

THE ASSOCIATION OF DRESS HISTORIANS

# Winter Seminar Series

## 2022-2023

First Friday of every month from November 2022 to March 2023  
18:00 GMT | 14:00 EST | 06:00 NZST (SAT)

### Programme

**Friday 4 November 2022, 18:00-19:00 GMT**

*Luis Estévez: Fashion, Elegance, and Exoticization.*

With **Joshua Simon**, Western Michigan University

Hosts: Emily Taylor (introduction), Scott Schiavone (discussion chair), Amelia O'Mahony-Brady (Zoom)

Synopsis: This research analyzes Luis Estévez, a bi-sexual Cuban American fashion designer, and his career, spanning from the 1950s to the 1990s. There is heightened attention to use of exoticizing and othering language surrounding Estévez in the media, his candidness, and overall lack of representation in fashion history.

Biography: Joshua D. Simon (he/his) graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in 2019 and a Master's degree from Iowa State University in 2022. He is currently working on his Ph.D. at Western Michigan University. He is a dress historian and has researched the Gibson Girl, women's military uniforms, the style of former First Lady Betty Ford, and queer fashion history.

**Friday 2 December 2022, 18:00-19:00 GMT**

*Tiny Needleworked Treasures of 17th-Century Schoolgirls*

With **Isabella Rosner** and *Sew What?* podcast

Hosts: Emily Taylor (introduction and discussion chair), Tiago Abreu (Zoom)

Synopsis: This talk will explore minuscule needleworked objects made by 17th-century British schoolgirls, such as tiny purses, bite sized birds, embroidered eggshells, and decorated nutmegs. It expands on a Sew What? podcast episode covering the same subject.

Biography: Isabella Rosner is a final-year Ph.D. student at King's College London, where she researches Quaker women's art before 1800. Her project focuses on seventeenth-century London needlework and eighteenth-century Philadelphia wax and shellwork. Isabella also specialises in the study of schoolgirl samplers and early modern stitching in addition to hosting the Sew What? podcast about historic needlework and those who stitched it.

Friday 13 January 2023, 18:00-19:00 GMT

*Queering Masculinities: Dress, Gender, and the Body in the Antwerp Fashion Scene*

With Nicola Brajato, University of Antwerp

Hosts: Irene Calvi (introduction and discussion chair), Amelia O'Mahony-Brady and Emily Taylor (Zoom)

Biography: Nicola Brajato is a PhD candidate in fashion and gender studies at the University of Antwerp funded by the Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO). His current research aims to investigate the impact of Antwerp fashion in critically questioning the idea of masculinity, the male body and menswear.

Previously, he was research scholar in the fashion studies department of the University of Bologna with a project on fashion archives aimed to the realisation of an exhibition on the relationship between club culture and fashion. As part of the research project, Nicola curated the site specific art work "Fashion in Paradise: Rimini and the Golden Age of Discoteca Paradiso". Nicola has published articles on the relationship between fashion, identity and the body in different journals, including Fashion Theory, Critical Studies in Men's Fashion and NORMA: The International Journal for Masculinity Studies. He has collaborated with different fashion institutions including La Cambre (Brussels), Modeklasse (Vienna) and Parsons Paris. Nicola is currently guest editing a special issue on fashion and gender of ZoneModa Journal.

Friday 3 February 2023, 18:00-19:00 GMT

*Rags and respectability: attitudes toward textile waste in the nineteenth century*

With Philip Sykas, Manchester Metropolitan University

Hosts: Emily Taylor (introduction and discussion chair), Tiago Abreu (Zoom)

Biography: Dr Philip Sykas is known for his study of printed textiles through the evidence of manufacturers' pattern books. He recently published three volumes of historical resources with Routledge under the series title *Pathways in the Nineteenth Century British Textile Industry*, exploring themes from the nineteenth century that have current resonance. One of these is waste textiles.

Friday 3 March 2023, 18:00-19:00 GMT

*'Can't walk, can't talk and has no face to speak of': Visualising Henry Poole & Co's nineteenth-century tailoring methods and the absent historical body*

With Sarah Goldsmith, University of Edinburgh and Gill MacGregor, freelance

Hosts: Emily Taylor (introduction and discussion chair), Amelia O'Mahony-Brady and Tiago Abreu (Zoom)

Synopsis: The famous actor-manager, Sir Henry Irving, was once said to declare 'For an actor who can't walk, can't talk, and has no face to speak of, I've done pretty well'. Examining written and visual records of Irving's body, surviving garments and his Henry Poole & Co tailoring measurements, this talk examines the intimate

relationship between clothing, bespoke tailoring methods, customer's bodies and their assertions to masculinity in the late nineteenth century.

#### Biographies:

Sarah Goldsmith is a Chancellors Fellow in History at the University of Edinburgh. Her research explores the histories of masculinity, the body and travel in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her first monograph, *Masculinity and Danger on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour* was published in 2020. She is an AHRC/BBC 2018 New Generation Thinker and was an academic consultant for the V&A's 2021 *Fashioning Masculinities* exhibition.

Gill MacGregor is a freelance costume mounter, maker and researcher. Initially working in theatre for ten years, she gained a masters degree in Fashion Curation, before working extensively at the V&A. She has worked on numerous high profile exhibitions, most recently on the upcoming *Africa Fashion*, for which she contributed to the development and production of diverse mannequins. Her research interests include display solutions, forgotten dressmakers and the wardrobe of Lady Ottoline Morrell.

