

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

## Dr Dione Mifsud



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Sex Male | Date of birth 11/01/1963 | Nationality Maltese

## WORK EXPERIENCE

August 2012 – to date

**Head of Department**

Department of Counselling, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

September 2013 – to date

**Coordinator – Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling (T. Couns)**

Department of Counselling, University of Malta in collaboration with the University of New Orleans (USA)

June 2010 – to date

**Coordinator – Master of Arts in Transcultural Counselling (T. Couns)**

University of Malta Coordinator

Dual degree with the University of Maryland, College Park (USA)

May 2007 – to date

**Coordinator – Master in Counselling (M. Couns)**

Department of Counselling, University of Malta (Previously offered by Department of Psychology)

November 2009 – July 2012

**Head of Department**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

July 2009 – October 2009

**Acting Head of Department**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

April 2009 – April 2010

**Coordinator – Bachelor in Psychology (Honours) (B. Psy. Hons)**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

October 2006 – November 2009

**Counselling Unit Coordinator**

Counselling Services Unit, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080

- 2001 - 2002 **Coordinator – Personal and Social Education Programme**  
Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080
- 1996 - 2006 **Counsellor**  
Counselling Services Unit, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080
- 1990 - 1996 **Guidance Teacher**  
Umberto Colosso Trade School, St. Venera SVR 1013
- 1987 - 1996 **Teacher**  
Umberto Colosso Trade School, St. Venera SVR 1013

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**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- 2004 - 2009 **Doctor of Education (Narrative and Life Story Research)** Level 8  
University of Bristol, United Kingdom  
Dissertation: Bastions and Rubble Walls – Counselling Ethics in a Context of Limited Physical Space
- 2004 **European Certificate in Psychotherapy** Level 7  
  - European Training Institutes Committee with the European Association for Psychotherapy
- 2002 - 2005 **Master of Science in Counselling (Distinction)** Level 7  
University of Bristol, United Kingdom  
  - Counselling / Psychotherapy – Supervision, Training and Management  
Dissertation: Inside the Oracle’s Chamber – Counselling Supervision in a Maltese Context
- 2001 **Certificate in Middle Management** Level 4  
Malta University Services (MUS), University of Malta, Malta
- 1996 – 2000 **Diploma in Gestalt Psychotherapy** Level 7  
Gestalt Psychotherapy Training Institute Malta (GPTIM)
- 1993 - 1995 **Diploma in School Counselling** Level 7  
University of Malta, Malta
- 1990 **Certificate in Diplomatic Studies** Level 4  
University of Malta, Malta

1982 - 1987 **Bachelor in Education (Honours)** Level 6

University of Malta, Malta

- Primary Specialisation – History
- Secondary Specialisation – Teaching Early and Middle Years

Dissertation: The Rebellion of the Knights Against Grandmaster La Cassiere

## VOCATIONAL

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**Teaching** Professional Teacher (Warrant No.2522)  
History / Social Studies Teacher (1987 – 1996)  
Guidance Teacher (1990 – 1996)

**Counselling** Professional Counsellor (Warrant No. 1)  
University Counsellor (1996 – 2009)  
Head Of Counselling Services-University of Malta 2006-2009  
Freelance Counsellor and Psychotherapist (2000 – to date)  
Preferred client group: young adults, university students and couples  
Preferred modalities: Integrative and Humanistic Counselling, Gestalt and Narrative approaches

**Psychotherapy** Freelance Psychotherapist (Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine: Registration No. 9)

**Counselling Training and Supervision**

Interests: supervision and training of individuals and small groups, counselling and psychotherapy, counselling ethics.

**Lecturing:**

- Counselling Ethics and Professional Issues
- Group Dynamics
- Small Group and Interpersonal Communication
- Group Skills
- Helping Skills
- Career Education, Guidance and Counselling
- Sensitivity Training
- Philosophical Psychology
- Professional Ethics and Standards
- Basic Counselling Research Methods
- Advanced Counselling Research Methods
- Narrative Research
- Ethnographic Research
- Brief Counselling in Family Practice
- Interpersonal Awareness and the Professional Teacher
- Psychology of Adjustment
- Counselling Supervision
- Introduction and Philosophy of Counselling
- Career Counselling
- Personal and Group Development
- Standards and Ethics in Counselling
- Qualitative Data Analysis

Dissertation Supervisor and Examiner: Dissertation Reader and Supervisor at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Economics, Banking and Accountancy, Faculty for Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Faculty of Arts, and Centre for Labour Studies.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****Additional Responsibilities at University****University of Malta**

- Elected member on the Council of the University of Malta (2013 – 2015)
- Member on the Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing (Ex Officio as Head of the Department of Counselling (2012 – to date)
- Member on the PhD Committee of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing (2012 – to date)
- Member on the Strategic Board of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing (2012 – 2016)
- Member on the Board of the Faculty of Education (Ex Officio as Head of the Department of Psychology) (2009 – 2012). Member on the Strategic Committee of the Faculty of Education (2009 – 2012)
- Member on the International Students Welfare Committee (2006 – 2007)
- Member on the Aegrotat Degrees Senate Sub Committee, University of Malta (2006)
- Special Advisor for Harassment and Bullying (2015-to date)

Work with Professional  
Associations

*International Association for Counselling (IAC)*

- President (2016-to date)
- President (2014-2016)
- President (2012 – 2014)
  
- President Elect (2010 – 2012)
- Member on the Executive Council (2008 – 2010)
- Chair of the Organising Committee of the 2008 IAC Conference in Malta
- Attended the following Conferences:
  - Promoting Wellness Across the Lifespan  
Cork, Ireland (2007)
  - Counselling: A Means of Bridging Differences  
Qawra, Malta (2008)
  - Counselling and the Challenge of Social Transformation: Promoting Dignity  
Across the Lifespan  
Warick, United Kingdom (2009)
  - Counselling for a World in Crisis  
Bucharest, Romania (2010)
  - No Nation Left Behind: Challenges and Opportunities of Counselling and  
Education for All  
Montego Bay, Jamaica (2011)
  - Counselling and the Advancement of Human Rights  
Manila Philippines (2012)
  - Counseling and Technology Use: Real Lives, Virtual Contexts  
Istanbul, Turkey (2013)

**Work with Professional Associations***Malta Association for the Counselling Profession (MACP)*

- Consultant (2010 – to date)
- Fellow (2010 – to date; the first fellow of the association)
- Involved in discussions to draft the Bill Regulating Counselling as a Profession (2008 – to date)
- President (2006 – 2008)
- Involved in establishing counselling as a profession in Malta (2002 – to date)
- Vice President (2002 – 2006; 2010 – 2012)
- Member on the Executive Committee (2002 – 2012)
- Chair of the Organising Committee of the 2008 IAC Congress in Malta (2008)
- Chairperson, Board of Review of Counsellors' Code of Ethics (2004 – 2007)
- National Delegate on the European Association for Counselling Boards (2006)
- Represented MACP at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Athens, Greece (2006)
- Attended the following Training Weeks:
  - Counselling Young People – The Ethical Challenges (2004)
  - Working with Survivors of Child Abuse (2005)
  - Narrative Approaches in the Helping Professions (2006)
  - Dual Relationships, Fetters or Freedom – Exploring the Limits (2007)
  - Counselling: A Means of Bridging Differences (2008)
  - Overcoming Barriers and Creating Synergy (2008)
  - Keeping the Family in Perspective: Thinking Child, Thinking Family (2009)
  - Addressing Current Issues in Counselling: Trauma and Youth at Risk (2010)
  - Fighting Roadblocks of the Mind – Crosscurrents in Mental Health (2011)
  - Reality Therapy and Choice Liberty (2012)
  - Boundaries and Spaces: Creating a Framework for Well-Being (2013)

*American Counselling Association (ACA)*

- International Member
- Attended the following Conferences:
  - Charlotte NC, ACA Conference & Expo (2009)
    - I was invited to deliver the Hans Hoxter Keynote Speech: Bastions and Rubble Walls: Counselling Ethics in a Context of Limited Space
  - San Francisco CA, ACA Conference & Expo (2012)
  - Cincinnati OH, ACA Conference & Expo (2013)
  - Honolulu HA, ACA Conference & Expo (2014)

## European Association for Counselling (EAC)

- Athens, Greece 2006: Presented
- Geneva, 2012 (Presented)

*Malta Association of Psychotherapists (MAP)*

- MAP Secretary (2001 - 2003)
- Represented MAP and GPTIM at the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychotherapy in Moscow, Russia (2001) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress in Vienna, Austria (2002)

- EU Projects *Europlat (European Psychology Learning & Teaching)*
- Involved in Europlat for three year
  - Took part in the following projects:
    - EUROPLAT: PLAT 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland (July 2010)
    - EUROPLAT Conference and Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey (July 2011)
    - European Psychology Learning and Teaching Conference, Vilnius University, Lithuania (June 2012)

- EU Projects *NICE Network Career Counselling Group*
- Cont'd
- Attended The Fourth Network Conference in Istanbul, Turkey (May 2013)
  - Attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Network Conference in Canterbury UK (September 2015)

International Invitations *Invited By University of Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) To deliver keynote and visit facilities. October 2016.*

*Universita' di Verona. Appointed Examiner of Dottorato di Ricerca- Manila Franzini April 2016*

*Federcounseling- Keynote speech in Arcore-Milan March 2016*

*A.N.C.O.R.E. Rome- Keynote speech*

*International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG)*

I was invited by IAEVG to their World Conference in Mannheim, Germany (October 2012)

*February 2011 – Appointed examiner of four Dottorato di Ricerca candidates by the Università di Sassari, Sardegna*

- Nieddu Giuseppina: Tra Attualismo e Neoscolastica
- Pinna Mariella: Rapporti tra Etica ed Economia in una Prospettiva di Consumo Critico
- Sotgiu Sergio: Filosofia della Storia e Filosofia della Religione nel Pensiero di Giuseppe Rensi
- Zucca Daniele: Il Counselling nella Relazione di Aiuto: Verifica di un Training Sperimentale per lo Sviluppo dell'Autoefficacia e delle Lifeskills con Studenti Universitari

*November 2009 – Three week-long seminars on counselling skills in three Saudi Arabian universities: King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, King Khalid University in Abha and King Saud University in Riyadh. I was invited to introduce counselling to academics in Saudi Arabian universities through these seminars.*

*October 2012 – As President of IAC, I was invited by the European Association for Counselling (EAC) to its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.*

Organisation of Research  
Conference and Summer  
Schools

*Research Conferences:*

- Department of Psychology Research Conference (16 – 17th March 2012)
- 1st National Counselling Research Conference (15th February 2014)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Counselling Research Conference (5-6 May 2015)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> National Counselling Research Conference (February 2016)
- 4<sup>th</sup> National Counselling Research Conference (March 2017)

*Summer Schools:*

- 1st Summer School in Transcultural Counselling (7 – 10th July 2011) to inaugurate the Dual Degree in Transcultural Counselling
- 2nd Summer School in transcultural counselling (5 – 12th July 2012)
- 3rd Summer School in Adlerian Counselling (8 – 19th July 2012)

Presented Papers at  
International  
Conferences

*Keynote Speeches:*

- Graduation Oration 2016
- Continuando a Crescere Verona Italy 2016
- Sarawak 2016
- Federcounseling: Milan 2016
- Ancore Rome 2016
- Counselling as a Means of Liberation: Reflections and the Role of IAC. IAC World Conference, Century Park Hotel, Manila, the Philippines (16<sup>th</sup> May 2012)
- Hans Hoxter Keynote Lecture: *Bastions and Rubble Walls: Counselling Ethics in a Context of Limited Physical Space* (American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina, United States (19-24<sup>th</sup> March 2009)
- Bejn il-Psikologija u r-Religjon- Il-Konverzjoni. Lejliet ta' Kultura u Fidi, Oratorju tal-Konkatedral ta' San Gwann, (13<sup>th</sup> March 2009)

*In Preparation:*

- A Tale of Bells, Knells and Smells: The historical journey of counselling in Malta. To be presented at the first National Counselling Research Conference, Malta.



Presented Papers at  
International  
Conferences

*Presented Papers:*

- International Counsellors and Counselling in the 21st Century: Reflections and the Role of IAC. IAC World Conference, Istanbul, Turkey (9<sup>th</sup> September 2013)
- (With R. Falzon) Listening to the Children. Psychology Research Conference, Dolmen Hotel, Bugibba, Malta (17<sup>th</sup> March 2012)
- (With E. Tanti Burlo') Graduate Psychologists and Work Opportunities. Transcultural Counselling Summer School, Valletta Campus, Malta (6<sup>th</sup> July 2012)
- (With R. Falzon) - The Therapeutic Value of Performance Ethnography. Transcultural Counselling Summer School, Valletta Campus, Malta (7<sup>th</sup> July 2012)
- Ethics in the Counsellor's Experience. Transcultural Counselling Summer School, Valletta Campus, Malta (8<sup>th</sup> July 2012)
- Mifsud, D. (2010). Bastions and Rubble Walls: Counselling Ethics in a Context of Limited Geographical Space (2010). Presented at the International Conference for Qualitative Inquiry, University of Urbana Champagne, Illinois, United States (27-29<sup>th</sup> May 2010)
- Falzon, R. and Mifsud, D. (2010) Narratives of Lives of Adults with Dyslexia (2010). Presented at the International Conference for Qualitative Inquiry, University of Urbana Champagne, Illinois, United States (27-29<sup>th</sup> May 2010)
- Tanti Burlo' E., & Mifsud D. (2010) Teaching Psychology in Malta, presented at PLAT 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland
- Mifsud, D. (2010). Counselling in Malta- What Future? Concluding Speech at the MACP Conference, Dolmen Hotel, Qawra, Malta (16<sup>th</sup> October 2010)
- Bastions and Rubble Walls- Counselling Ethics in a small Island, Keynote Speech, American Counselling Association, Charlotte, NC, United States (21<sup>st</sup> March 2009)
- Narrative of Life Stories of Dyslexic Persons, IAC Conference, Warwick, United Kingdom (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009)
- PSD and Clowning – Similarities and Differences, IAC Conference, Warwick, United Kingdom (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009)
- Living in an apartment block – Counselling ethics in a small community: Presentation to Master's and Doctoral Students, Benjamin Building, University of Maryland, College Park, United States (25<sup>th</sup> March 2009)
- Counselling ethics in Malta: Presentation to Faculty of Social Sciences Staff: University of Maryland College Park, United States (25<sup>th</sup> March 2009)
- Damaged Rubble Walls – A Portrait of a Silent Man – 3<sup>rd</sup> Qualitative Inquiry Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Illinois, United States (May 2007)
- A Multi-Cultural Collective Biography – 3<sup>rd</sup> Qualitative Inquiry Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Illinois, United States (May 2007)
- Inside the Oracle's Chamber – The Experience of Counselling Supervision in a Maltese Context – EAC Conference, Athens, Greece (2006)
- Investigating Cultural differences-a Methodological Pilot of Narrative Inquiry using Creative Dialogue – BACP Conference, Nottingham, United Kingdom (2005)

- Publications**
- Looking down from a wooden balcony. A study of voluntary celibacy in Malta in Trahar, S (2012) 'Contextualising Narrative Inquiry: Developing Methodological Approaches for Local Contexts'. Routledge.
  - Malta's counselling in a context of limited personal space. In Zucca, D. (2012) Counselling e Orientamento nel Contesto Universitario. Edizioni Junior.
  - Lauri, M.A., Cordina, M. Lauri, Mifsud, D. (2010). Making the right choice for a career in Pharmacy: The need for guidance and counselling in preparation for tertiary education.
  - Inside the Oracle's Chamber. The Experience of Counselling Supervision in a Maltese Context. Siberian Psychological Magazine, Issue 30 (2008)
  - With Bond, T. 'Narrative conversations between two cultures: a novel approach to addressing an ethical concern'. In: Trahar, S. Narrative Research on Learning: Comparative and International Perspectives. Oxford: Symposium Books, May 2006

*In print:*

- Transnational and transcultural encounters in counselling on an ancient island: Learning and Teaching: The International Journal of Higher Education in the Social Sciences (Latiss).

**Publications** *In preparation:*

- The Architecture of Rubble Walls: Professional Confidentiality in Counselling
- I know I can do it: Listening to the narratives of life histories of dyslexic persons
- Drama, Performance Ethnography and self-esteem: Listening to youngsters and their parents.

*Academic Reviews:*

- 'Education and Career Choice A new Model of Decision Making' British educational and Research Journal (BERJ) Volume 34, Issue 2, pages 294–297, April 2008.
- 'Creative storytelling with children at risk', British Journal of Guidance and Counselling, 33, (1) 143-144 (2005).

**Membership in Scientific Committees**

- Member on the Scientific Committee of the International Conference of the International Association for Counselling, Bucharest, Romania (April 2010)
- Member on the Scientific Committee of the World Conference International Association for Counselling, Montego Bay, Jamaica. (June 2011)
- Member on the Scientific Committee of the World Conference of the International Association for Counselling, Istanbul, Turkey. (September 2013)
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the World Conference of the International Association for Counselling, Victoria, Canada. (May 2014)

**Consultancies** *Government of Malta*

- Elected Member on the Council for the Regulation of the Counselling Profession (March 2016-to date) Member on the Adoptions Board (2013 – to date)
- Chairman on the Board of Review for Stage and Film Classification (2012-2013)
- Member on the Ornis Committee (2006-2013)
- Member Government Board for Stage and Film Classification (1998-2013)
- Member on the Government Consultative Board for Children and Young Persons (CYPAD) (1998-2006)

- Consultancies *Office of the President of the Republic*
- Member on the Board of the Community Chest Fund (2009 – to date)

*Caritas*

- Caritas Heads of Service Support Group Facilitator/Supervisor (2004 – 2007)
- Caritas PIP programme consultant (2005 – 2007)

*Department of Education*

- Member, Academic Equivalence Board within the Department of Education (2005 – 2006)

*Other*

- Coordinator of Family Commission, Pembroke (1992 – 2011)
- Organisation of marriage preparation courses (1992 – 2011)

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## REFEREES

- Prof. Tim Bond  
Former Head of Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol  
Graduate School of Education  
35 Berkeley Square  
Bristol, BS8 1JA  
[edtnb@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:edtnb@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Andrew Azzopardi  
Dean, Faculty for Social Wellbeing  
Room 118, Humanities B (FEMA/ FSW)  
University of Malta  
+356 2340-2339  
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- Professor Sandro Caruana  
Dean, Faculty of Education  
Room 233  
Old Humanities Building (OH)  
University of Malta  
[valerie.sollars@um.edu.mt](mailto:valerie.sollars@um.edu.mt)
- Ms Silvia Gale  
▪ President, MACP  
[president@macpmalta.org](mailto:president@macpmalta.org)