

Off the Beaten Track

summer field school for
anthropology and humanities

Perspectives from the Anthropology of Aging

www.anthropologyfieldschool.org

Aging is a topical policy issue all over the world. At the same time, it is also a profoundly personal process that we all encounter daily and from the day we are born. For anthropologists, aging is deeply cultural and provides a useful lens to study society. In more recent times, the Covid-19 pandemic has both amplified our concerns over aging-related questions and brings to the fore a whole new set of topics in need of further study.

What does the corona pandemic tell us about the position of the elderly in our societies? How has Covid-19 influenced relationships between the elderly and their families? Has daily life changed for older people and how do they cope with this? Which measures were applied by the government to help protect their older citizens, and were they effective? The questions emerging in this era will remain important in the long run, both influencing the people we work with as anthropologists, as well as our discipline itself. Being anthropologists we have to rethink our position in the field. And more than ever, we are faced with the harm we can do to others by researching them, even physically. How do we engage in this field of study in a safe and responsible way?

As part of the Off The Beaten Track summer school for Anthropology and Ethnography, this topical unit takes place in our basecamp on Gozo, an island of the Maltese Archipelago in the heart of the Mediterranean. It offers a unique glimpse into diverse aspects of aging in a world marked by both traditions and change. This project is designed to collectively build and refine (y)our knowledge on and experiences with the anthropology of aging. The Off the Beaten Track program itself is focused on fieldwork, data collection and primary analysis. Writing and editing of any individual or collective research articles will be done after the program through online collaboration.

Starting from individual interests, research topics will be debated and further refined in discussion with the group and your personal mentor(s). Guidance will be offered throughout a three week ethnography and participant observation according to personal demands. Participants are encouraged to experiment with different research methods to enhance their skills, gain practical experience and develop professional competences.

Goals

- Develop a personal research topic in cooperation with the other participants of the program and even with the other projects (food, sensoriums, oral history).
- Enhance your participant observation skills through ethnographic fieldwork.
- Explore the potential of interdisciplinary methods and different ways of representation.
- Contribute to a scientific publication, and/or make your own.

Directed at

There are no specific requirements to apply for the Off The Beaten Track Summer School and more specifically this project. We invite participants from different practical and academic backgrounds. In order to be part of this, please request the application form for the Off The Beaten Track program on our website. Note that it is mandatory to contact the leading researcher beforehand concerning your research ideas.

Leading Researcher

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Program director

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Program Cost

3.550 euros

Timing & Location

Summer 2022, Gozo (Malta)

Application & information

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