

# Critical Knowledges Across Borders

## Workshop 4:

### Part II

#### Widening Participation



#### Sharing our Knowledge

In this workshop we will turn to women's inclusion and agency in political decision-making. The workshop will involve participants coming together in a crafting conversation, as we work together on an *arpillera*, a brightly coloured patchwork quilt that is used in Chile to tell stories of political conflict and struggle. This may lead us to think about our own political participation and perhaps about women leaders who inspire us. This workshop implements a 'dig where you stand' approach to consider women's involvement in decision-making and constitutional change

#### Expanding our knowledge

After engaging in a crafting conversation, we look more specifically at the Chile *arpillera* and recent debate over constitutional change. The rewriting of the Chilean constitution, a throwback from the 1973-1990 dictatorship, has brought women and, in particular, women of colour into the decision-making process in the quest to increase representation of those who may lack access to power. Our conversation will then return to the context from which participants are coming to consider lessons to be learned there.

#### Envisaging our Futures

The crafting conversation will use the *arpillera* as inspiration for wider debate about what women's political participation could or

should look like in the island of Ireland.

'If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair'

Shirley Chisholm