

Everyday Dress and the Reconstruction of Early Modern Material Culture, 1550–1650

Refashioning the Renaissance Conference

10–11 September 2021, Online | Aalto University, Finland | UTC +3



This international conference develops 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, this conference explores the key agents of fashion change at the lower social levels in Early Modern Europe, and investigates how experimental work and material-based approaches can help us understand and access early modern dress and material culture.

Image: Isaac Claesz. van Swanenburg, *Het spinnen, het scheren van de ketting, en het weven*, 1594–1596. Museum de Lakenhal, Leiden.



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FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

11:00–11:15 **Refashioning the Renaissance Project**
Paula Hohti

11:15–11:30 **Making Early Modern Fashion Communities**
Evelyn Welch

Session 1: Popular Dress and Fashion Innovation in Early Modern Europe

Chair: Paula Hohti

11:30–12:15 **KEYNOTE: Everyday Fashion in Early Modern Europe**
John Styles

12:15–12:45 **Ribbons and Trims in Early Modern Italy**
Andrea Caracausi

12:45–13:00 **Experiment in focus: Reconstruction of Renaissance Lace**
Elena Kanagy-Loux

13:00–13:15 **Discussion and questions**

13:15–14:30 **Lunch break**

Session 2: Imitation and Novelty in Everyday Fashion

Chair: Sophie Pitman

14:30–15:00 **Faded Shades or Fashionable Tints?: Colour and Novelty in Renaissance Everyday Dress**
Paula Hohti

15:00–15:30 **Artisans 'à la mode': The Availability of Fashion Items in Early Modern Venice, Florence, and Siena (16–17th c.)**
Stefania Montemezzo

15:30–16:00 **Dressed to Kill: Weapons and Protective Materials in Artisan Renaissance Fashion**
Victoria Bartels

16:00–16:10 **Experiment in focus: Imitation in Early Modern Europe (video)**
Refashioning workshop featuring Timothy McCall

16:10–16:30 **Discussion and questions**

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16:30–17:00 **Coffee break**

Session 3: Dressing the Early Modern Artisan

Chair: Flora Dennis

17:00–17:30 **Between Town and Court: Royal Artisans and Fashion in Seventeenth-Century Madrid**

Amanda Wunder

17:30–18:00 **Artisan Fashions in Early Modern Denmark: A Case-Study**

Anne-Kristine Sindvald Larsen

18:00–18:15 **Experiment in focus: Dressing Up: Wearing an Early Modern Doublet**

Valerio Zanetti

18:15–18:30 **Discussion and questions**

Closing

18:30–19:00 **Virtual networking**

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Session 1: Historical and Digital Reconstructions of Dress

Chair: John Styles

11:30–12:15 **What is Historical Reconstruction?**

Jenny Tiramani

12:15–12:45 **Reconstruction as a Methodology: The Mock-Velvet Doublet of a Florentine Seventeenth-Century Waterseller**

Sophie Pitman

12:45–13:00 **Experiment in focus: Animating Historical Garments: Digital Reconstruction of a Renaissance Doublet**

Maarit Kalmakurki

13:00–13:15 **Discussion and questions**

13:15–14:30 **Lunch break**

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Session 2: Approaches to Historical Reconstruction

Chair: Tessa Storey

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| 14:30–15:00 | The Clothing of the Contadina: Women's Work, Leisure, and Morality in Sixteenth- Century Northern Italy
<i>Elizabeth Currie and Jordan Mitchell-King</i> |
| 15:00–15:30 | Stitching History Together: Using Scientific Methods and Craft Experts to Understand Early Modern Knitting
<i>Piia Lempiäinen and Paula Hohti</i> |
| 15:30–15:45 | Experiment in focus: Producing Silk in Traditional Methods
<i>Miriam Pugliese</i> |
| 15:45–16:00 | Discussion and questions |
| 16:00–16:30 | Coffee Break |

Session 3: Reconstruction as a Methodology in Material Culture History

Chair: Paula Hohti

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| 16:30–17:15 | KEYNOTE: Reconstruction in Research and Teaching: The Making and Knowing Project
<i>Pamela H. Smith</i> |
| 17:15–18:00 | KEYNOTE: How Site and Makers Matter in RRR Research
<i>Sven Dupré</i> |
| 18:00–18:15 | Discussion and questions |

Session 4: Discussion

Chair: Sophie Pitman

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| 18:15–18:30 | Response
John Styles |
| 18:30–18:55 | Panel Discussion
<i>Flora Dennis, Sven Dupré, Maria Hayward, Lucà Mola, Giorgio Riello, Tessa Storey, Pamela H. Smith, John Styles</i> |
| 18:55–19:00 | Closing words
<i>Paula Hohti</i> |