

# Gender and Culture

## explorations through fieldwork

a thematic unit of the  
Off the Beaten Track field school 2019



### General Information

Gender concerns all of us. It is an inherent part of human life, through which cultural phenomena like social norms and relations, place and space, ethnicity or globalization, can be revealed and discussed. In different cultural arenas, anthropologists encounter a wide range of gender issues in everyday practices, which intersect with race, class, nationality, sexuality and other social identities. Together, these constellations shape our understanding of others and their local contexts. How does gender permeate in daily life? How does gender interact with religious belief systems and other aspects of human society? How do our personal experiences as researchers impact on our interpretation and analysis of local gender issues?

This thematic unit aims to collectively unpack the concept of gender by exploring the possibilities, limits and positionalities that arise from ethnographic fieldwork on gender-related topics on the islet of Gozo (Malta). Tailor-made exercises and discussions will support you during 3 weeks of fieldwork about a gender-related topic of your choice, while you will also take part in building a safe space where gender-issues can be shared and reflected upon.

### Goals

- Enhance your ethnographic skills, such as note-taking, participant observation and interview.
- Explore the potential of different ways of representation in research.
- Discover how your own life experiences are related to gender and discover your positionality as a researcher.
- Increase your sensitivity for the omnipresence of gender as expressed in discourse, narratives, symbols, and place and space.

### Directed at

Everybody who is interested in the topic is welcome to apply. No previous research experience is needed, but a stance of inclusivity, open-mindedness, and confidentiality is required of applicants. In order to be part of this unit, please request the application form for the Off the Beaten Track program on our website. Please note that it is mandatory to contact the leading researcher beforehand concerning your research ideas.

### Program director

Sam Janssen  
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### Leading researcher

Xin Pan (University of Leuven)  
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### Program Cost

3.250 euros  
Discounts and scholarships are available.

### Application & information

[www.anthropologyfieldschool.org](http://www.anthropologyfieldschool.org)

*Photo credit: Xin Pan  
Celebrations at Castille Square, Valetta after the Maltese parliament voted in favour of marriage equality bill, allowing same sex marriage on July 12, 2017.*

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