Textile and Fashion in Theory and Practice through 3000 years
An interdisciplinary course of Archeology, History, European Ethnology and Fashion Studies at the Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen

Textiles and fashion are essential aspects of the human condition. We dress, appear and communicate through fabrics and other kinds of body adornments. But over the course of time, we have changed practices for production, mediation and the use of textiles and fashion, as well as theories through which to conceive fashion and textile. The TFTP summer school provides a survey of the history of textile and fashion from prehistoric time to the present in the geographical area of Scandinavia, Europe and the Middle East. Focused on different historic and cultural theories, the course further emphasizes the introduction of critical and analytical approaches to understand the subject field and in the wider context understanding entanglement of fashion and textile in constituting cultures and societies.

Student target group
The course is aimed especially at future BA and MA history, ethnology, art history, archeology students and others interested who will gain knowledge of how to include textiles and fashion in a general discussion on culture and societies.

Description
The summer school course is taught by excellent fashion and textile researchers and surveys the interdisciplinary field of textiles and fashion from the Bronze Age until today. In each module, there will be texts and course material related to textiles and fashion, backed up with readings of essential classical works of theory and methods.

In this course BA and MA students will be introduced to the analysis of textiles and textile technology as well as how new scientific methods and theoretical approaches can be applied to textile research and fashion studies. Furthermore, emphasis is on the theories and practice of cultural studies. The course will cover a wide chronological and geographic area from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the New World.

The summer school is composed of five modules interweaving the themes of textile techniques and craft, knitting technology and history, new analytical tools from the sciences used in the humanities and in textile research, and the interpretation and multiple meanings of dress and fashion in society, as markers of status, identity and power, or as gendered gifts.

ECST: 15 points

Workload
400 h works. This consists of 200 h preparation at home, reading syllabus, 130 h (13 days of 10h) in UCPH (courses, group work, practical textile activities, museum visits), 70 h writing the final assignment at home, with 1-2 skype meetings with the school masters.
Literature
You will read primary sources on textiles, clothing, trade, production and consumption, and study textile artefacts and textile tools. Furthermore you will read contemporary fashion theory, post-structuralist and feminist cultural theory, economic theory, classical anthropological theory.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the TFTP summer school, participants should have acquired:
1. Knowledge and understanding of the historical dimension to textile and fashion production, mediation and use.
2. Knowledge and understanding of the prevalent theories of textile and fashion across disciplinary boundaries of archeology, history, ethnology and fashion studies.
3. Knowledge of various types of important primary sources about this history of textiles and fashion
4. Methods underlying the theories of the above mentioned.
5. Skills in critical analysis and evaluation of conflicting theories.
6. A clear understanding of the methodologies and difficulties of handling different types of sources, with varying degrees of validity and quality.
7. A technical and chronological overview of textile techniques.
8. A hands-on approach to various textile techniques
9. Skills in written dissemination of the subject matter. Skills in formulating a thesis statement and expand it into an original paper for your end-of-summer school written assignment
10. Competences in acting in a cross-disciplinary environment on the basis of the course teaching.

Programme

Module 1: Science and the Humanities at a new crossroads: Analytical tools for Organic Material Studies =ATOMS= 3 days [2-4 August 2017]
Teachers: Jane Malcolm Davies
Activities: visit laboratories on the Department of Conservation of the National Museum, Brede.
Theories: Tim Flohr Sørensen, Bruno Latour
Most preparation consists of videos from labs and courses

Module 2: Knitting: technology and cultural history= 2 days [5-6 August 2017]
Teachers: Jane Malcolm Davies
Activities: visit National Museum of Denmark collections.
Theories:

Module 3: Textiles as gifts=1 day [7 August 2017]
Textiles dedicated in Greek sanctuaries and textiles as gendered gifts in Roman times
Teachers: Cecilie Brøns, Marie-Louise Nosch, Magdalena Öhrman
Activities: Visit to the National Museum of Denmark and the Lindo’s Chronicle
Theories: Marcel Maus, Bronislaw Malinowski, Paul Ricoeur

Module 4: Textile production= 3 days [8-10 August 2017]
In this module the students will gain insights in how the production of textile production can be studied and interpreted in different societies (e.g. Greece, Egypt, Scandinavia) and time periods (ancient Greece, late
antique Egypt and Early Medieval Europe). Furthermore they will be introduced to textile technology via hands-on practise.

**Teachers:** Eva Andersson Strand, Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert, Cailin Marjory Tamar

**Theories:** Karl Marx, Pierre Lemonnier, material culture studies

**Activity:** experimental archaeology, Lejre visit, practical work sessions

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**Module 5: Fashion, culture and identity = 3 days [11-13 August 2017]**

In this module the students will learn about different theoretical understandings of fashion and the history of fashion in the modern and postmodern world. How the field of studying fashion is contested and interdisciplinary will be emphasised as well as the various methods studying fashion from semiotic readings to ethnographic descriptions and interpretations. The aim of the module is that students will learn critical, analytical thinking through fashion in the study of culture and society.

**Teachers:** Marie Riegels Melchior, Corinne Thepaut-Cabasset, Jane Malcolm-Davies

**Theories:** From classical thinkers such as T. Veblen, G. Simmel, R. Barthes, to P. Bourdieu, B. Latour and D. Harraway. From fashion theory E. Wilson, L. Taylor, C. Evans, J. Entwistle, S. Woodward among others.

**Activities:** Micro ethnographic field studies, representational studies of fashion imagery, museums visit to Designmuseum Danmark.

Evening event in collaboration with the Tudor Tailor programme “As I lie dying” in the summer school. This is an evening presentation followed by a day of practical workshops

See: [http://www.tudortailor.com/talks-and-events/as-lie-dying/](http://www.tudortailor.com/talks-and-events/as-lie-dying/). The evening presentation is based on a specific event in 1574 when sumptuary law applied to women for the first time in the early modern era in England and Wales. The workshop is based on research on ordinary people’s dress in the 16th century.

**[14 August 2017: summing up, evaluation and preparation of assignments]**

**Summer school head masters:** Eva Andersson Strand (archaeology), Marie-Louise Nosch (ancient history), Jane Malcolm-Davies (historian of early modern Europe) Marie Riegels Melchior (European ethnology)

**Summer school teachers:** Eva Andersson Strand (archaeology), Marie-Louise Nosch (history), Marie Riegels Melchior (European ethnology), Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert (philology and archaeology), Cailin Marjory Tamar (craft and design), Cecilie Brøns (classical archaeology), Magdalena Öhrman (Latin history and philology), Jane Malcolm Davies (early modern history, costume history), Corinne Thepaut-Cabasset (economic history, fashion history)

**Language:** the course is taught in English. Texts are in English and are provided by teachers.

**Admission number of students:** minimum 15, maximum 47 (first come first served)

**ECST:** 15 points

**Work-load for students 400h.** This consists of:

- **130 h** (13 days of 10h) in UCPH (courses, group work, practical textile activities, museum visits)
- **70 h** writing the final assignment at home, with 1-2 skype meetings with the school masters
- **200 h** preparation at home, reading syllabus

**Disciplines:** history, archaeology, ethnology, fashion studies

**Work for teachers:** (courses, preparation, exams): 280 h (to be divided between MLN, EAS and MRM)
Exam:

**Deadline** for submitting exam documents is 31 August 2017.

**BA exam:** written assignment of 20 pages plus portfolio of activities.

**MA exam:** written assignment of 30 pages plus portfolio of activities.

The portfolio is made during the 12 days in UCPH and documents the summer school activities. It consists of: 1: reports and documentation from each museum visits; 2: samples of practical textile handwork made in workshops, and documentation of the test procedure and protocols in the workshop; 3. interview with 1 textile researcher/designer/museum scholar/textile craftsperson

**Time:** July-August 2017. Courses in UCPH take place 2-14 August 2017. Presence is obligatory.

**Activities:** Lectures, group work, written assignments, museum visits, visits to fashion companies, interview, reading, practical textile work, tests of textile techniques and controlled experiments in workshop, seeing fashion films. Practical work sessions in the evenings (knitting, crochet, embroidery and felting)

**Place:** The Saxo Institute, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen and museum visits

**Distance learning:** some sessions will be filmed with the purpose of creating a distance-learning program on ancient textiles, in association with the University of Wales. Magdalena Öhrman is directing this event.

**Especially for non-Danish students or students enrolled in universities outside Denmark:**
Admission rules: [http://studies.ku.dk/summer/how-to-apply/](http://studies.ku.dk/summer/how-to-apply/)

Tuition fees: [http://humanities.ku.dk/education/summer/](http://humanities.ku.dk/education/summer/)

Housing facilities for summer school students in Copenhagen: [http://studies.ku.dk/summer/housing-for-summer-course/](http://studies.ku.dk/summer/housing-for-summer-course/)

**For further information, please contact**

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