

CONFLICT TEXTILES

Seminar

Conflict Textiles seminar with Year 3 students, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University, Northern Ireland 10th April 2024

Photo Gallery & photos by Dr. Claire Wright

The seminar, delivered by Roberta Bacic and facilitated by Claire Wright, brought to life the relevance of arts-based approaches to dealing with the past, a key topic within the Transforming Violence Module offered by the Politics Department at Ulster University. In the first half of the session, Roberta offered an in-depth explanation of the work of Conflict Textiles and highlighted the close relationship between the collection and the university, with a visit to the Search for the Disappeared exhibition at the UU Belfast campus library. In the second half of the session, the students created their own figurines which denounced forced disappearances in different contexts including Peru, Spain, and Northern Ireland.



Roberta Bacic, curator of Conflict Textiles, (R) explains the journey of Conflict Textiles to students and navigates with them the [Conflict Textiles](#) website, hosted on the CAIN Archive.



Roberta (C) discusses the history behind the arpillera [AUSENCIAS –PRESENCIAS Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo/Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo](#) by Ana Zlatkes, Argentina.



Roberta (L) and Jeannie Parris, Campus Subject Librarian at Ulster University Belfast Campus (C) explain the background to [the Search for the Disappeared](#) Exhibition on display in the library.



A student from Ulster University holds the arpillera [The People Make the City](#) by Janet Wilkinson and Susan Beck.



Back in the classroom, Roberta (L) explains the task of creating one figurine per group and lays out scraps of fabric for students to choose from.



A group of students, deep in discussion, work on their figurine.



Students from Ulster University proudly present the figurines they created in the workshop with Roberta Bacic (R).



The figurines on display in the office of Claire Wright, Lecturer in Politics & International Studies, Ulster University.



The backs of the figurines include messages denouncing violations of human rights, particularly forced disappearances in both Northern Ireland and Peru, and identifying valuable lessons in terms of transforming violence, the topic of the Module.