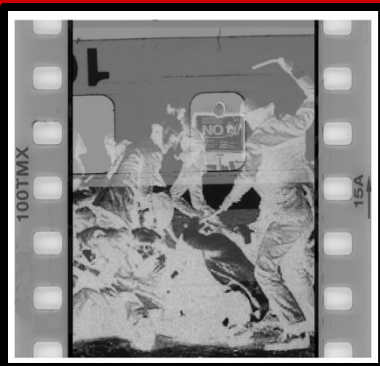


Estefaní Mercedes

is an Argentinian artist whose work focuses on the Argentinian Dirty War (1976 – 1983). A portion of her work investigates the role of the church, both opposed to and in favor of the war. During her time at Wesley, Mercedes will be focusing on a project called *Luz del Día: Copyrighting the Light of Day*.



Pending Argentinian legislation would extend photographic copyright and erase all public images documenting the Dirty War. Bill No. 2517-d-2015 would extend copyright to 70 years post mortem. Many of the photographers who took these images were “disappeared” themselves by the militia government and have no official death date, meaning the images could be locked away indefinitely.

Mercedes works with photographic archives in Argentina that are currently available to the public. She edits the film to restore the missing fragments of historical memory. Drawing on other sources, like her father and grandfather who lived through the regime, she overlays images of war and destruction with images of life. This brings to light not only the atrocities of the War, but also how deep the human rights violations were in Argentina at the time.