

Slow Memory Final Conference in Porto

Held 2nd – 4th July 2025 at [FLUP - Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto](#)

Organised by Alice Semedo and Isabel Machado Alexandre

Photo gallery by Helen Maguire

From 2021 to 2025, the COST Action “[Slow Memory: Transformative Practices for Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change](#)” has brought together over 300 scholars and stakeholders, from over 40 countries, many disciplines and career stages. It has considered how to capture and respond to environmental, economic, and social change through the novel concept of “slow memory”. Its goal has been to trigger a new discovery phase in memory studies by providing a platform for networked, transnational, multidisciplinary research and policy-making that moves beyond the focus on conflict and eventfulness in commemoration. The action has discussed and shared ideas in many in-person and online meetings, training schools, workshops and writing retreats, producing working papers, a podcast, a virtual exhibition and dozens of scholarly publications. Along the way, they have practiced a “slow” form of meeting, resisting the pressures of sped-up academia and engaging with different places and communities, taking walks and visiting sites that helped us develop an understanding at different tempos. The conference was a culmination of these discussions, practices and communing.

Conflict Textiles was invited to join the conference by Jenny Wüstenberg and Chris Reynolds (Nottingham Trent University), and Alice Semedo (University of Porto). This collaboration resulted in a plenary by Roberta Bacic and a workshop led by Helen Maguire, each taking place on the final day.



Conference Welcome and opening remarks. Wednesday 2nd July.

Photo: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.



Managing Committee meeting. Thursday 3rd July.

Photo: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.



Working Group 4: *Slow memory and Slow peace: output and reflections*. Thursday 3rd July.

Photo: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.



Workshop 2: *Slow Memory in Photographs*. Thursday 3rd July. Lead and facilitated by Karina Horeni and Magdalena Bubik at LINO espaço cultural.

Photos: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.



Plenary session with Conflict Textiles: *Textile Language at Slow Memory*. Friday 4th July.

Given by Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles curator, with assistance by Helen Maguire.

Photo: Maija Spurina, used with photographer's permission.



Closing plenary session and gift exchange: *Taking stock of the Action*. Friday 4th July.
(Names have been blurred for privacy purposes)
Photo: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.



Douro River from the northern riverbank.
Photo: Helen Maguire, © Conflict Textiles.