


<p><i>Name</i></p>	<p>Ms. Nathalie Buhagiar nathalie.buhagiar@um.edu.mt</p> 
<p><i>Title of study</i></p>	<p>Conceptualizing School Based Occupational Therapy (Malta) : Enabling Children’s participation in School Occupations</p>
<p><i>Supervisor(s)</i></p>	<p>Dr Helen Lynch and Professor Jeanne Jackson</p>
<p><i>Background/Abstract (350 words max)</i></p>	<p>Malta’s school system boasts a high rate of inclusion yet children’s full participation in school occupations is still often questionable. My study had three main research questions. The first set out to explore children’s occupations in Maltese schools, the second revolved around enablers and barriers to children’s participation in school occupations and finally the third research questions explored how collaborative school based Occupational Therapy could potentially support children’s participation in Maltese early year’s classrooms. The research methodology used was case study methodology with elements of action research. Participants in this study were namely heads, assistant heads, teachers, relevant support staff, learning support educators, parents and children. Results point towards a number of ways a collaborative model of school based occupational therapy can enable children and adults engage in school occupations and participate better in Maltese schools.</p>

<p><i>Publications</i> (e.g. articles, conferences etc)</p>	<p>2020 February Paper accepted for presenting at COTEC/ENOTHE¹ Conference (September 2020) entitled “Conceptualizing Collaborative School Based OT in Malta: Building Resilient Children and Educators to foster Participation in school Occupations” I will also be collaborating with the International school based OT group to present a workshop on school based research.</p> <p>2019 April Presented a paper at ACAMH² conference on Neurodevelopmental Disorders, The Radisson Hotel Malta entitled: “ A Tiered Approach to supporting childrens’ participation in school based occupations: A focus on wellbeing”</p> <p>2016 November 28th: attended CAMH Conference: Autism Spectrum Disorder and its comorbidities. Presented paper entitled Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Participating in School Based Occupation - A scoping review of the literature and recommendations for practice in the school setting.</p> <p>2016 April 6th and 7th: 3rd Count me in! International Scientific meeting Plymouth University, UK</p> <p><i>2000 October Preschool Autistic Children- Therapists’ Perspectives on Practice, British Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation October 2000 7 (9) 10, 414 – 417</i></p> <p>2000 July Maximising the abilities of autistic children within the classroom through sensory-motor activities - an occupational therapist perspective. Paper presented at conference: First Malta conference on Autism-Autism: The challenge of Inclusion, University of Malta, Malta, 2000 – July 4-6</p> <p>1999 Nov <i>Treating Autistic Children – An occupational Therapy perspective.</i> Paper presented at Internet Conference Autism ’99, 6-11 Nov 1999</p>
<p><i>Link to Orchid Profile/ Research gate profile/Iris profile or website</i></p>	<p>Research gate: Nathalie Buhagiar UM Profile https://www.um.edu.mt/profile/nathaliebuhagiar</p>

<p><i>Biography e.g. qualification/training/work history</i> (200 words max)</p>	<p>Nathalie Buhagiar qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1989 and pioneered Paediatric Occupational Therapy , setting up the main Paediatric Occupational Therapy service in Malta in 1991. She obtained a Masters Degree in Paediatric Occupational Therapy from University of East London and worked with Calderdale Trust, in the Child Development Centre in Halifax, West Yorkshire. In 2001, she was awarded a scholarship by the University of Southern California to attend OT610 , a specialised intensive training course in Sensory Integration and was the first Occupational Therapist to practice and promote Sensory Integration Therapy in Malta. In 2008 Nathalie was awarded the Allied Health Professions Award for Excellence in Healthcare. In 2009 , after working in the health sector for 20 years, Nathalie took up a post Educational leadership, more specifically as Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion forming part of the school’s senior management team. In April 2013 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, USA. The title of her project was “<i>Occupational Therapy, special needs and inclusion: serving children in home, school and community</i>”. Nathalie became a full time resident academic member of staff within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Malta in September 2015, following 25 years of service as a visiting lecturer /senior lecturer. She also continues to support educators in the school system through university community partnerships, professional development, collaboration and consultation.</p>
<p><i>Funding body (if relevant)</i></p>	<p>Malta Government scholarship scheme and UM</p>