



Languages of Sustainability
Andro Mathewson (COL 2018)
Advisor: Simon Richter

Working with Professor Simon Richter on our project “Languages of Sustainability” allowed me to learn about so many varied topics ranging from the importance of sustainability, to the government in the Mauritius, to the study of the environment and climate change in Maltese. By working on this project not only did I gain knowledge about combating climate change and its harmful effects to our every-changing environment, but I also gained a new appreciation for environmentalism and the study of sustainability.

Our project’s main goal was to learn about how different cultures and societies perceive sustainability and the study thereof. By reaching out to and meeting with academics, professionals and government officials in virtually every country worldwide, we were able to gather many responses to our survey regarding the languages used across the world to describe and study sustainability issues. With many of these individuals, especially from academic institutions and research centers, I have had long correspondences regarding the state of environmental protection and its place in these respective cultures and societies.

Over the last couple of months I have learned how different perceptions of sustainability and climate change can be, and how intensely language affects these perceptions and the relationship between them and the value a culture places upon the protection of nature. Furthermore, I have increased my interpersonal and research skills, as a lot of background information had to be accumulated for the construction of the survey, and I have had much contact with people from all over the world. Finally, as a website for our project had to be constructed, I also learned how to construct one, which I am sure will prove to be a very useful skill to possess in the future.

As a whole the research project was immensely engaging and interesting. I have learned a huge amount about so many different topics but will gladly also continue to perform research about this topic in the near future.