

Date	Venue	Time	Activity
<p>To commemorate the International Day of Dyslexia, The Malta Dyslexia Association in collaboration with the Department of Counselling within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta, is organizing a conference on Thursday 6th and Saturday 8th November 2014. The conference will open on the Thursday at 17:00 with a key note speech by Dr Tilly Mortimore <u><i>Dyslexia and Inclusion: from Secondary School to University</i></u> and will continue on Saturday morning with a video forum on self empowerment and self advocacy by a group of youngsters with dyslexia, presentations of local practices, research presentations by Dr Rachael Agius, Professor Helen Grech and Dr Victor Martinelli and a series of seven workshops out of which participants may choose two. The themes of the workshops are as follows:</p>			
1	Recognition - an alternative way to promote early reading motivation		Margaret Evans
2	Understanding Assessment Reports and Plans of Actions		Juan Camilleri & Ruth Falzon
3	Supporting the secondary school students with dyslexia		SpLD Services
4	Supporting the primary school students with dyslexia		SpLD Services
5	How do I manage my child's anxiety? Cognitive Behavioural Techniques (CBT) for parents.		Claire Francica
6	Parental Empowerment and Self Advocacy		Mary Rose Formosa et al.
7	Using the Kurzweil		Henri Miceli & Miguel Herrera Elena Tanti Burlo
<p>Dr Ruth Falzon & Ms Claire Francica Conference organisers</p>			

Fees	
Thursday Afternoon only: € 30	Contact: 79887744 E mail: maryrose.formosa@gmail.com
Saturday whole day only: € 40	Please send your registration form and payment to:
Thursday and Saturday: € 50	Malta Dyslexia Association PO Box 04 St Julians ADDRESS
Conference Fee includes Coffee breaks, Thursday reception and Saturday Lunch	Registration deadline: November 1st, 2014
Please note that no registration form will be accepted without the relevant payment.	Please go to MDA facebook for the relevant registration form https://www.facebook.com/MaltaDyslexiaAssociation PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Directorate for
Quality and Standards in Education

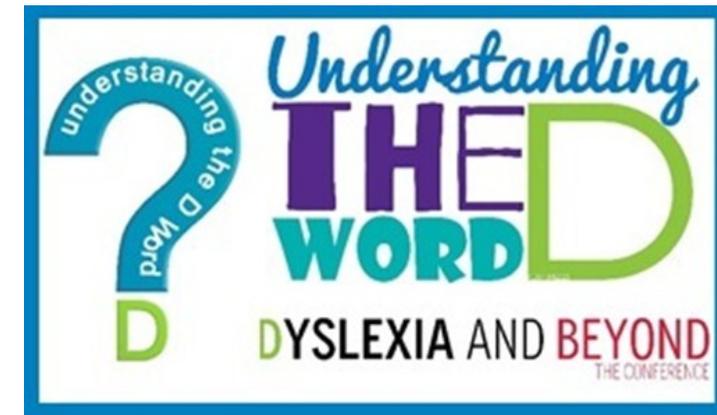


MALTA DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
Faculty for Social Wellbeing
Department of Counselling

MDA 2014 Conference



Thursday 6/11/2014
Saturday 8/11/2014
ST AGATHA'S COLLEGE RABAT



Personal Statement: DR TILLY MORTIMORE

Having taught English and drama in a comprehensive school in England, I moved into special education and set up and ran the English departments at two UK secondary specialist schools for dyslexic learners. In 2002 I started a part time PHD at Cardiff University and moved to take on the role of Distance Learning Course Director, revising and re-launching the Hornsby Distance Learning Courses, post-graduate training programmes to prepare professionals to work with dyslexic learners of all ages. I joined the School of Education in Southampton University in 2005 to lecture on PG MSc courses in dyslexia and on inclusion for initial teacher education and moved to Bath Spa University in 2007 where I developed a popular and Rose Review funded

suite of Master's level modules in SpLD/dyslexia leading to a PG Dip or Master's in SpLD/dyslexia. The second edition of my book "Dyslexia and Learning Style: A practitioner's handbook" (2008), provided an outline of current research into both dyslexia and learning style and offers a range of practical ways of helping teachers and students to make the most of their particular learning preferences. I also co-authored with Jane Dupree, *Dyslexia Friendly Practice in the Secondary Classroom* (2008). I have contributed articles and chapters to edited texts on social and educational inclusion, transition, learning style and inclusive practice across the full range of educational institutions. My research interests include dyslexia, inclusion, learner identity, approaches to learning and multi-lingual children with English as an Additional Language. I lead the Bath Spa research Centre for Inclusion and Vulnerable Learners and I am interested in a broad range of vulnerable learners at secondary and post compulsory education levels. I have wide practical experience and involvement with the development of literacy and its cognitive underpinnings in terms of sub-skills of reading and writing and the development of higher order literacy skills and teaching of secondary school English. I also continue to be fascinated by cognitive and learning style, memory and the role played by meta-cognition and the emotions in learning. My initial research projects focused upon the higher education sector, examining the impact of dyslexia and disability within higher education. In 2010, however, in partnership with Dr Kate Saunders of the British Dyslexia Association, we won substantial funding from the Big Lottery and completed in 2012 the mixed methodology project *Dyslexia and Multilingualism*. This explores identification and intervention practices for bilingual children with EAL who might be at risk of dyslexia. We have trained and supported SENCos and Teaching assistants in the delivery and monitoring of support for these bilingual learners and the findings of the project are informing teaching and assessment for bilingual children across the UK. Internationally, I have worked with Erasmus inclusion projects and in South Africa, I have supported the development of SpLD training courses, delivered keynote presentations at conferences and ran rural and township workshops for teachers in between 2004 and 2013 and . Over the past 24 five years, I have worked individually with dyslexic students of all ages, lectured internationally and provided consultancy support and in-service training on dyslexia, literacy, speech and language difficulties and learning style in a range of educational settings including Higher Education Institutions.

About the Speakers

Dr Rachael Agius is a Speech-Language Pathologist who works for the Ministry of Health and specialises in Specific Language Difficulties. She is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta, worked in America Glasgow and Finland as part of EU project on Literacy and Bilingualism. As part of the Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D) on Literacy and Bilingualism she has developed a dyslexia diagnostic assessment battery for Maltese children.

Mr Juan Camilleri is a registered educational psychologist and works as a full-time private practitioner with a focus on psycho-educational assessments with relevant school and home follow-up, interventions and consultations. He also specialised in the area of literacy with an M.Ed from the University of Sheffield. He lectures psychology and education students on matters related to child development, education, literacy and inclusion at the University of Malta.

.....About the Speakers

Ms Rebecca Debattista has a M. Ed. in Learning Disabilities and Behaviour Disorders from the University of Texas at Austin. She is the Literacy Leader at a local independent school, working primarily with pupils with dyslexia and reading difficulties. She is driven to inspire a love of the written and spoken word in all children.

Dyslexic Teens' Dialogue is a group of youths with dyslexia working on self-empowerment & advocacy for other students with dyslexia on issues of social inclusion & social justice.

Dr Margaret Evans works for Local Government in the UK as a Senior Educational Psychologist where she designs individual interventions for those who lack phonological awareness or have poor reading skills. In partnership with Angele Galea, she has developed a multi-lingual reading scheme based on sound scientific research. Her presentation will explain why people have difficulties with reading acquisition and how alternative teaching/learning methods can improve reading skill for all.

Dr Ruth Falzon is a lecturer within the Department of Counselling at the University of Malta. Her areas of expertise include Personal and Social Education, Inclusion, Specific Learning Difficulties and self empowerment and ethnography.

Dr. Christine Firman is a founder member of the Malta Dyslexia Association. She contributed to the foundation of the SpLD Service (DQSE). Christine carried out research on the predictors of literacy and bilingualism for her doctoral research and has been an invited speaker at many international conferences. She was a member of the LangSEN (Graz), Adult Literacy (Grundtvig) and COST Working groups. She co-ordinated the first post-graduate course for teachers of learners with dyslexia at UoM. She co-ordinated the national spelling tests in Maltese and English. She is an Education Officer and a Senior Visiting Lecturer (UoM).

Ms Claire Francica is a Dyslexia Specialist whose preferred area of interest is supporting the post-secondary student in literacy skills. She is also a certified Play Therapist and is currently reading a Doctorate in Counselling Psychology and Existential Psychotherapy.

Dr Jason E. Gauci, a founding member of the Malta Association for professionals in Learning Difficulties, has been working in the field of Dyslexia for the past 22 years. Co-author of the book on adult literacy 'Nibdew mill-Lum' (2004) and author 'Auditory processing Skills' (2010). and 'Literacy acquisition skills in first graders' (2014), a national research study undertaken by him and the Literacy team from the secretariat for Catholic Education.

Professor Helen Grech is the Head of the Department of Communication Therapy, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Malta and is the current President of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP). She is a practising educational audiologist and speech-language pathologist. Professor Grech was awarded a Marie Curie Intra-European Research Fellowship during which she standardised a speech and language assessment for Maltese children.

Mr Miguel Herrera is a psychology graduate who has been using Assistive Learning software for the last year. He will be providing hands-on knowledge and experience on the use of Assistive learning software.

Dr Victor Martinelli is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education of the University of Malta. His research interests include dyslexia, learning difficulties, literacy and assessment issues generally. He currently coordinates the training course for teachers of learners with specific learning difficulties/dyslexia and compiled a number of locally normed literacy assessments. He is also a practising school/educational psychologist.

Henri Miceli is an IT Specialist working at MITA and has been working in the IT industry for 20 years. He has recently graduated in Psychology at the University where he wrote his undergraduate search study on the impact of technology in the classroom. In the last year and a half he has been working with students with dyslexia

Ms Carmen Muscat, MDA chair, is currently Head of Inclusive Education and Literacy at a local independent school. She has worked in the field for over 30-years. She is also a part-time University Lecturer, has published as well as developed an Early Literacy Programme using multi-sensory techniques (M-Power) and a Cursive Handwriting Programme.

Dr Elena Tantù Burlò is Senior lecturer, Unit for Inclusion and Access to Learning, Faculty of Education at the University of Malta, Vice president and Director for Support at Equal Partners Foundation. She is also an active proposer for assisted technology as part of Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

The Parent Group, parents of the DTD youth group, have attended seminars, talks and research on how to best support their children. The encouragement received from each other through sharing of experiences has empowered them to reach out to other parents through television and radio programmes and during lectures at the University of Malta.

The SpLD Services provides a service for dyslexic children and identifies SpLD of children referred to it, as well as offers training and support to professionals and parents.