

## **ISLANDS: PLAYFUL HUMAN GEOGRAPHIES?**

### **FIELD TRIP WITHIN THE PARTICIPATORY MAPPING COURSE (MRS/PGIS) – ON GOZO, MALTA**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017

#### **Aims**

- To introduce the contested worlds of island studies and its links to the geoinformatics, geography, environmental or development studies
- To investigate the potential of playful ways in geographical learning
- To carry out field investigation to reinforce the above aims

#### **By the end of the course unit, you should:**

- Appreciate differing contributions to the field of island studies and your respective field
- Be aware of the significance of geography for understanding landscape and environment
- Have investigated different playful ways of approaching thematic aspects of islands

#### **Skills and Employability**

During this course unit, you will be encouraged to develop the following abilities and skills:

- information handling skills involved in researching team-based work
- critical skills involved in understanding different conceptual frameworks
- creative skills involved in setting up a practical game-based field investigation
- problem solving skills
- communication skills used to develop sustained logical arguments in written and oral forms
- taking responsibility for active self-critical learning, including time management
- team work and sharing of abilities amongst small self selected groups

#### **Course Outline**

Students will participate in practical island-based field course to engage with different conceptual framings and ways of encountering some of the more remote places in the world and showing the potential of playful methodologies in framing understandings of disciplinary and national differences.

#### **Teaching Methods and E-learning**

The course unit will be delivered in the field, via mix of lectures with associated small group tutorials and seminar groups, student reading groups and presentations, and playful „sensory“ games.

It delivered through free ten days residential field course on the island of Gozo, in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May. This field programme is fully funded as part of an Erasmus + partnership between Manchester, Warwick, Utrecht, Malta and Olomouc universities (Although student may need to pay some part of their expenses – cca 100 EUR). 35 students from 5 different disciplines will come together in a practical and playful investigation of insularity. Pre-course learning will be delivered via E-learning based materials (learning prerequisite knowledge) and Skype conferences (in order to set up working groups).

**Five places are allocated to Olomouc**