



Join Our SEMINAR



Guest Speaker

Prof. Maria Attard

FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2025

10.00 – 11.00 am

ILWA-SR 28

Professor Maria Attard is the Head of Geography and Director of the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development at University of Malta. She lectures in urban and transport geography and sustainability in Malta and abroad and has published extensively in the area of sustainable mobility, transport policy and planning. Between 2002-2008 Prof. Attard was a consultant to Malta's Government working on the first white paper on transport (2004), the 2006 Valletta Strategy, introducing park-and-ride, pedestrianisation and road pricing, and the 2011 public transport reform. She has participated in numerous funded projects and supports the work of organisations such as WHO, ITF and EU. Prof. Attard is currently the Chair of NECTAR (Network of European Communications and Transport Activities Research) and sits on the Steering Committee of the World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR). She is co-editor-in-chief of Research in Transportation Business and Management and associate editor of Case Studies on Transport Policy and European Transport Research Review.

Engaging car-dependent communities in action research on walking and cycling

There is strong evidence that show how policies aimed at facilitating walking and cycling are the most effective to reduce the environmental and health burdens of transport in our cities. Additionally, infrastructure for walking and cycling increase livability and allow for communities to flourish. Despite this, there exists a mismatch between the research and the reality on the ground with many cities still focusing on car-centric infrastructure, making it less desirable to walk or cycle. Infrastructure however is not the only means of engaging in active mobility, with many metrics and indices developed over time to define and measure walkability and propose interventions. This lecture aims to highlight the potential of action research and participatory approaches in bridging the gap between policy and communities. Examples of projects initiated in Malta will be presented, providing the opportunity for discussion on the potential of bottom-up approaches in research to instigate and support behaviour change.



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