience in their desire to forge a future for themselves and traces their passage from Africa to Malta and their prospective aspirations to eventually settle elsewhere. It also explores how they integrate their lives as college students with these aspirations and how they see this as contributing to their lifelong education and ongoing processes of personal growth. Article ahead-of-print.

Taylor-East, R., Grech, A., & Gatt, C. (2013). **The mental health of newly graduated doctors in Malta**. *Psychiatria Danubina, 25*(2), 250-5.**.**

Several studies have shown high rates of psychiatric morbidity in young doctors at various stages of their training (Paice, et al. 2002, Levine et al. 2006). Migration is also known to have an impact on emotional wellbeing (Bhugra 2004). Foreign doctors in Malta now make up over 30% of the junior doctor cohort. This is a new situation for trainers here. This study aimed to answer the following questions: 1. What are the rates of mental health problems amongst recently qualified doctors? 2. What are the factors associated with the increased rates of mental distress? 117 (78.5%) of junior doctors participated in this study. 70.9% were Maltese. 49.4% were found to have indicators of significant psychological distress. Further analyses revealed that lack of leisure time (p<0.001), uncertainty (p=0.009), migration (p=0.03) and being female (p=0.04) were significantly related to caseness. Conclusion: As trainers and supervisors in medical education, it is important to be aware of the difficulties that young doctors face. These may include psychological distress, significant enough to reach caseness. Lack of leisure time seems to be an important factor which is possibly an area that can be easily tackled.

Triandafyllidou, A. (2014). **Multi-levelling and externalizing migration and asylum: Lessons from the southern European islands**. *Island Studies Journal, 9*(1), 7-22.

Southern European countries have come to constitute the most vulnerable external border of the European Union (EU) over the last decade. Irregular migration pressures have been acutely felt on the EU's southern sea borders, and particularly on four sets of islands: Canary Islands (Spain), Lampedusa and Linosa (Italy), Malta, and Aegean Islands (Greece). This quartet is, to a large extent, used as stepping stones by irregular migrants and asylum seekers to reach the European continent. This paper studies the role of these islands as 'outposts' of a framework of externalization. It starts by discussing the notion of externalization and its different facets. It considers how externalization is linked to both fencing and gate-keeping strategies of migration and asylum control. The second part of the paper focuses on the special role of the island quartet with respect to the externalization web cast by national and EU-wide migration policies. It concludes with a critical reflection on the multi-level character of externalization policies and practices that occur both within the EU and between the EU and third countries.

Vaughan-Williams, N., & Pisani, M. (2018). **Migrating borders, bordering lives: everyday geographies of ontological security and insecurity in Malta.** *Social & Cultural Geography*, 1-23.

In this article, the authors seek to challenge some of the ways in which the '2015 Mediterranean migration crisis' has been scripted by elites. Situated within – and contributing to – a flourishing research agenda on everyday geographies and ontologies of personal (in)security, they aim to bring non-

elite knowledge and experience to the foreground. This is accomplished by examining the diverse grounded perspectives of those on the move who are arguably the key dramatis personae in the so-called 'crisis' and yet whose voices are often absent in dominant representations of it. Specifically, the authors focus on the dynamic interplay between contemporary European Union border security apparatuses and mobile subjects who encounter, negotiate and challenge these apparatuses. Drawing upon 37 in-depth qualitative interviews with recent arrivals as part of a multi-sited research project across the Mediterranean region, this paper offers a historicized and geographically situated analysis of the contested politics of 'irregularity' on the island of Malta. As a geopolitically significant site along the central Mediterranean route, the changes in migratory dynamics witnessed in Malta over the past two decades offer an instructive lens through which the 'crisis' narrative can be usefully problematized and disaggregated.

Dissertations by University of Malta students

Faculty of Laws

Borg Rizzo, E. (2013). **An Evaluation of the Legal Obligations of the Armed Forces of Malta, Particularly the Maritime Squadron, with Respect to Safety of Life at Sea.**

The object of this thesis is to highlight the importance of the duties and responsibilities carried out by the Maritime Squadron in conjunction with the rest of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) with respect to the safety of life at sea. Unfortunately the AFM does not get the awareness and appreciation it truly deserves and this study is aimed at rectifying this, at least with respect to the protection of life at sea. The first chapter is intended to focus on the legal and historical developments in Malta that characterized the social and military developments on the island and which ultimately resulted in the formation of the Armed Forces of Malta as we know them today, while also outlining the composition of the AFM and the position that the Maritime Squadron holds within that structure. Irregular migration is the most current and controversial aspect of the safety of life at sea and it is for this reason that the second and third chapters will focus solely on this, first from an International and European law perspective, and secondly from a Maltese legal perspective. The objective is to intricately analyze all the legal aspects that come into play in order to draw attention to the substantial responsibility that the AFM holds, while also highlighting any deficiencies in the irregular migration procedure. The final chapter will then comprise of an analysis of the protection of life at sea with respect to seafarers, fishermen and other live-beings, focusing on the international and local legal developments in the field. Ultimately this study will result in a number of legal observations as to the significant improvements made in the sphere of the safety of life at sea while also highlighting some important shortcomings which demand the necessary attention and improvements.

Farrugia, Stefania M. (2016). **The Protection of Employment Rights of Third Country Nationals in Malta.**

This study strives to give a realistic portrayal of the obstacles faced by Third Country Nationals (TCNs) while exercising their employment rights and the legal protection offered to safeguard these rights. Chapter 1 delves into the right to work, which acts as a springboard for employment rights. The right to work is analysed as the root from which employment rights and conditions of work are derived. Therefore, an indication of the salient features of employment rights are considered, enlisting the main rights afforded to all workers as protected by law. Chapter 2 introduces and defines who Third Country Nationals are, as the persons to whom this study entails, clarifying those who do not fall under this classification, as well as listing different types of TCN migrant workers. The study also delves into migration trends showing where TCNs hail from and why they choose to migrate, finally concluding with an analysis of Maltese trends. Chapter 3 addresses access to employment, without which employment

cannot be achieved. Obstacles to access are linked to the acquisition of permits, regulated by both EU and domestic legislation. The different permits available allow for diverse layers of rights and equality that permit holders may access locally. Chapter 4 portrays a brief yet realistic picture of the grievances faced by TCNs at work. These grievances are generally caused by discrimination at the workplace on grounds of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion. These notions are analysed in terms of the protection offered at International, EU and local levels. Possible assertions are offered and put forward as a defence to aggrieved victims. Chapter 5 concludes the study by offering an overall conclusion while advancing recommendations to be able to offer the maximum level of protection.

Gauci, Maxine. (2016). **Marriage of Convenience in Malta : A Thing of the Past?**

The institution of marriage has long presented challenges to the control of migration in Malta through what can be referred to as the phenomenon of 'marriage of convenience', which, for the purposes of this thesis, refers to marriage entered into between a Maltese national and a third country national to confer an immigration advantage on the non-EU spouse that he or she would not otherwise be able to enjoy. An appreciation of the subject of the study cannot be gained without first acquiring an understanding of the institution of marriage and the valid constitution thereof, which is lacking in a marriage of convenience. This is owing to the fact that the sole intention behind its contracting is that of achieving a purpose completely extraneous to matrimony. What follows is an analysis of the motivations behind such marriages being either the acquisition of a right of entry, residence, work or freedom of movement in Malta or Maltese citizenship status. The manner in which such immigration rights could be obtained on the strength of false matrimonial ties and the rationale for opting to abuse of the fundamental human right to marry instead of making use of the legal channels designated for their acquisition, is also examined. The study finally assumes a comprehensive review of the legislative reform introduced to curb this abuse as well as the preventive and punitive measures adopted in practice during the different stages of the marriage so as to investigate whether these amount to a sufficient deterrent, and if not, whether their shortcomings necessitate further reform.

Said, Iana. (2017). **The Legal Framework Regulating the Reception Period for Irregular Migrants : A Maltese Perspective.**

This work has analysed the development of the Maltese legal framework for the reception of irregular migrants and their various rights up until the establishment of their status, against the various scenarios that have influenced it. These scenarios include migration flows and their causes, together with the changes in International and European Law, mainly the Reception Conditions Directive, in its consequent revised versions. Furthermore, NGOs and Government Officials in the sector were interviewed and a detailed analysis of their various comments was also carried out. Following an introduction which briefly summarises the phenomenon of mass migration towards the EU, the subsequent chapters analyse the developments of the Reception Conditions Directive and its transposition into Maltese law, seeing its parallel development and influence from and upon implementation issues. An in-depth analysis was carried out on five major issues concerning asylum seekers, these included Vulnerability, Health Care (physical and mental), Material Reception Conditions (accommodation and financial allowance), Employment and Information. The findings of the above mentioned issues show that the various stages from the arrival of the asylum seekers up to the determination of their status are in need of further streamlining and revision of both the National and European legislation together with an update of the National policy on migration. The final conclusions give a number of recommendations for a better reception and more efficient integration of migrants into Maltese society, for the benefit of all concerned.

Sammut, Frankie. (2017). **An Analysis of the Maltese Legislation Pertaining to Illegal Immigration Issues.**

This thesis incorporates a historical overview of the formation of the Immigration Act Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta as well as an analysis of the evolution of Immigration Law, prior to and after Malta's EU accession. It also evaluates the changes in legislation post 2002. Furthermore, it will also explore the measures taken by the EU in its bid to fight illegal migration, particularly as these measures affected Malta. Although several directives concerning irregular immigration were adopted by the EU and were introduced in our local legislation these leave ample space for abuse by those trying to circumvent our local legislation to gain facilitated entrance in mainland Europe. Jurisprudence in cases dealing with illegal immigration was also explored. The divergent rulings by different judges cast doubt on the efficacy of local legislation, hence there is a need for amendments to decrease ambiguity. In order to make this thesis a clear and complete study, the author has carried out interviews with professionals who are considered to be key figures in society. The critical analysis of the Maltese illegal migration laws and their implementation carried out throughout this thesis will provide a faithful picture of the present situation. This should enable this project to conclude by examining potential measures that could be implemented to remedy the shortcomings of the present system, thereby facilitating both its application and enforcement.

Vella, K. (2015). **Asylum-seekers in Detention : The Implications of the Right to a Speedy Remedy to Challenge the Lawfulness of Detention in Light of Recent ECTHR Judgements against Malta.**

Detention on grounds of immigration is found in Article 5(1)(f) of the European Convention on Human Rights which can be based on unauthorised entry or in view of deportation. Malta's practice of detention of asylum-seekers who arrive in an irregular manner has received a significant amount of criticism from the European Court of Human Rights throughout the past few years. Thus, in order to have a clearer understanding of the context within which violations are said to occur, the cases of Louled Massoud, Suso Musa and Aden Ahmed are examined in light of the Maltese practice of detention and its equivalent in EU law. One should not merely state that detention is based on one of the said grounds, since a State must still have in place an effective remedy through which an individual could challenge the lawfulness of the same detention while being so detained and which would be capable of ordering release. In the three cases against Malta, the ECtHR found that the right to a speedy remedy under Article 5(4) of the ECHR had been violated. In order to comprehend why the ECtHR found such violations, the implications of Article 5(4) can be inferred through a reference to both the case-law and theory of the ECtHR. The domestic remedies found in Article 409A of the Criminal Code, Article 25A of the Immigration Act and the Constitutional remedy are examined in light of a number of elements inferred from the case-law of the ECtHR, but in terms of speediness, effectiveness and capability of examining lawfulness, in particular. In highlighting the most problematic elements, one will have a clearer understanding of what needs to be addressed and improved.

Faculty for Social Wellbeing

Department of Psychology

Debono, Lara M. (2015). *Xenophobia and Nationalism in the Maltese Context.*

The initial purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between national identity and xenophobia in the Maltese context and identify any variables that could possibly contribute to the hypothesized association. A quantitative approach was utilized in order to fulfil the research objectives. This was done through the distribution of a questionnaire from which 130 valid responses were obtained (13% response rate). The results demonstrated that the association between xenophobia and national identity was present in the given sample. Other variables that were found to be of significance in relation to xenophobia were one's attitudes toward the arrival of irregular immigrants, attachment to Malta and Europe and an ethnic conception of national identity. On the other hand, social status, integration preference, attachment to hometown and a civic conception of national identity were not found to con-

tribute to xenophobic attitudes. In conclusion, the research study provides an overview of the relevance of specific variables that may be related to anti-immigrant attitudes locally, while also incorporating previous research as a backdrop for analysis.

Reinecke, Martina. (2013). *Landing in the South : A Narrative Inquiry into Stories of Arrival in Malta*.

Malta has a low but rising rate of foreign residents. Migration is thus becoming a topic of public interest and holds great potential for research. This narrative study, inspired by my autobiographical background as a German national married in Malta, sets out to gain an in-depth understanding of the personal experiences of Europeans-cultural outsiders moving from North to South-who have stepped out of their established environments and come to live here on a permanent basis. Within a narrative research design, in-depth narrative interviews were conducted with five participants from Austria, Germany, Norway, Serbia and Italy, who came to Malta between 1985 and 2004, aged between 17 and 36. A thematic analysis yielded five main themes: reconstructing the transition; self as outsider; portals to integration; deciphering Malta; and taking stock. Malta-bound migration emerged as a multi-faceted, highly individual process of adjustment and self-review. Most but not all participants succeeded to overcome initial difficulties and feel fully at home. Malta was not experienced as a haven of tranquillity, and overall proved to be tough to come to grips with, but potentially rewarding for those who persevere.

Department of Criminology

Xuereb, Clayton Redeemer. (2015). *Urban Ecology and the Effects of Migration in Marsa*.

Marsa is often described as a ghetto by the media. It has been depicted as a no-go area to be avoided by the local population. This was brought about by the recent phenomena of migrants who either reside at the Open Centre, or are attracted to this context for social or work possibilities. This research was conducted to investigate urban decay, areas of social disorganisation and the presence of migrant segregation in this town. A unique time geography approach was employed in this spatio-temporal research to study the dynamic activities of migrants in Marsa. Data triangulation was possible as multiple research tools were employed, including geo-spatial data collection, observation methods and elite interviews. Thematic and spatial evaluations were implemented and the findings elicited were presented in hotspot and choropleth maps based on Burgess' (1925) concentric ring model. The results implicated that the area surrounding the Open Centre, which is also the space mainly occupied by migrants, is socially disorganised and deteriorated. The ageing local population, their lack of education, cultural conflict and racist convictions may be the reasons why this migrant related area is avoided particularly after sunset. The findings suggest that this area, according to criminological literature can be referred to as a transitional multi-ethnic slum. However, it might also be serving the purpose of the migrants' unofficial capital city in Malta, since it caters to their needs including employment, shopping and recreation. The results of this study recommend that, in order to alleviate the negative connotations with this area, an alternative solution to the Open Centre should be sought, capable guardians employed and education needs are to be addressed.

Department of Counselling

Ultimini, Elisa. (2017). *Wounded Healers in Refuge : Personal Experiences of Resilience in the Face of Adversity : Voices from Malta*.

The phenomenon of forced migration has seen the creation and spread of different hegemonic stories about people seeking refuge. On the one hand, media driven and political discourses tend to criminalise forcibly displaced individuals. On the other hand, they have often been pathologised by trauma-focused clinical literature. The common tendency is to regard asylum seekers as a homogeneous group, indissolubly defined by their migration status, rather than by their humanity and individuality. However, recent studies in the field of refugee care have redirected the attention to the uniqueness of

human responses, noting that not all asylum seekers are necessarily traumatised and that in fact resilient, or even generative outcomes in the face of the upheavals of forced migration are not uncommon. The purpose of this study is threefold. Firstly, it aims at offering a counter-narrative to the dominant and generalised tales about forcibly displaced individuals by giving a voice to personal experiences of resilience in the face of adversity. Secondly, it strives to address a perceived gap in the literature on resilience among refugees. Such a gap exists, for instance, in the scarcity of narrative research on the subject within the Maltese context of refuge. Another objective of this undertaking is to achieve a better understanding of the factors in the host country which may facilitate or impair resilience and how counselling could be of benefit. The study has employed a narrative process of inquiry. Three personal stories, narrated during individual semi-structured interviews, are presented in the original first person. The inquirer's subjective and literature-influenced re-telling of the respondents' narratives takes place in a separate chapter. The findings show that resilience undoubtedly plays a key role in helping forcibly displaced individuals cope throughout the ongoing challenges of resettlement. Resilience is an idiosyncratic, dynamic and context-related response to adversity. Contrary to early studies on it, resilience is not merely an intra-psychic process; it is strongly influenced by the environmental lack of, or provision of existential resources, protection status being chief among the factors. Thus, resilience can best thrive when basic needs are met. This has profound implications for counsellors, who are urged to expand their work on a systematic level through advocacy for social justice in order to counter oppression and to facilitate access to resilience promoting resources.

Faculty of Arts

Department of Geography

Borg, Berta. (2015). ***Migration, Identity and Integration : A Case Study of the Multi-ethnic Reality in the Maltese Islands.***

Immigration to the European Union is on the rise and the islands of Malta are of no exception. While immigration has been part of the Maltese reality for centuries, since the early 2000s, the island state of Malta has increasingly moved into the international spotlight as a front-line state for immigration, with newcomers arriving mainly from Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Whilst part of this immigration is coming from the African continent, other arrivals have been coming both from within the European Union (EU) and of third-country nationals most of which come to Malta with the prospect of a better future in Europe, in the hope of finding better job opportunities and a better quality of life. This qualitative study utilizes semi-structured interviews conducted with eighteen voluntary migrants of different nationalities. Interviewees were chosen through a method known as snowball sampling.

This work sheds light on voluntary migration - focusing mostly on youth migration - identity, and integration. It presents a case study of Malta as an epitome of multiculturalism. (1) It analyses the "push-and-pull factors" behind the decisions that migrants make before deciding to move to another country; (2) it studies how immigrants define their identity within a Maltese context; (3) it examines the relationship between the migratory process and identity formation; (4) it analyses the level of integration within the Maltese community; and finally (5) gives a better understanding of multiculturalism as a "mosaic of identities", that immigration is bringing about, and which will therefore have an effect upon the island's diversity.

Toscano, Claudio. (2012). ***'New Beginnings' : A Case Study of the Socio-economic Aspects of Retirement Migration in Malta.***

The immigration of foreign retirees has been changing considerably throughout the years. The study explored the aspect of retirement migration in Malta. The aim was that of investigating the socio-eco-

nomic aspect of retirement migration in relation to the decision making process and the personal insights of such migrants. This study reported findings from case studies in both Malta and Gozo, of eight international retirees who have permanently relocated to Malta. A qualitative approach was deemed as ideal. Contrasting perspectives of personal thoughts have emerged from the study. Specifically respondents were asked a series of questions on both social implications and also on economic implications. One of the recurring findings was that foreign retirement migration happens as a process which mostly occurs gradually in a retiree's life. Typically a number of visits in the island beforehand would have occurred, thus foreigners familiarised themselves with Malta and its lifestyle on previous occasions. Pull factors, including climatic conditions, language, Maltese lifestyle and safety,were observed as being the most fundamental issues which foreign retirees take into account prior to relocating. Whereas economic implications were found to be not a strong indicator as to why retirees choose Malta as ideal to their needs. Nevertheless, these migrants benefit from retirement and pension schemes and the favourable cost of living. This study indicates that more research about foreign retirement migration in Malta can help understand the underlying principles in a holistic perspective of such movements and what reasoning lies beneath it.

Department of Anthropological Sciences

Mifsud, Sarah. (2016). ***Working from the Heart : A Study of Filipino Care Workers in Malta***.

The main aim of this research was to observe emotional labour in practice. This was done by engaging in participant observation with five Filipina care workers working in a private care home run by a Non-Governmental organisation. I also conducted a series of semi-structured interviews with my informants. Through these interviews the main theme of emotional labour emerged. My informants felt that in performing their job they were also performing the role of the mother, and would consistently refer to themselves as 'mothers'. My informants also believed that because they were now away from their own household, the role of motherhood towards their children and family has somewhat changed. While as 'care workers' my informants provided emotional labour they are also migrant workers and it is therefore important to contextualise their work within processes of global labour migration. My findings suggested that firstly there are quite a substantial number of Filipino nationals working as care workers in Malta, most of who are female individuals. Moreover, these female Filipina migrants migrate to Western countries in order to be able to financially support their families in the Philippines. My conclusion is that as a result of the distance between the care workers and their families, and due to the nature of their work they have constructed a new family dynamic within the workplace while still also clinging to certain factors that differentiate them from the local culture and as well the residents themselves, via coping mechanisms.

Department of Sociology

Grech, Graziella. (2014). ***Racism in Malta : Are Legal Migrants Living in Malta Accepted by the Maltese?***

The movement of people across cultural and national boundaries is motivated by a search for better social and economic conditions, peace and freedom. Some immigrants feel a sense of belonging and strive to make Malta their „second home". Whereas others are less willing to become full participants in the receiving society, but seek to separate themselves from interaction with the host individuals. Immigrants start to be exposed to a new cultural environment far different from the one they were socialised in. A culture encloses within it, the norms, values, beliefs and expected patterns of behaviour. Consequently, immigrants find themselves in the midst of two cultures. To incorporate themselves within the host country, immigrants have to decide which acculturation strategy they have to adopt. However, the Maltese society"s receptivity towards newcomers has to be taken into consideration

when examining the immigrants" acculturation process. Moreover, acculturation is affected by various aspects, starting from the reason of migration, intended permanence in the host country, attitudes of the host individuals and social support available. In fact, poor living conditions, few opportunities for economic betterment and conflict are the major motives that lead migrants to leave their country of origin. Consequently, this study attempts to identify the immigrants" incorporation process and to understand to what extent Maltese society is tolerant or not towards newcomers.

Zahra, Gabriella. (2015). ***Using Sport Migration as a Passport to Economic Freedom***.

This research project studies why athletic migrants migrate from their home country. Issues related to this topic include which country do they choose to move to, and how they manage to settle down and who helped them in the process. A total of twenty nine in-depth interviews were carried out. Twenty one of these were football players with three of these being female football players. Eight of the total twenty nine participants were basketball players, of which five were female basketball players. Some of the participants were foreign athletes that migrated to Malta while other interviewees were Maltese athletes that migrated to foreign countries. Qualitative methodology was used for this research. Semi structured in-depth face-to-face interviews were carried out with the athletes who were in Malta, and online ones with those who were abroad. Each interview was recorded and later transcribed. A phenomenological approach was used to see how the participants made sense of their migratory experience. From the analysis of the data it became clear that younger and older athletes migrate for different purposes. Younger athletes migrate to pursue their dreams of playing professionally abroad, to earn more money and/or to find who they are. On the other hand, older athletes migrate to keep earning money from sports, even if it means going to play at lower levels. At the same time, older athletes migrate to countries which enable them to play and to raise a family. Gender also played a part in migration patterns. Male athletes have more opportunities to migrate than female athletes and one reason for this is that much more money is offered to male athletes rather than female athletes. This would result in females opting for a different career outside sports.

M.A. in Human Rights and Democratisation of Governance

Scerri, Noelene. (2016). **The Social Integration of Third Country Nationals through Education : A Comparative Analysis between Malta and Sweden.**

Migration, integration and education are three global phenomena which are inexorably linked together. While humans migrate from one region to another in pursuing better opportunities, education is vital to provide for the social growth of children. In fact, the right to education is fundamental to the development of individuals and society. In this dissertation this inalienable right is analysed by focusing specifically on how the right to education is applied to compulsory-aged Third Country National students in order to achieve the level of social integration that is necessary in a democratic society. Malta and Sweden provide a drastic contrast in the integration of Third Country National children through education. Before the influxes of humanitarian migrants began, especially in the last decade, both states experienced an unprecedented amount of emigrants who started returning to their home countries in the late 1970s and 1980s. The Education Acts of Malta and Sweden thus had to make a number of alterations to adapt to the changing demographics of society. This becomes a recurrent theme as reforms occur in the educational governance, and education and migration laws of both countries in order to adjust to the incessant changes in society with the in-flow of economic and humanitarian migrants. However, while in Sweden the integration policy started progressing in the 1960s after the assimilation policies were discarded in the 1950s, in Malta the integration policy is still in its early stages. With the inflow of humanitarian and economic migrants, there is more diversity in schools and thus, quality education needs to provided for all so as to prevent the high risk that TCN students face in becoming early school leavers. EU directives are analysed followed with the comparative implementation at the national levels of Malta and Sweden to determine the access that TCN students have to the right of education. Also, the national curriculum and integration educational policies of the two states are ana-

lysed. When compared to Sweden, Malta's setbacks in TCN integration in the classroom will become evident due to lack of TCN policy at the national level.

Faculty of Education

Schembri, Maria Dolores. (2014). *Exploring Muslim Parents' Perceptions and Expectations of Early Childhood Education : A Case Study*.

This dissertation probes the Muslim parents' perceptions and expectations of early childhood education in Malta. With Muslims being a minority in Maltese society, Islamic views in the area of early childhood education are often overlooked. The National Curriculum Framework (2012) states that, our educational system should support "the expectations of children and their parents", and yet Catholic Religious Education is the only option available in State schools as to date. This thesis explores the views of the Muslim parents through interviews with twelve individuals who profess the Islamic faith and whose children attend the Kindergarten of Mariam Al Batool School – Malta's only Muslim school. Although this is a small scale qualitative study, of which findings, cannot be generalized, most of the parents interviewed are concerned that their children become inured to western beliefs in the State schools and consequently lose their religious identity as they progress in their educational development. With the ever increasing migration phenomenon in Europe, Islamic perceptions vary regarding educational expectations. These depend on the Muslim parents' socio-economical and educational background. However all Muslim parents agree upon one common denominator – the appropriate exposure to the Islamic faith in a western educational environment, which they feel, currently offers no provision for children to practice their Muslim religious beliefs in mainstream schools.

Department of International Relations

Cachia, Bernadette. (2013). *Malta's Border Control with Regard to Irregular Migration from Africa to the EU : An Evaluation*.

The last decade of the 20th century has been marked by periodic waves of irregular migrants traversing the Central Mediterranean Region, from North Africa to the European Union. The latter had to deal with undocumented migrants that could potentially threaten the security system of this supra-national state. Malta serves as a pivotal gateway at the Southern borders of Europe serving in most cases as a temporary hub for these 'boat people'. This entails irregular migrants who seek entry within any EU territory. Throughout the past years, particularly since 2002, Malta was highly sensitive to the flow of irregular migration. In view of its economic vulnerability, demographic pressures and geostrategic position, irregular migration posed acute border control and security challenges. Malta's efforts in tackling the issues of irregular migrants need to be directly backed up by the EU agency Frontex as well as securing the cooperation of states along the North African littoral, particularly of Libya. The scope of this thesis is to provide an overview of the assets and developments contributing to Malta's border control. An evaluation is carried out regarding the strength and weaknesses of Malta's border security strategy in ensuring security to the EU's southern borders. The Mediterranean Sea, which by tradition acted as both unifier as well as a barrier to its respective cultures, is still presenting novel challenges to regional security to be resolved.

Camilleri, Alison. (2016). *The Impact of EU Foreign Policy on Small Member States : Analysing the Case of Malta and Cyprus*.

This dissertation was inspired by the limited research existing in the field in spite of the fact that both Malta and Cyprus have been Member States of the European Union (EU) for the past twelve years. This work has, in fact, been undertaken to address this gap in literature, with the aim being that of

analysing the impact of EU foreign policy on the national foreign policy of Malta and Cyprus. This analysis commences with a historical overview of Malta and Cyprus' foreign policy and a special focus on their relations with the EU. This is followed by two case studies which aim at presenting a comprehensive and comparative analysis on the impact of EU Membership, particularly with respect to EU foreign policy sensu lato, national foreign policy institutions and procedures and foreign policy substance. The first case study relates to Malta and Cyprus' accession to the EU, with the analysis focusing on the impact of the transposition and implementation of the acquis communautaire on national foreign policy. The second case study analyses the impact of EU membership on Malta and Cyprus post-2004. In order to ensure a comprehensive analysis, this case study employs a sector-specific approach, featuring the two most important foreign policy priorities for Malta and Cyprus: Irregular Migration for Malta and the Cyprus Problem respectively. The analysis conducted in the case studies is carried out in light of the over-arching concept of Europeanization. The latter theory assists in presenting a framework on the impact of EU foreign policy on the national foreign policy of Malta and Cyprus, doing so via three main processes: Adaptation and Policy Convergence, National Projection and Identity Reconstruction. The case studies outline several examples of interaction within the context of EU foreign policy and how the three processes of Europeanization have diversely affected, or been utilised by, Malta and Cyprus. With this having been said, the same analysis also reveals that national foreign interests and preferences remain the primary focus of these EU Member States. The conclusions of this research aim to offer the reader a comprehensive framework of analysis on the influence and potential of small EU Member States participating in EU foreign policy.

Pace, Maria Kristina. (2015). *Migrant Rescue at Sea : A Humanitarian View of Search and Rescue in Malta*.

This study set out to determine whether international human rights obligations are relevant to, and incorporated into, the training of rescue officials working with the Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM). The study delves into the topics of migration, human rights and maritime law, and training pertaining to persons involved in rescue and border control in the Mediterranean. Dilemmas associated with national security and human security, postcolonial ties to migration, and organisational work within a fast-changing environment are also explored in relation to the AFM"s work. Literature on the topics indicates that education on human rights law would be of benefit to rescuers and border guards operating in the Mediterranean at present. The research also includes a field study, consisting of in-depth interviews with members of the AFM and representatives of external organisations working in the sphere of migration. The research findings determined that further training on human rights law is required for members of the Maritime Squadron involved in the rescue of migrants at sea. Furthermore, the study has uncovered that diverse actors working in the area of migration stand to benefit from more interagency communication in order to fill gaps in knowledge and enhance mutual understanding. The research takes an interdisciplinary, holistic approach throughout. It comes at a time which has brought together the fields of migration, humanitarian action and fundamental human rights, and its findings reflect the necessity to tackle issues pertaining to all sectors in unison.

Department of Mediterranean Studies

Gatt, Matthew. (2017). *Tracing Xenophobic Tendencies in Students with Regard to Black Migrants in Malta*.

The migration crisis which has hit Europe hard in the past couple of years seems to be far from over. Xenophobic sentiments are subsequently considered to be emerging across the continent, especially in Mediterranean EU Member States such as Greece, Italy and Malta. This thesis will attempt to analyse the levels of xenophobia exhibited by Maltese young adult students, a significant proportion of the upcoming generation of voters, with regard to black migrants in Malta. While there are a number of other minorities spread across the island, the author chose to focus on black migrants in order to acquire

more focused results. This study utilises a quantitative mode of analysis through the use of a survey in order to obtain the results needed. Apart from personal information, 250 young Maltese adults were asked to respond to 11 different questions relating to xenophobia, divided into four categories used to project sentiments towards immigrants, including —realistic threats‖, —symbolic threats‖, —intergroup anxiety and stereotyping‖, and —miscellaneous‖. Observations were then made from the results obtained. The findings show that Maltese young adults were not considered to be significantly xenophobic in their perception of black migrants. The main concerns of the respondents regarded overpopulation, diversion of public expenditure, and a change in the religious beliefs of the state. On the other hand, common positive conceptions included: black migrants as a benefit to the labour force; that stereotyping affects their perception of this cohort; and support for intermarriage. By correlating the two sets of data, the author was also able to observe that (1) Maltese female young adults showed comparatively less xenophobic tendencies, (2) that an inverse relationship existed between the level of education and the level of xenophobia, and (3) that young adults in less advantageous socioeconomic positions tended to be more xenophobic.

M.A Conflict Resolution & Mediterranean Studies

Corboy, Lauren. (2015). *Exploring the Impact of Values Education on Youth's Attitudes towards African Migrants in Malta*.

This study utilized a cross-sectional survey distributed to Maltese youth and quantitative statistical analysis to answer this question. Increasing anti-immigration sentiments throughout Europe have become even more present in Malta following the arrival of thousands of asylum-seekers from the African continent. Negative attitudes towards such migrants have become a source of prejudice and discrimination and an obstacle to the successful integration of African and Maltese communities. Participants' experience with Values Education is analyzed alongside their attitudes towards African migrants to demonstrate that Values Education is a significant driver of positive attitude formation. This study suggests that this educational approach, more so than a 'higher education' alone, is more strongly correlated to positive attitudes towards migrants. Most significantly, Values Education experiences within the classroom which emphasize the application of positive, pro-social values through concepts such as discrimination and racism are most strongly correlated to positive attitudes. It is suggested that cognitive processes of attitude formation are aided by the tendency for such concepts to move learners beyond an abstract conception of values through an emphasis on the logic and rationale behind the application of certain values over others. This may increase the likelihood that such values will be internalized. It is shown that Values Education may act to mitigate the impact of other negative attitude drivers and improve public attitudes towards migrants. As such, Values Education could serve as a potential driver of the positive attitudes necessary for the relations between these two communities to improve thereby increasing the opportunities for their successful integration. To achieve this, educational policy-makers, community leaders, and families in Malta should take note of these implications and work to harmonize and consistently emphasize Values Education activities throughout all spaces within society.

M.A Humanitarian Action

Naudi, James. (2015). *Men, Sex & Violence : Exploring Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Men in the Context of Forced Migration*.

Previous studies on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against men have mainly sought to investigate the phenomenon in peaceful scenarios and during wartime. With very rare exceptions, little to no attention has ever been paid to its perpetration in the context of forced migration. Moreover, whilst it is known that male asylum seekers in Malta, including those identified as vulnerable, are entitled to a number of services, hardly any information about the latter is available, or whether the issue is at all acknowledged in the first place. To this end, individual face-to-face in-depth interviews with five cisgender men and one transgender woman of sub-Saharan African origin and five relevant local

service providers were conducted to explore how men may be exposed to SGBV during the forced migratory process, and to investigate the extent to which key stakeholders in Malta are taking into account, in their programming efforts, the needs of SGBV-affected forced migrant men. This study finds that male forced migrants who travel northward from sub-Saharan Africa may fall victim to SGBV, the causes and effects of which vary considerably from one case to another. If not directly affected, many are compelled to witness the victimisation of their relatives or companions, both male and female. Whilst all sub-Saharan African men may be exposed to SGBV during their journey, some of them are likely, more than others, to face specific forms of it owing to certain aspects of their identity. The findings show that, at present, local service providers are not sufficiently equipped to meet the unique needs of victimised male forced migrants. This study reveals that SGBV against sub-Saharan African men is a severely underreported crime in Malta, mainly due to the stigma attached to the issue, and also the fear, particularly on the part of gay men, to open up to the authorities. Language barriers and the perceived risk of deportation upon reporting are also identified as factors contributing to this culture of silence.

Institute for European Studies

Bezzina, Claudio. (2015). *Camouflaged or Visible : A Comparative Study in the Integration of EU Migrant Adolescents within the Maltese Formal and Informal Education*.

Integration of EU migrant adolescents in formal and informal education settings is seen as a research gap in Malta. With a current local discourse of 'dumping' of these migrants within the Maltese Education System, it is felt that the research area of this thesis is a need, since it addresses the local pitfalls and possibilities for integration. The dichotomy of whether EU migrant students are camouflaged or visible in our education system is explored through interviews with Heads of school, teachers, EU migrant adolescents and informal educators. This comparative study uses a critical theoretical paradigm and a constructivist grounded theory methodology to explore the way and the extent in which these adolescents are integrated in formal and informal education structures, the factors that facilitate or hinder such integration and the perceptions of different stakeholders about integration of EU migrant adolescents. Results show that there are various factors that influence integration; however one has to consider their intersectionality. This is done by not restricting the analysis of the situation to just one factor, but to the mutual influence of all these factors. In fact, age, years of residence, nationality, ethnicity, religion, personality characteristics, migration trajectories, participation in informal and extra-curricular activities at school, friendships and language are not considered as standalone factors but as a set of factors that mutually influence the degree of integration of these adolescents in both education institutions. In addition, the study also shows that there are various strategies used by different stakeholders that helped the integration process. Nevertheless, it was observed that these strategies are not common in all schools, and perceptions about integration are both positive and negative. This is because to date there is no clear policy that guides the integration process or specific guidelines which support educators. This research suggests that there is an urgent need for a national policy about integration; together with more planning, guidance and assistance on a national level and on-going strategies in formal and informal education institutions. Further recommendations include the introduction of an integration officer in each College, pre-schooling integration practice and revised teacher-training at University which equips and trains prospective educators to teach multi-cultural classes.

Other

Galea, Paul. (2016). ***Insights into Social Empowerment through Peer and Mentoring Support of Young Adult Refugees in Malta***.

Human migration is, at present, occurring at unprecedented levels and as a result, many countries are struggling to cope. Young adult refugees are one of the largest current migrating cohorts. This study aims to offer insights into the possible empowerment of such people through peer friendship and mentoring support. Typical challenges faced by these young adults are also discussed and these issues are proposed as salient aspects that may seriously hinder integration and the possibility to lead a life with dignity in the host country. Results suggest that working within a youth cohort with access to older mentors can provide the necessary support that will give access to both bonding and bridging social capital. It is this social capital that can then provide the tools to empower the individual.

Mallia, Patricia, & Pace, Roderick. (2013). ***The Challenges of Irregular Maritime Migration***.

This contribution presents migrant smuggling by sea as a multi-faceted phenomenon. It juxtaposes State rights and duties, State security interests and protection of fundamental rights. Similarly, various branches of law, sometime contradictory, regulate irregular maritime migration. In view of these considerations, the argument is made that any effort to control the situation must lie in a cooperative initiative among States which considers migrant smuggling by sea in a holistic manner.

Zahra, Edric. (2013). ***Malta in Contemporary Human Smuggling***.

The fact that I have a military background (Officer within the Armed Forces of Malta) and have been working for the last eight years in the Maritime Environment, saving and escorting thousands of migrants at sea within the Maltese Search and Rescue Zone, has motivated my interest in the subject and in the notions of criminality that underpin this phenomenon. Having had a prima facie experience at sea, together with specialised counter migration training in Virginia, USA and Mitillini, Greece, enables me to view and understand migrants from a different perspective to that of the general public or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), who normally encounter migrants on land when they are safe. Therefore, in view of the migratory flow that Malta has been and is experiencing, the dissertation will establish why Malta, being an overpopulated island with limited resources and opportunities, may be still considered as an 'attractive' haven by some migrants. The dissertation will also take a descriptive approach to highlight and delineate the changing trends and types of boat/transport used for both inbound and outbound smuggling movements within the Maltese territorial seas. The study will also examine if Malta may be still considered as a 'dead-end road' by some migrant groups.

Other

Research Reports

Falzon, Neil, Pisani, Maria, & Cauchi, Alba. (2012). ***Research Report : Integration in Education of Third Country Nationals***.

Study into the integration of third-country national students and their families in Malta's education system, researched and drafted for the Foundation for Educational Services (FES)

Buttigieg, Sandra, Connor Podda, Marika, & International Organization for Migration. (2017). ***Migrant Integration Policy Index Health Strand : Country Report Malta***.

This report was produced within the framework of the IOM's EQUI-HEALTH project, in collaboration with Cost Action IS1103 ADAPT and the Migrant Policy Group (MPG). Full details of the research and its methodology are contained in Sections I and II of the Summary Report, which can be downloaded from the IOM website at http://bit.ly/2g0GlRd. It is recommended to consult this report for clarification of the exact meaning of the concepts used. Sections 5 – 8 are based on data from the MIPEX Health strand questionnaire, which covers 23 topics, in 10 of which multiple indicators are averaged. Each indicator is rated on a 3-point Likert scale as follows: 0 no policies to achieve equity 50 policies at a specified in-termediate level of equity 100 equitable or near-equitable policies. 'Equity' between migrants and nationals means that migrants are not disadvantaged with respect to nationals. This usually requires equal treatment, but where migrants have different needs it means that special measures should be taken for them. Scores relate to policies adopted (though not necessarily implemented) by 31st December 2014. However, some later developments may be mentioned in the text. To generate the symbols indicating a country's ranking within the whole sample, the countries were first ranked and then divided into five roughly equal groups (low score – below average – average – above average – high). It should be remembered that these are relative, not absolute scores. The background information in sections 1-4 was compiled with the help of the following sources. Where additional sources have been used, they are mentioned in footnotes or references. It should be noted that the information in WHO and Eurostat databases is subject to revision from time to time, and may also differ slightly from that given by national sources.

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality. (2015). *Female Genital Mutilation in Malta : A Research Study*.

A report addressing female genital mutilation in Malta. This report is structured as follows. Part I provides an overview of the literature on FGM. It focuses on the international, European and national context as well as on the health implications of FGM before reviewing the literature on the training of healthcare professionals. Finally, the review provides a number of country profiles focusing on countries of origin of migrants in Malta and in which FGM is a widespread phenomenon. Part II introduces the legal framework at the international, European and national level. It seeks to provide an introduction to the legal basis for action to combat FGM whilst at the same time acknowledging that the law is only a part of the framework in this regard. The relevant provisions from international and Maltese law are addressed with particular attention placed on the provisions in the Maltese criminal code introduced in 2014. Part III presents the findings from the qualitative research including both the focus group and interviews with stakeholders and communities at risk. Despite the small samples, a number of interesting observations emerge which provide insights into some of the challenges faced as well as opportunities for future measures to address FGM. Part IV presents promising practices from various countries on approaches to combat FGM. These practices could help inform the development, implementation and evaluation of measures in Malta. Part V concludes by identifying a number of running themes from the research and presenting a number of concrete and achievable recommendations.

Debono, Manwel, & Garzia, Christine. (2016). *Labour Market Integration of Asylum Seekers and Refugees - Malta*.

This report investigates the labour market integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Malta. It focuses on the role played by the public employment service in assisting different types of migrants, and the latter's access to active labour market policies. The report examines the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees, and the benefits and support they receive. Finally, the report explores the involvement of social partners and the overall coordination of the labour market integration of these migrants.

Occasional Papers

Fernandez, Berta, University of Malta. Institute for European Studies, & Pace, Roderick. (2014). ***Migration and Asylum : The Movement of People in the Mediterranean Region - Future Scenarios and the EU Response***.

In recent years, the global discussion on migration and asylum has evolved from polarization of perspectives and mistrust, to improving partnerships and fostering cooperation between countries and regions. The paradigm has shifted from control and security exclusively to an increased awareness of the ramifications of migration in development and labour markets, the increasing demographic gap1 and the dangers of exclusion faced by migrant workers (regular or irregular). Eastern Europe will suffer the biggest population decline in the coming years, and Nigeria's population will reach one billion by 2100. In Europe, the work replacement ratio will be two pensioners for one active worker. It has become clear that these facts cannot be ignored and that there is a need for greater convergence of policies (migration/mobility, fundamental rights, and economic growth), with a migrant-centred approach.2. The assumption that Europe will remain a geopolitical and economic hub that attracts immigrants at all skill levels might not hold water in the long run. The evolving demographic and economic changes have made it evident that the competitiveness of the EU (Europe 2020 Strategy) is also at stake, particularly if an adaptable workforce with the necessary skills is not secured in view of shortfalls in skill levels and because of serious labour mismatches. Therefore, it is the right moment to develop more strategic and long-term migration policies that take into account the evolving position of Europe and its neighbours in the world. By the same token, labour market strategies that meet needs and promote integration of regular migrants are still a pending task for the Member States (MS) in terms of the free movement of people, but also in relation with neighbouring and partner countries.

Editorials

Martinelli, Victor, & Calleja Ragonesi, Isabelle. (2013). ***Malta Review of Educational Research [Editorial]***.

Short editorial describing the articles in this issue, which are a result of a number of papers presented at a conference that was held in Malta in December 2011 on Islands and Migration organized by the MIRIADE Network (A Network of researchers working on Irregular Migration in European Islands) and the Department of International Relations at the University of Malta.