

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS (DRAFT VERSION)

Monday 10th November 2025:

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee and Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Speeches
09:30 – 10:30	Keynote Address - Constructivist Grounded Theory in Educational Research: Contexts, Considerations, and Challenges (Prof Elaine Keane)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Session 1 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 1 - Interdisciplinary Innovations in Qualitative Research) & Track 4 - Technology, Healthcare, and the Human Experience in Qualitative Research</i> <i>The Potential of LiDAR Technology in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Research: A Case Study on Practical Applications - Czesław Suchocki</i> <i>The use of behavioral data from telecommunications networks in the Smart City concept – a review of existing research results in the process of determining mobility patterns - Robert Solnica, Danuta Zawadzka</i> <i>Bridging Technology and Human Experience: Perspectives on AI-Driven Sustainability in the Blue Economy - Naser Zaeri</i> <i>Footstep Piezoelectric Energy Harvesting in Cybersecured IoT-Enabled Greenhouses - Fatma Abou Elhassan, Dania Abdelsami, Sara Thaher, Salsabeel Jarrah, Gzlan Mansour, Zainab Abu Alhasan, Remya Nair, Kareem Maree, Mohamed Trabelsi, Basil Al Othman, Nader Shehata</i> <i>Human-Centered Thermal Risk Automation with PVDF Pyro/Piezoelectric Sensing: A Qualitative Multi-Site Study in Factories, Data Centers, and Greenhouses – Dania Abdelsamie, Remya Nair, Fatma Abou Elhassan, Zied Boudia, Mohamed Trabelsi, Murad Khan, Nader Shehata</i> <i>Bridging Migration and Security Studies: A Qualitative Analysis of Border Militarisation - Dominika Liszkowska</i> <i>AI in Small Organizations Core Value Chain Alignment: Guiding Artificial Intelligence Towards Human and Organizational Goals - Daren Scerri</i> <i>Exploring Strategy, Logistical Processes, and Access to Medicines in Malta's Public Sector Pharmaceutical Distribution: A Grounded Theory Study - Bernardette Scerri Rossi</i>



13:00 – 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 – 15:15	Session 2 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 2 - Qualitative Research in Education, Social Sciences, and Policy</i> • <i>Exploring Middle Leadership Landscapes: Perceived Roles and Responsibilities of Assistant Heads in Gozitan Secondary Schools - Robert Vella, Anabelle Mercieca</i> • <i>Linkages Between Higher Learning Provision and Innovation - Robert Cassar</i> • <i>Immigrant students and their sense of belonging in the Maltese community through sports activities - Julia Cassar, Isabelle Zammit</i> • <i>GenAI in Education: Fostering Ethical and Critical Engagement Among Educators and Learners - Ivan De Battista, Cassandra Sturgeon Delia</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:30	Session 3 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 2 - Qualitative Research in Education, Social Sciences, and Policy (continuation)</i> • <i>Theoretical Sampling as a Methodological Imperative: Grounded Theory Insights from an MCAST Social Care Student Placements Study - Anna Fiorentino</i> • <i>Revisiting University-Industry Collaboration in the Era of Generative Artificial Intelligence - Frankie Inguanez, Alex Rizzo, Jean-Pierre Brincat</i> • <i>Challenges of Migrant and Refugee Students' Adjustment to Vocational Higher Education in Malta: Student Mentors' Perspectives - Amanda Ann Galea, Shirley Ann Gauci</i> • <i>PE and Well-Being from the perspective of students - a participatory approach study - Anna Maria Gatt, Kyriaki Makopoulou</i> • <i>Qualitative Crossroads: Exploring Work, Policy, and People in Public Institutions - Stefanie Vella Cortis</i>
16:30	Closure

Tuesday 11th November 2025:

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee and Registration	
09:00 – 11:00	Workshops - AI-Assisted Analysis of Qualitative Data: Latest Innovations in MAXQDA (Dr Stefan Rädiker)	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	DOCTORAL DAY
11:30 – 13:00	Session 1 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion	
	Track 2 - Qualitative Research in Education, Social Sciences, and Policy - Analyzing the Socio-economic and behavioural impacts of COVID-19 vaccine mandates through Scoping Review study - Tanka Prashad Ojha - Voices in Transition: A Qualitative Inquiry into Lived Educational Experiences During Malta's SEC Examination Phase - Ian Attard - Inclusive vs. Diverse Leadership: Driving Organizational Performance at the Arab Open University - Khider Hamid Khider - Weaving Heritage into Sustainability: Intergenerational Learning for Early Childhood Teacher Education in Malta - James Carabott, Shirley Ann Gauci - Behavioral Determinants of Students' Investment Decisions and Their Implications for Financial Education - Anna Szczepańska-Przekota	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 16:00	Session 2 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion	
	Track 2 - Qualitative Research in Education, Social Sciences, and Policy (continuation)	



	• <i>Mercer CFA Global Pension Index as a tool for assessing the adequacy and sustainability of pension systems – a comparative analysis of the best and worst pension models - Krzysztof Czopik</i> • <i>Determinants of ESG funds in Poland – evidence from an XGBoost analysis - Agnieszka Moskal</i> • <i>Qualitative Approaches to Understanding Household Financial Decision-Making - Agnieszka Strzelecka</i> • <i>Pain to Purpose: A Realist Ethnography of Volunteer Motivation and Resilience in Bangladesh - Mehedi Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan</i> • <i>Sustainable development and energy efficiency in real estate valuation methodology according to the new European Valuation Standards - Joanna Cymerman</i>	DOCTORAL DAY
16:00	Closure	

Wednesday 12th November 2025:

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee and Registration
09:00 – 10:30	Session 1 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 3 - Business, Media, Arts and Cultural Perspectives in Qualitative Research</i> • <i>AI and new technologies in local journalism in Poland and Germany: Qualitative approach - Krzysztof Wasilewski, Hanna Tsesta, Yvonne Zajontz</i> • <i>Crafting a Digital Fashion Heritage: Weaving Narratives and Exploring Digital Technologies in Fashion Heritage Preservation - Rozela Franco</i> • <i>Bridging Business, Media, and Cultural Insights Through Qualitative Research - Hakan Çora, Michael Dylan Castle</i> • <i>Between Culture and Clicks: Social Media Identity of GCC Youth - Batal Almutairi</i> • <i>Understanding Employee Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility at Arab Open University – Kuwait: A Qualitative Case Study - Mohammad Alajmi</i> • <i>Learning Beyond the Hard Skills: Stakeholder Attitudes to Soft Skills Training in Maltese Small and Micro Businesses - Ilaria Spiteri Axiak</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00	Session 2 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 3 - Business, Media, Arts and Cultural Perspectives in Qualitative Research (continuation)</i> • <i>Understanding Financial-Decision Making in Malta's Property Industry - Josette Bonnici</i> • <i>Enablers and Challenges faced by Female Entrepreneurs of Small Businesses in Malta. A Grounded Theory Study - Theresa Demanuele Montebello</i> • <i>Challenges and Barriers Faced by Leaders within Small Family-Owned Businesses in a Small Island State: A Grounded Theory Approach - Mary Rose Mifsud</i> • <i>Environmental aspects of ESG reporting and corporate financial performance – a systematic literature review - Krzysztof Dziadek</i> • <i>The importance of financial instruments supporting academic research and innovative entrepreneurship (ARIE) in creating Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policies aimed at innovation in European Union countries - Danuta Zawadzka</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 16:30	Workshop - An Introduction to Constructivist Grounded Theory (Prof Elaine Keane)
16:30 – 17:00	Closure