

ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE OBSERVATION



*a collaborative research project
by Expeditions*

General Information

This is an invitation to join us on Gozo to collaborate on a new research project in the field of the anthropology of technology. The focus is very specifically on Gozo's Honda Super Cub motorcycles. The Super Cub is rumored to be the most-produced vehicle of all times (over a 100 million worldwide) with a design that emerged from very practical needs. On the Island of Gozo, where transportation has always been a challenge, plenty of these motorcycles have been, and still are, in use.

Our research will be directed at the meaning, use and users of these motorcycles on the island, in order to unveil relations between culture and technology. Their abundance and stability of design makes that a vast number of people know how to work on them. In that sense these motorcycles can be seen as culturally embodied machines, as they seem to bridge the presumed gap between man and machine, culture and technology.

This research project will be part of the Off the Beaten Track field school. It will include basic training sessions in fieldwork, for those interested in gaining more experience. All training and education is individually tailored. Researchers are invited to join the research group, bringing in their own perspectives and interests, to share expertise and to collaborate with others in an open-ended formula. The end goal is to create a special issue journal volume holding individual contributions (manuscripts, sketches, audio-visual output, ...) and at least one collaborative, co-authored introduction.

Directed at

Everyone interested in the Gozo Honda Super Cub phenomenon is welcome to apply. No specific experience is needed. We specifically aim diversity in the team: next to anthropologists (and human sciences by extension) we aim to include participants with a background in mechanics, design and engineering as well. Please note that it is mandatory to contact the leading researcher before May 2019 in order to discuss, develop and align our research ideas. In order to be part of this, please request the application form for the Off The Beaten Track program on our website.

Goals

- Enrich your research methods: find access to your field, collect and align your primary data and enhance your participant observation skills
- Explore the potential of interdisciplinary methods and different ways of representation.
- Collaborate and (co-)author a peer reviewed publication.
- Have a great time doing research and possibly drive a Honda C70 on a fantastic island.

Program director & Leading Researcher

Sam Janssen
sam.janssen@xpeditions.be

Program Cost

3.550 euros
Discounts and scholarships are available.

Timing & Location

Summer 2022, Gozo (Malta)

Application & information

www.anthropologyfieldschool.org