



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
COLÁISTE NA TRÍONÓIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF DUBLIN



IRISH SCHOOL OF ECUMENICS
DIALOGUE · PEACE · RECONCILIATION



BEYOND WALLS
LIVING WITH NOW, CREATING OUR FUTURE

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

EM7443 Module syllabus



Transforming Relations After Violent Political Conflict

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Belfast
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October–November 2012

This outline gives an overview of the course but some of the details may be subject to revision and change.

Introduction

At the heart of conflict transformation lies the challenge of transforming relations after violent political conflict – in particular between people who have been directly involved in and/or affected by the violence, but also including members of wider society. The course will include inputs by former combatants and survivors of the conflict in and about Northern Ireland, some of whom have also become experienced reconciliation practitioners on the islands of Ireland and Great Britain and beyond. We will draw on local case studies and the Journey through Conflict process in particular, to highlight key themes and challenges underlying this key area within conflict transformation. We will explore reflectively some of the practices and skills involved in transforming relationships between former enemies such as the sharing of life experiences ('storytelling'), exploring difference, dialogue, nature-based activities and strategic networking.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module students should be able to:

- Critically analyse key features and challenges of conflict transformation at the interpersonal level;
- Critically analyse the roles of 'storytelling' within conflict transformation;
- Critically analyse the roles of dialogue and strategic networking within conflict transformation.

Key Readings

Lederach, John Paul, *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Bloomfield, David et al, *Reconciliation After Violent Conflict: A Handbook*. Stockholm, Sweden: IDEA, 2003.

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Brewer, John, *Peace Processes: A Sociological Approach*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010.

Gawerc, Michelle, "Peace-building: Theoretical and Concrete Perspectives", *Peace & Change*, 31 (4), 2006, pp. 435-478.

Little, Alistair & Verwoerd, Wilhelm, *Journey through Conflict Trail Guide: Introduction*, Beyond Walls Ltd & Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, 2012.

Sessions

Preparation (ISE, Belfast)

Tues, 13 Nov. Overview of module; preparation for residential at Corrymeela

Key texts: Gawerc, M, "Peace-building: Theoretical and Concrete Perspectives", *Peace & Change*, 31 (4), 2006, pp. 435-478.
Little, A & Verwoerd, W, *Journey through Conflict Trail Guide: Introduction*, pp. 1-170.

Residential (Corrymeela, Ballycastle)

Mon, 19 Nov. Introduction to transforming relations after violent political conflict - humanization of enemies
Experiential learning: Sharing of Personal Histories within Conflict Transformation ("Storytelling") - deepening understanding

Key texts: Halperin, J & Weinstein, H.M., "Rehumanizing the Other: Empathy and Reconciliation", *Human Rights Quarterly*, 26, (3), 2004, pp. 561-583
Senehi, J, "Constructive Storytelling: A Peace Process", *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 9, (2), 2002, pp.41-63.

Tues, 20 Nov. Sharing of Personal Histories ("Storytelling") (continued)
Promise & Pitfalls of Storytelling

Wed, 21 Nov. Storytelling (reflections)
Deep Dialogue - exploring common ground and difference

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Key text: Pruitt, B & Thomas, P, 2007, Democratic Dialogue – A Handbook for Practitioners, IDEA

Thurs, 22 Nov. Deep Dialogue (continued)
Strategic Networking – cultivation of enduring co-operative relations

Key text: Lederach, J.P., The Moral Imagination, “On Space: Life in the Web” (ch 8, pp. 75–86), “On Web Watching: Finding the Soul of Place” (ch 10, pp.101–112)

Fri, 23 Nov. What have we learnt? Critical reflections on the transformation of interpersonal relations after violent political conflict.

Follow-up meeting (ISE, Belfast)

Tues, 4 Dec. Facilitated reflection on residential experiential learning

Oral evaluation (ISE, Belfast)

Mon, 10 Dec.



Assessment Options

1. Essay (3500–4000 words)

Suggested Questions:

Other questions may be added subject to agreement with the programme co-ordinator.

- a) Describe and critically evaluate the role of “storytelling” in conflict situations.

OR

- b) Describe and critically evaluate the role of dialogue & strategic networking in transforming relations after violent political conflict.

2. Critical assessment: Journey through Conflict residential experience

An assessment of your reflections on the Conflict Transformation residential experience, including

- An 10 min oral presentation providing a critical assessment of the Journey through Conflict case study of Interpersonal Conflict Transformation, with 5–10 minutes for a response to questions from the panel of assessors (2 facilitators plus Dr Gladys Daniel) (30%)
- A 2000– 2500 word reflective essay on the Journey through Conflict residential experience and presented material, with a critical assessment of the storytelling, dialogue and networking aspects of this journey as an illustration of key aspects of interpersonal conflict transformation. The essay needs to combine reflective journal writing on the residential experience with analysis of prescribed key texts (70%).

Please note: A provisional mark (out of 30%) will be provided for the oral evaluation. On this basis students could decide to continue with the second part (70%) of Assessment option 2 or to choose the longer essay of Assessment option 1.

