



# **THE ANNUAL BOOK CONFERENCE**

**THE ECONOMY AND THE BOOK**

**8th May 2026 | St. Paul's Bay, Malta**

**ORGANISED BY**

The National Book Council (Malta)



## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL**

The National Book Council of Malta is an independent public entity operating under the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation dedicated to serving the Maltese book industry and providing essential services for authors, publishers, editors, translators, illustrators and booksellers. The Council's markedly cultural mindset and multimedia approach enables it to work with different partners to achieve its goals.

The National Book Council is actively involved in multiple activities, ranging from large-scale international and national events to smaller-scale initiatives. Our flagship events include the Malta Book Festival, usually held in November, and the National Book Prize as well as other literary contests. Additionally, we administer Public Lending Rights payments (in close collaboration with Malta Libraries) and are the ISBN & ISMN agency for Malta. We promote the interests of the book industry's stakeholders and act as mediators for authors and publishers at foreign book fairs, both directly and through a growing advisory board, and facilitate translations and export projects via the Malta Book Fund.

## **THE ANNUAL BOOK CONFERENCE**

The Annual Book Conference is a new platform dedicated to critical reflection on the book industry and its relationship to cultural and economic policy. Launched in 2026 as the first conference of its kind in Malta, it is intended to become a recurring annual forum bringing together local and international stakeholders to examine the structures, challenges, and opportunities shaping the book ecosystem.

The inaugural edition, *The Economy and the Book*, focuses on how publishing, bookselling, and reading cultures function within small and micro economies such as Malta's. Through discussions that consider scale, language, readership, and consumption patterns, the conference aims to foster informed debate, generate ideas to support future policy development, and situate Malta's book sector within a broader European and international context.

## **CONFERENCE OUTCOMES**

Attendees shall have the opportunity to directly contribute to ongoing conversations regarding beneficial policies for all stakeholders across the Maltese book industry. All discussions including the survey findings and focus group conclusions shall be collected by the National Book Council and collated into a single official document, presented to the relevant authorities and published to the general public.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Authors, illustrators, translators, editors, academics, researchers, publishers, booksellers, economists, policymakers, politicians, government entity representatives, cultural institutions and other interested individuals are invited to attend and contribute to this year's conference theme of 'The Economy and the Book'.

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## PRACTICAL LOGISTICS

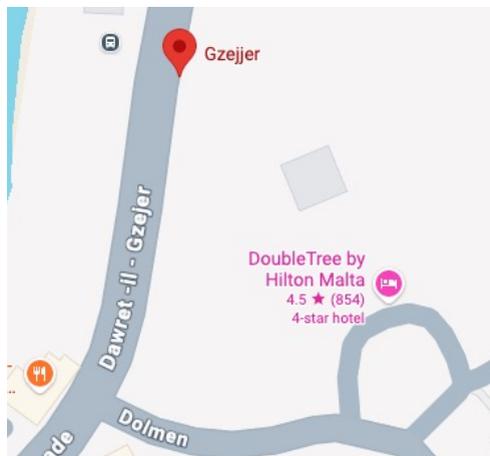
### LOCATION

Oracle Conference Centre, Double Tree by Hilton, St. Paul's Bay

### GETTING THERE

Car access from Dolmen road, St Paul's Bay SPB 2402. Attendees benefit from parking facilities as part of the registration fee. The venue's private car park is accessible at street level.

*Nearest bus stop* – Gzejjer – via no. 186/31/48/203, alternatively attendees travelling by bus may stop at the Bugibba Bus Terminal, 3 minutes away from the venue on foot.



**08:00**

**REGISTRATION | WELCOME COFFEE**

Welcome coffee and attendee registrations shall take place outside the conference hall

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**MORNING SESSION**

**PUBLISHING IN A MICRO ECONOMY**

**09:00 – 09:30**

Opening Addresses

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**09:00 – 09:10**

**Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima**

Minister for Education, Sport, Youth,  
Research and Innovation

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**09:10 – 09:20**

**Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici**

Minister for the National Heritage, the  
Arts and Local Government

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**09:20 – 09:30**

**Mr. Mark Camilleri**

Chairperson, National Book Council

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**09:30 – 10:00**

Keynote speaker

**Stephen Reid**

Publishing Manager, The Lilliput Press, Dublin

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**10:00 – 10:35**

Qualitative and quantitative survey  
findings undertaken and presented by

**Prof. Vincent-Anthony Marmara**

Head of Department, Business and  
Enterprise Management

Faculty of Economics, Management &  
Accountancy, University of Malta

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**10:35 – 10:50**

Coffee break

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**10:50 – 12:00**

**PANEL I**

Moderator

**Loranne Vella**

Author, and co-founder, co-editor and co-publisher at Aphroconfuso

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**PANELISTS**

**Stephen Reid**

Publishing Manager, The Lilliput Press, Dublin

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**Prof. Marie Briguglio**

Economist and Associate Professor,  
Faculty of Economics, Management &  
Accountancy, University of Malta

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**Paul Abela**

President, Chamber of SMEs

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**Prof. Mario Thomas Vassallo**

Associate Professor, Department Of  
Public Policy, University of Malta

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**12:00 – 13:00**

Stand up Networking Lunch

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**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**BOOKSHOP, BOOKSELLER AND CONSUMER DYNAMICS**

**13:10 – 13:20**

Address by **Mr. Matthew Vella**

Permanent Secretary

Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth,  
Research and Innovation

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**13:20 – 14:45**

**PANEL II**

Moderator

**Dr Simone Inguanez**

Author and poet

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**PANELISTS**

**Glen Calleja**

Author and publisher, Kotba Calleja

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**Aleks Farrugia**

Director, Culture Directorate

Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government

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**Maria Galea**

President, Malta Entertainment and

Arts Industry Association

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**Bradley Cachia**

Writer and actor

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**14:45 – 16:50**

**Facilitated focus groups**

Participants are invited to discuss a series of questions related to the conference theme. Each table will include a designated participant acting as rapporteur. At the end of the allotted time, each table will nominate a speaker to present key points from the discussion to the wider conference audience.

Discussion in groups: 14:45 – 16:00

Reporting: 16:00 – 16:50

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**16:50 – 17:00**

**Closing remarks**

**Dr. Sandra Hili Vassallo**

Executive Director, National Book Council

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# CONTRIBUTOR PROFILES

## KEYNOTE-SPEAKER

### Stephen Reid

Publishing Manager, The Lilliput Press, Dublin



Stephen Reid is Publishing Manager of The Lilliput Press. He has been working in Irish Publishing since 2017 across both editorial and sales in various roles at New Island Books, Brookside Publishing Services and HarperCollins Ireland. Stephen has worked on numerous bestsellers and critically-acclaimed works in fiction, non-fiction and children's. He holds an M.Phil in Irish Writing from Trinity College, Dublin.

*Stephen Reid huwa l-Maniġer tal-Pubblikazzjonijiet ta' Lilliput Press. Huwa ilu jaħdem fis-settur tal-pubblikazzjoni Irlandiża mill-2017 f'diversi rwoli ta' editjar u bejgħ ma' New Island Books, Brookside Publishing Services u HarperCollins Ireland. Stephen ħadem fuq numru sostanzjali ta' bestsellers u xogħlijiet fittizji, mhux fittizji u kotba għat-tfal milqugħa tajjeb mill-kritiċi. Huwa għandu M.Phil f'Kitba Irlandiża mit-Trinity College ta' Dublin.*

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## Prof. Vincent-Anthony Marmara

Head of Department, Business and Enterprise Management Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy, University of Malta



Prof. Vincent Marmarà is an Associate Professor, statistician, and researcher by profession. He obtained his undergraduate degree, master's degree, and PhD in Statistics, Mathematics, and Operations Research. Over the past two decades, he has developed a strong academic and professional career, contributing extensively to research, data analysis, and public policy discussions. At the University of Malta, Prof. Marmarà lectures in Statistics and Mathematics. He currently serves as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA), Head of the Business and Enterprise Management Department, and Board Member of the Malta Statistics Authority. Throughout his career, he has led numerous national and international research projects, overseeing research teams and conducting high-level statistical analysis. Prof. Marmarà has published several academic articles in international journals and has played a leading role in Malta in conducting nationwide surveys, studies on social issues, and research in mathematical epidemiology. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (UK) and co-founder of the State of the Nation project, organised in collaboration with the Office of the President of Malta.

*Il-Prof. Vincent Marmarà huwa Professur Assoċjat, statistiku u riċerkatur bi professjoni. Huwa kiseb il-lawrja tal-ewwel grad, il-master u d-dottorat (PhD) fl-Istatistika, il-Matematika u r-Riċerka Operazzjonali. Matul l-aħħar żewġ deċennji, huwa bena karriera akkademika u professjonali b'saħħitha, u kkontribwixxa b'mod sinifikanti fil-qasam tar-riċerka, l-analizi tad-data u d-diskussjonijiet dwar il-politika pubblika. Fl-Università ta' Malta, il-Prof. Marmarà jgħallem l-Istatistika u l-Matematika. Bħalissa jservi bħala Deputat Dekan tal-Fakultà tal-Ekonomija, il-Management u l-Accountancy (FEMA), Kap tad-Dipartiment tal-Management u l-Intrapriża, u Membru tal-Bord tal-Awtorità tal-Istatistika ta' Malta. Matul il-karriera tiegħu mexxa diversi proġetti ta' riċerka kemm fuq livell nazzjonali kif ukoll internazzjonali, fejn mexxa timijiet ta' riċerkaturi u wettaq analizi statistika ta' livell għoli. Il-Prof. Marmarà ppubblika diversi artikli akkademici f'ġurnali internazzjonali u kellu rwol ewlieni f'Malta fit-twertiq ta' diversi stħarriġ nazzjonali, studji dwar kwistjonijiet soċjali u riċerka fl-epidemjoloġija matematika. Huwa wkoll Fellow tar-Royal Statistical Society (UK) u ko-fundatur tal-proġett State of the Nation, organizzat b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Uffiċċju tal-President ta' Malta.*

## Loranne Vella

Author, and co-founder, co-editor  
and co-publisher at Aphroconfuso



Loranne Vella is a Maltese novelist, short-story writer and essayist based in Brussels. She is the author of the eco-novels *Magna Mater and Rokit*, which was awarded the National Book Prize of Malta in 2018. The English translation, *Before the Rocket*, won an English PEN Translates award and was published by Praspas Press in 2025. Her short story collection *mill-bieb 'il ġewwa* was published in English as *what will it take for me to leave* in 2021, also by Praspas Press, and was shortlisted for the Society of Authors TA First Translation Prize 2022 and selected for the Council of Europe's Readers of Europe initiative the same year. Her latest novel, *Marta Marta*, won the 2023 National Book Prize of Malta. In 2023 she co-founded Aphroconfuso, an author-led, not-for-profit literary journal and publishing house in the Maltese language, where she serves as co-editor, co-publisher and regular contributor. Aphroconfuso is a registered voluntary organisation; more information can be found at [aphroconfuso.mt/en](https://aphroconfuso.mt/en).

*Loranne Vella hija rumanziera, kittieba ta' stejjer qosra u esejista Maltija bbażata fi Brussell. Hija l-awtriċi tar-rumanzi ta' ekofinzzjoni Magna Mater u Rokit, li rebaħ il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb fl-2018. Iktar tard Rokit rebaħ premju English PEN Translates u ġie tradott u ppubblikat bl-Ingliż, Before the Rocket, minn Praspas Press. mill-bieb 'il ġewwa, ġabra ta' stejjer qosra, ġie ppubblikat bl-Ingliż bħala what will it take for me to leave fl-2021, ukoll minn Praspas Press, u fl-2022 kien wieħed mill-finalisti tat-TA First Translation Prize ta' Society of Authors, kif ukoll intgħażel għall-inizjattiva Readers of Europe tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. L-aħħar rumanz tagħha, Marta Marta, rebaħ il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb fl-2023. Fl-istess sena, Vella kienet waħda mill-kofundaturi ta' Aphroconfuso, ġurnal letterarju u dar tal-pubblikazzjoni bil-lingwa Maltija mmexxi minn awturi mingħajr skop ta' qligħ, fejn taqdi r-rwoli ta' koeditur, kopubblikatur u kontributur regolari. Aphroconfuso hija organizzazzjoni volontarja rreġistrata; aktar informazzjoni tinsab fuq <https://aphroconfuso.mt/dwarna/>.*

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## Prof. Marie Briguglio

Economist and Associate Professor,  
Faculty of Economics, Management &  
Accountancy, University of Malta



Professor Marie Briguglio works at the Department of Economics at the University of Malta (UM), where she teaches and conducts research in environmental and behavioural economics, economics of wellbeing and cultural economics. She is the Principle Investigator of the Malta Wellbeing INDEX project, the Executive Director of the international Society for the Advancement of Behavioural Economics and serves on several committees. Over the past 15 years, Marie authored some 200 publications—including research articles, book chapters, reports, newspaper articles, and books—and delivered over 150 conference presentations worldwide, including 30 keynote addresses. Her work has been covered more than 200 times in national and international media. She has led multiple consultation meetings in Malta and delivered courses at all educational levels. For 15 years prior to academia was a practitioner in environmental governance at national, European, and international levels and wrote and presented over 6,000 minutes of broadcast (current affairs) television. Marie has led multiple internationally and nationally funded research projects and has received awards and honours in broadcasting, writing, creativity, and research. She lives with her daughter in the village of Għargħur, in Malta.

*Il-Professur Marie Briguglio taħdem fid-Dipartiment tal-Ekonomija fl-Università ta' Malta (UM), fejn tgħallem u twettaq riċerka fl-ekonomija ambjentali u fl-ekonomija tal-imġiba, fl-ekonomija tal-ġid u l-benesseri u fl-ekonomija kulturali. Hija l-Investigatur Prinċipali tal-proġett Malta Wellbeing INDEX, id-Direttur Eżekuttiv tas-Society for the Advancement of Behavioural Economics u sservi fuq diversi kumitati. Matul l-aħħar 15-il sena, Marie kitbet mal-200 pubblikazzjoni—inklużi artikli ta' riċerka, kapitli ta' kotba, rapporti, artikli fil-gazzetti u kotba—u tkellmet f'iktar minn 150 pprezentazzjoni f'konferenzi madwar id-dinja, inklużi 30 diskors ewlieni. Ix-xogħol tagħha ġie kopert aktar minn 200 darba fil-midja nazzjonali u internazzjonali. Hija mexxiet diversi laqgħat ta' konsultazzjoni f'Malta u tat korsijiet fil-livelli kollha tal-edukazzjoni. Tul 15-il sena qabel ma saret akkademiku, Marie ħadmet fil-prattika fil-governanza ambjentali fuq livell nazzjonali, Ewropew u internazzjonali, filwaq li kitbet u pprezentat aktar minn 6,000 minuta ta' xandir televiżiv dwar affarijiet kurrenti. Marie mexxiet diversi proġetti ta' riċerka ffinanzjati b'fondi nazzjonali u internazzjonali, u rċeviet premjijiet u rikonnoxximenti fix-xandir, fil-kitba, fil-kreattività u fir-riċerka. Hija tgħix ma' bintha fir-raħal tal-Għargħur, Malta.*

## Paul Abela

President, Chamber of SMEs



Paul Abela is the President of the Malta Chamber of SMEs, a position he has been successfully occupying since 2007. Currently Mr Abela occupies the position of Board Member of SME United, the association of crafts and SMEs in Europe with around 70 member organisations from over 30 European countries. Mr Abela also holds the positions of Chairman of Business First and Deputy chairman of the Central Business District Foundation. As an individual, Mr Abela is skilled and experienced in business planning and strategy, change management and negotiation.

*Paul Abela huwa l-President tal-Malta Chamber of SMEs, pożizzjoni li ilu jokkupa mill-2007. Fil-preżent is-Sur Abela jokkupa wkoll il-pożizzjoni ta' membru tal-Bord tal-SME United, assoċjazzjoni ta' snajja u SMEs fl-Ewropea b'madwar 70 organizazzjoni membri minn 'il fuq minn 30 pajjiż Ewropej. Is-Sur Abela huwa wkoll iċ-Ċermen ta' Business First u Deputat Ċerpersin tas-Central Business District Foundation. Bħala individwu, is-Sur Abela għandu esperjenza vasta fin-negozju u fl-ippjanar u l-istrategija tiegħu, bdil fl-amministrazzjoni u nnegozjar.*

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## Prof. Mario Thomas Vassallo

Associate Professor, Department  
Of Public Policy, University of Malta



Mario Thomas Vassallo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Policy, Politics and Governance at the University of Malta. He has extensive experience in the fields of public administration, governance, and public policy. Among other roles, he actively contributes to teaching and research related to state reform, public institutions, and governance in European and comparative contexts. His research focuses on the modernisation of public administration, the relationship between politics and bureaucracy, as well as issues of accountability, transparency, and good governance. Vassallo has published regularly in academic journals and has participated in international conferences. In addition to his academic career, he is also involved in civil society and politics and takes part in public and media debates on Malta's institutional and political development.

*Mario Thomas Vassallo huwa Professur Assoċjat fid-Dipartiment tal-Istudji Politiċi fl-Università ta' Malta. Huwa għandu esperjenza estensiva fil-qasam tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika, il-governanza u l-politika pubblika. Fost oħrajn, huwa jikkontribwixxi b'mod attiv fit-tagħlim u r-riċerka relatati mar-riforma tal-istat, l-istituzzjonijiet pubbliċi u l-governanza f'kontest Ewropew u komparattiv. Ir-riċerka tiegħu tiffoka fuq il-modernizzazzjoni tal-amministrazzjoni pubblika, ir-relazzjoni bejn il-politika u l-burokrazija, kif ukoll il-kwistjonijiet ta' kontabilità, trasparenza u tmexxija tajba. Vassallo ppubblika b'mod regolari f'gurnali akkademiċi u ħa sehem f'konferenzi internazzjonali. Minbarra l-karriera akkademika tiegħu, huwa wkoll involut fil-qasam tas-soċjetà ċivili u l-politika u jipparteċipa f'dibattiti pubbliċi u fuq il-midja dwar l-iżvilupp istituzzjonali u politiku ta' Malta.*

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## Dr Simone Inguanez

Author and poet



Simone Inguanez (1971) is a writer, translator, editor, and strategist actively engaged in the area of cultural rights. She graduated in laws, furthered her studies in human sciences and language, and gained vast experience in the area of cultural policy. She has served on the Maltese Language Council since its inception in 2005, and was highly engaged in various organisations. Her publications include poetry, translation, and collaborative projects. She is the author of *ftit mara ftit tifla* [part woman part child] (Klabb Kotba Maltin, 2005), and *water, fire, earth and I* (Tr. Maria Grech Ganado, *Contemporary Maltese Writers in Translation*, Inizjamed u Midsea Books, 2005), and co-author of *7 poets 4 days 1 book* (Texas: Trinity Press, 2009). Her translation *Il-Familja Frattarija u d-Dar li Tagħtas* (Xogħol originali: Kari Smeland, *Illustrazzjoni: Francesca Grech*, *Pubblikazzjoni: Merlin*, 2021) received the National Book Prize. In 2007, she was the recipient of a writer's residency at the International Writing Programme (IWP) hosted by the University of Iowa.

*Simone Inguanez (1971) hija kittieba, traduttriċi, editriċi, u strategista impenjata fil-qasam tad-dritt għall-kultura. Hija ggradwat fid-dritt, issuktat bl-istudji tagħha fix-xjenzi soċjali u fil-lingwa, filwaqt li tkissret sew fil-qasam tal-politika kulturali. Hija serviet fil-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti sa mit-twaqqif tiegħu, u kienet attiva sew f'diversi għaqdiet. Il-pubblikazzjonijiet tagħha jinkludu poeżiji, traduzzjonijiet, u proġetti kollaborattivi. Hija l-awtriċi ta' ftit mara ftit tifla (Klabb Kotba Maltin, 2005), u water, fire, earth and I (Tr. Maria Grech Ganado, Contemporary Maltese Writers in Translation, Inizjamed u Midsea Books, 2005), u koawtriċi ta' 7 poets 4 days 1 book (Texas: Trinity Press, 2009). It-traduzzjoni tagħha Il-Familja Frattarija u d-Dar li Tagħtas (Xogħol originali: Kari Smeland, Illustrazzjoni: Francesca Grech, Pubblikazzjoni: Merlin, 2021) rċeviet il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb. Fl-2007, ħadet sehem fir-residenza tal-kittieba tal-International Writing Programme (IWP) fl-Università t'Iowa.*

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## Glen Calleja

Author and publisher, Kotba Calleja



Glen Calleja (b.1978) is a writer, editor and founder of Kotba Calleja, a small press publisher based in Malta. Calleja is the winner of the 2025 National Book Prize for his poetry book SOMNVM, a poetic meditation on the seduction of sleep and eternal rest. His main interests are poetry as practice and the book as object and his artistic work often involves alternative book structures, found content and performative elements. Calleja is also co-founder of Studio Solipsis, a cultural venue in Rabat (Malta) and co-founder and president of Fondazzjoni HELA which advocates for the Maltese literary sector. His poetry publications include eki t'eki (2002), IR-RAGĠEL (2010), kull flgħaxija kif mal-għabex tnin u tmut saħħet il-jum (2014), Iswed Assolut (2016) and SOMNVM (2024). [www.glencalleja.com](http://www.glencalleja.com)

*Glen Calleja (t. 1978) huwa kittieb, editur u fundatur ta' Kotba Calleja, dar żgħira tal-pubblikazzjoni bbażata f'Malta. Calleja huwa r-rebbieħ tal-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb 2025 għall-ġabra ta' poeżiji tiegħu SOMNVM, meditazzjoni poetika dwar is-seduzzjoni tal-irqad u l-mistrieħ etern. L-interessi ewlenin tiegħu huma l-poeżija bħala Prattika u l-ktieb bħala oġġett, u x-xogħol artistiku tiegħu spiss jinvolvi strutturi alternattivi tal-ktieb, kontenut misjub u elementi performattivi. Calleja huwa wkoll kofundatur ta' Studio Solipsis, spazju kulturali fir-Rabat (Malta), u kofundatur u president ta' Fondazzjoni HELA li tappoġġja s-settur letterarju Malti. Il-pubblikazzjonijiet tiegħu ta' poeżija jinkludu eki t'eki (2002), IR-RAGĠEL (2010), kull flgħaxija kif mal-għabex tnin u tmut saħħet il-jum (2014), Iswed Assolut (2016) u SOMNVM(2024). [www.glencalleja.com](http://www.glencalleja.com)*

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## Aleks Farrugia

Director, Culture Directorate, Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government



Aleks Farrugia (1978-) is an author, historian, journalist and educator. He made his publishing debut with the play *Iħirsa fil-Mera* in 1997, which was lauded during the 1996 edition of the Francis Ebejer Prize. His English-language novel *Grasshopper* (2016) was shortlisted for the National Book Prize, and Farrugia would secure the Prize in 2020 for his short story collection *Għall-Glorja tal-Patrija*, first published in 2019 and released in an English translation in 2023. His novel *Camerata!* (2021) was also shortlisted for the National Book Prize, with an Italian translation – *La Colpa del Camerata* – to follow in 2025. His novel *Ir-Re Borg* (2023) was put forward for the European Union Prize for Literature in 2024. Following an absence of nearly twenty years, Farrugia returned to writing for the stage in 2022, with the play *Ġiraffa Ħarbet minn Kastilja*, staged at Spazju Kreattiv. His fourth novel, *Il-Kruċjata ta' Tankredi*, is expected for release later in 2026. Farrugia currently serves as Cultural Director within the Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government. He also lectures in Political Theory and Criticism, and Political and Media Literacy at the University of Malta. Farrugia has also published a number of academic articles on theatre, history and philosophy, on both local and international publications.

*Aleks Farrugia (1978-) huwa awtur, storiku, ġurnalista u edukatur. L-ewwel xogħol li ppubblika kien "Iħirsa fil-Mera" fl-1997, dramma li kien issemma' b'tifħir fil-Konkors Francis Ebejer tal-1996. Fl-2016 huwa ħareġ ir-rumanz bl-Ingliż "Grasshopper", li kien finalist tal-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb. Fl-2020 huwa rebaħ il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb bil-ġabra ta' novelli "Għall-Glorja tal-Patrija", maħruġ fl-2019 u tradott għall-Ingliż fl-2023. Fl-2021 ħareġ ir-rumanz "Camerata!", li kien ukoll finalist għall-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb u li fl-2025 it-traduzzjoni tiegħu bit-Taljan, "La Colpa del Camerata", kienet ippubblikata fl-Italja. Fl-2024 bir-rumanz politiku "Ir-Re Borg", ippubblikat fis-sena ta' qabel, kien nominat għall-Premju tal-Letteratura tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Fl-2022, wara nuqqas ta' aktar minn għoxrin sena mit-teatru, Farrugia rritorna għall-kitba teatrali permezz ta' "Ġiraffa Ħarbet minn Kastilja", li ttellgħet fi Spazju Kreattiv. Aktar tard din is-sena mistenni joħroġ ir-raba' rumanz tiegħu: "Il-Kruċjata ta' Tankredi". Fil-preżent, Aleks Farrugia jokkupa l-pożizzjoni ta' Direttur tal-Kultura fi ħdan il-Ministeru tal-Kultura, l-Artijiet u l-Gvern Lokali, u huwa wkoll lettur fl-Università ta' Malta fit-Teorija Politika u Kritika u l-Litteriżmu Politiku u Medjatiku. Farrugia ppubblika wkoll diversi artikli ta' natura akkademika dwar it-teatru, l-istorja u l-filosofija kemm lokalment kif ukoll internazzjonalment.*

## Maria Galea

President, Malta Entertainment  
and Arts Industry Association



With over a decade of experience in the arts and cultural sector, Maria Galea has played a key role in fostering collaborations between private and public entities. She is an art advisor and cultural manager, founder of ARTZ ID, director of Marie Gallery5, and President of the Malta Entertainment Industry and Arts Association (MEIA), a role she has held since 2024. Her work focuses on strengthening connections between artists, institutions, government, and the wider community, contributing to the promotion of Maltese art locally and internationally.

Maria served as project manager for the Maltese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2024 and is Cultural Manager for the OmenaArt Foundation in Poland. She was named a Young Cultural Innovators Fellow at the Salzburg Global Seminar (2019) and mentored for the Creative Futures Program at the University of the Arts London. She holds a Master's degree in Arts and Cultural Enterprise from Central Saint Martins, London.

*B'aktar minn għaxar snin ta' esperjenza fis-settur tal-arti u l-kultura, Maria Galea kellha rwol ewlieni fit-tiżni tal-kollaborazzjonijiet bejn entitajiet privati u pubbliċi. Hija konsulenta tal-arti u maniġer kulturali, fundatriċi ta' ARTZ ID, direttriċi ta' Marie Gallery5, u President tal-Malta Entertainment Industry and Arts Association (MEIA), kariga li ilha tokkupa mill-2024. Ix-xogħol tagħha jiffoka fuq it-tiżni tar-rabtiet bejn l-artisti, l-istituzzjonijiet, il-gvern u l-komunità usa', u jikkontribwixxi għall-promozzjoni tal-arti Maltija kemm fuq livell lokali kif ukoll internazzjonali.*

*Maria serviet bħala maniġer tal-produzzjoni għall-Padiljun Malti fil-Venice Biennale 2024 u hija maniġer kulturali għall-OmenaArt Foundation fil-Polonja. Fl-2019 giet magħżula bħala Young Cultural Innovators Fellow fis-Salzburg Global Seminar u kienet mentorata għall-Programm Creative Futures fl-University of the Arts London. Maria għandha Master's degree fl-Arts and Cultural Enterprise minn Central Saint Martins, Londra.*

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## Bradley Cachia

Writer and actor



Bradley Cachia works in arts and cultural marketing and in content production for television, radio, and digital platforms. He is also a writer and performing artist. Bradley graduated in Maltese and Communications and is currently pursuing an M.A. in the Interpretation of Maltese Literature. His writing has appeared in publications such as *Leĥen il-Malti* and his chapbook *Kemm sirna macho*. He has translated works from English into Maltese and written scripts for both stage and screen. He has performed and presented his literary work at numerous events, including the World Forum for Democracy at the Council of Europe. Bradley contributes to a variety of creative initiatives and research projects within the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta, and is currently producing a series of short-form videos exploring Maltese oral tradition. He was involved in the preparation of recent editions of *Leĥen il-Malti* — published by the *Għaqda tal-Malti – Università*, in which he served as Secretary and Vice-President — and is a member of the Editorial Board for the next issue. He has also been a member of the KNŻ Executive Committee and is currently part of the MEIA Youth Subcommittee.

*Bradley Cachia jaħdem fil-marketing tal-arti u l-kultura u fil-produzzjoni ta' kontenut għat-televixin, radju, u pjattaformi diġitali. Huwa wkoll kittieb, artist performattiv, u gradwat fil-Malti u l-Komunikazzjoni. Bħalissa qed jagħmel M.A. fl-Interpretazzjoni tal-Letteratura Maltija. Il-kitba tiegħu dehret f'pubblikazzjonijiet bħal Leĥen il-Malti u fiċ-chapbook tiegħu Kemm sirna macho. Ittraduċa wkoll kitbiet mill-Ingliż għall-Malti u kiteb skripts għall-palk u għall-iskrin. Irreċta u ppreżenta l-kitbiet tiegħu waqt bosta avvenimenti, fosthom il-Forum Dinji għad-Demokrazija fil-Kunsill tal-Ewropa. Hu jikkontribwixxi għal għadd ta' inizjattivi kreattivi u proġetti ta' riċerka tad-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università, u fil-fatt bħalissa qed jipproduċi serje ta' filmati qosra relatati mat-tradizzjoni orali Maltija. Bradley kien involut fit-tnejjja ta' edizzjonijiet riċenti ta' Leĥen il-Malti — ippubblikat mill-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, li fiha serva r-rwoli ta' Segretarju u Viċi President — u huwa parti mill-Bord Editorjali tal-ġarġa li jmiss. Kien ukoll membru fil-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-KNŻ u bħalissa hu membru fis-Sottokumitat taż-Żgħażaġħ tal-MEIA.*

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