

Preliminary abstracts for lectures at the CTR meetings spring 2022

2. February

TEX-KR: Exploring Cambodia's textile material culture of conflict

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TEX-KR explores textile production and dress practices in Cambodia from the early 1960s to the early 1980s, especially examining the years of the Khmer Rouge regime. This dictatorship claimed nearly two million lives between 1975 and 1979. During this period of political unrest, textile ancestral crafts were heavily impacted by halting sericulture, silk weaving, and skills transmission. Silk textiles were looted and traded in exchange for essential goods. The conservation of museum textile artifacts was disrupted, with the National Museum of Cambodia closed until 1979.

The scarce number of silk pieces found post-war in Cambodian institutions has significantly diminished the available knowledge that can be drawn directly from historical artefacts. On the other end, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum was established in 1980 on the secret Khmer Rouge prison site S-21, where about 18,000 prisoners were killed, leaving behind several thousands of textiles and clothing that have been recently reintegrated into the museum's collection.

This presentation will present the scope of TEX-KR, the proposed methodology, and the range of sources it aims to explore. How to devise the non-military history of the Cambodian civil war and dictatorship through textiles, facing limited sources and few objects? Combining object-based study, archival research, and participatory methodologies, this project aims to center textile know-how, artefacts, and clothing practices as crucial material and sensory evidence of Cambodia's twentieth-century history.

16. February

From Paper Patterns to Patterns-on-Fabric: Home Sewing in Swedish Women's Magazines 1881–1981

Gunilla Törnvall

Book History, Lund University, Sweden

With new image printing techniques, an increase in advertising and the invention of commercial paper patterns, the publishing of women's magazines with patterns for home dressmaking expanded at the beginning of the twentieth century in many Western countries. Home sewing became an important part of women's duties, but also pleasure, for a long time to come. This article presents and discusses the role of pattern magazines in the production and consumption of women's garments during one hundred years. It shows how the magazines adapted to changes in the society with easier patterns and ready-cut fabric to facilitate for their female readers. Based on empirical studies of three Swedish magazines, this article highlights women's home-made clothes manufacture and thus contributes to an often-neglected part of women's memory and fashion history.

I will present my current research project, "Reading Patterns: Women, Clothes and Print Culture in Sweden 1881–1981," financed by the Swedish Research Council. I will also present a 1

draft to a nearly finished article (aimed at Costume or any similar journal), and hopefully receive your comments.

2. March

Practices of practice – weaving with body and mind

Sofie Louise Grue Husted Andersen, Anne Kilgour Viuf, Marie Wallenberg, Ulrikka Mokdad, Mark Schram Christensen, Eva Andersson Strand

The aim with the project Practices of practice is to illuminate how the body, mind and environment are involved in the production processes behind ancient technology and the creation of textiles. This is done by developing the use of experimental archaeology, motion capture, cognitive motor neuroscience, 3D modelling and scanning, acoustic analysis for recording and understanding textiles, the textile craft processes, and the impact of knowledge and movement in the textile production.

In the fall 2021 Marie Wallenberg had made a set-up on a warp-weighted loom. During a weaving session; November 1st Marie's movements and brain activity were measured with the aid of Motion capture and EEG. November 15th the same methods were applied to Ulrikka Mokdad when she was weaving tapestry on her tapestry frame. The two weavers were also interviewed about their experience as weavers, knowledge and skills etc.

- The research question are as follows:
- How does weaving techniques and choice of looms affect the body?
- How are our cognitive senses used when weaving?
- Are there any differences (cognitive and or in terms of movements) between the two techniques and, if so, which and how do they affect the outcome?
- Are there any visible parameters which can be applicable on the interpretation of archaeological materials and contexts?

All data from tests and interviews will be analysed and the results published in 2022. In this lecture we will present the first and preliminary results.

16. March

Modeling public buyer behavior towards circular textile products and services

Jeanne Svensky Ligte

The interests in the textile and clothing (TC) supply chains started getting attention among the researcher since the early 21st century, along with the rise of concern in sustainability and circular economy. In the European Union (EU), €1.8 trillion was spent annually for public authorities, which is equal to 14% of the EU's GDP (European Commission, 2020). With 1.7 million employees and approximately 117,700 TC companies, the textile industry shares 6% of total manufacturing in the EU with €171 billion in turnovers globally. On the other hand, the average consumption of textile products per person is 26 kg and discard about 14 kg per year. To tackle the issue in TC production, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in 2011 initially published the European Union Green Public Procurement (EU GPP) Criteria for Textile Products and Services as a guide for authorities and public procurers in applying textile-related procurement procedures and tender. Although the EU GPP implementation target is set to 50%, there are only 18% of the European Member State (MS) that have possibly exceeded the target, due to the fact either some MS do not yet have an official GPP policy in their national action plan or have been developing their own national criteria (European Commission, 2017). It can be concluded that there is considerable potential and need for improvement in this procurement sector. The aim of this project is to develop and empirically verify a theoretical model of public buyer behaviour with a focus on circular textiles by presenting the current biases and challenges, in comparison with individual buyer behaviour.

The research will be conducted through the implementation of both quantitative and qualitative research and systematic literature review. The latter one is undertaken to identify the research gaps using Scopus, Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley, where it is identified only 97 publications in scientific journals in English that covered the topics of public procurement and circular economy in textile industries. Some research questions are delivered: 1) How to evaluate the current effectiveness of the implementation of EU GPP textile criteria; 2) What factors should be considered from the individual buyer perspective in identifying the model of public buyer behaviour. The expected result from this research is to give new insights of how and which tools are necessary in order to make the GPP textile criteria become more sustainable.

30. March

~~Textile archeology and intangible cultural heritage: Towards an archeological framework for the preservation of traditional weaving practices~~

~~Emily Coles~~

Emily Coles' talk has for now been cancelled. We will reschedule for next semester.

Instead, we will join the guest lecture by Dr Lorena Ojeda Dávila: [The Empowerment and Resistance of Mexico's Indigenous Women through Textile Creations](#)

13. April

Acquiring uniformity: dress codes and practices in the Roman Army and early Monastic Cultures

Sofia Torallas Tovar

There is evidence of a conscious effort at acquiring uniformity in dress in Egyptian monasteries as early as the fourth century. Even earlier in the Roman army, there is evidence of the marking of rank through attire. Artistic representation of both soldiers and monks provide a partial picture of actual practice, and may perhaps over-stress uniformity. Textual evidence shows that soldiers in lower ranks had to provide their own equipment, suggesting that uniformity may not have been achieved. The attire of monks was regulated, but some lived in organized communities while others lived more isolated lives in the desert. This talk will focus on evidence from written sources in order to characterize the extent and the limits of practices of uniformity, especially in early monastic communities in Egypt, and explore the parallels with the habit of the army.

27. April

Looking at Fashion Through the Lens of Theory

Michael Alexander Langkjær

Utilizing Georg Simmel's "oldie, but goodie" text Fashion (1904) as a convenient reference-point, I will critically discuss how some of Simmel's original concepts (dialectical dualities) reappear in newer theories of fashion. I will also make use of newer examples of theory application by colleagues as well as in some of my own research. An especial point will be made of problematizing some of the theoretical assumptions, which are brought up in the discussion. Among Simmel's concepts, each of which will be explained and then problematized by a contradictory 'case', are his "imitation vs differentiation" assumptions of fashion diffusion processes (case: Mao and Nehru tunics); "union vs. exclusion" (case: the Jewish presence in Punk); equalization vs. individualization (case: African-American stylin'); appropriation (case: from Levantine fashion in ancient pharaonic Egypt to Sun Yat-sen suits);

values attached to fashion(s) (case: Kopytoff's fashion 'life stories'); outré and anti-fashion fashion as desire for destruction (case Incroyables/Merveilleuses and 'Rock Military Style'); fads (case: Davy Crockett coonskin caps); and fashion novelty and transitoriness on the dividing-line between past and future (case: Karl Lagerfeld's (re)styling of Chanel). I shall also deal with Bourdieu's charting of the competitive playing field of French postwar fashion (case: Karl Lagerfeld as an individual fashion 'player' within Bourdieu's field structure). This leads up to a brief description of a biographical approach to the analysis of fashion designer creativity, focusing on the phenomenon of 'creative tension.'

As a supplementary reading for participants in the seminar, I suggest Georg Simmel: "Fashion", *The American Journal of Sociology* 62: 6 (May 1957): 541-58.

(<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2773129.pdf>). This is a reprint of the text originally published in *International Quarterly* (New York), 10 (October 1904): 130-55).

I may follow up with a couple of other suggestions for readings further down the line up to the date of my presentation.

4. May

Textile manufacture in Viking-Age Ribe: between réseau opératoire, gig economy, and household industry

Sarah Croix

Sarah Croix's talk has for now been cancelled. We will reschedule for next semester.

11. May

Dressed in Rebellion, Adorned in Resistance. Towards a Model of a Peaceful Protest Expressed through Clothing in Ancient Rome

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Years of studies on textiles and dress have demonstrated that clothes can indeed be considered a second skin—in that they provide protection against the cold and unfavorable weather—but most importantly they may manifest one's identity and thus signify acceptance of one's role(s) in a society. However, the history of fashion is also replete with examples of clothes that betokened defiance. Defiance can be understood as a rejection of predetermined role(s) and certain lifestyles. In that sense, attire ought to be considered a powerful and meaningful means of human agency. Through garments, people sought to achieve their goals, not only trying to distance themselves from the current events or fashions, but also change the course of social and political life.

The analyses of ancient literary sources reveal the events which ensued in Rome of the Republic and the Principate when the established dress codes, laws and taboos had intentionally been broken in order to protest against political, religious and social circumstances. Studies of those cases show that there are certain, recurring characteristics in the clothes which were chosen to express defiance. Preliminary research made it possible to formulate a hypothesis that it was the context that lent such attire its final symbolism of protest. The issues I would like to address during my presentation are the patterns behind those protests during which clothes were used to express dissent and rebellion. For this end, I am going to focus on the gender, status, age of the protesters along with the dress of their choosing, as well as examine the response of the inhabitants and authorities of Rome that those protests provoked. Another question to be discussed is whether there may have existed a protest attire that the Romans would have accepted or find justification for. Finally, I will outline the

difficulties and opportunities associated with the antique descriptions of clothing as an expression of rebellion and resistance.

8. June

Presenting "Fashioning Sudan": research aims, methods, and future activities

Elsa Yvanez

Starting in September 2022, CTR will host a new project entitled "Fashioning Sudan. Archaeology of Dress along the Middle Nile" (ERC StG n°101039416). Our approach will merge different academic fields, such as archaeology, textile and animal skin research, palaeoproteomics, and socio-cultural theory, to develop an interdisciplinary study of garments. The project will encompass the high-resolution analysis of textile and animal skin garments from the Bronze Age to the Late Medieval period, in close connection with their archaeological context. The results will reveal which animal and plant species were exploited, as well as skills and craft dynamics. It will then question how to use clothing and socio-cultural theories to reveal previously unknown aspects of past Sudanese lives. We hope to bring new and more representative knowledge about the populations of ancient Sudan and to highlight the entanglement of dress practices in the fabric of society. This presentation will outline the different components of the project - material and methods - and describe the future activities planned at UCPH and beyond.

9. June

Refashioning the Renaissance: Everyday Dress and the Reconstruction of Early Modern Material Culture, 1550-1650

Paula Hohti

This talk presents some of the findings of my recent ERC-funded project Refashioning the Renaissance: Popular Groups and the Material and Cultural Significance of Clothing in Europe, 1550-1650.

During the past five years, I and my team have developed new perspectives in early modern dress and fashion history by asking two interrelated key questions: How did fashion beyond groups of wealthy elites develop in early modern Europe, and how can we gain access to the culture of lower social groups when so few garments survive, and sources about clothes are fragmentary? Combining archival, material, and pictorial evidence with experimental hands-on work and reconstruction, our project has explored what were the key agents of fashion change at the lower social levels in Early Modern Europe, and how experimental work, reconstruction, and material-based approaches can help us understand and access early modern dress and material culture.

Our website contains a lot of material relating to our research, experiments and outputs. If you are interested, please visit <https://refashioningrenaissance.eu/>