

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

Refashioning the Renaissance Conference

10–13 September 2020, Aalto University, Helsinki/Espoo, Finland



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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Thursday 10 September

Reception and opening of the Refashioning the Renaissance exhibition (18:00–20:00)

Friday 11 September

Session 1: The Study of Early Modern Everyday Fashion and Popular Dress (9:30–11:00)

Chair: Evelyn Welch

- Paula Hohti Erichsen: 'Introduction of the Refashioning the Renaissance Project'
- Evelyn Welch: 'Making Early Modern Fashion Communities'
- John Styles: KEYNOTE 'Everyday Fashion in Early Modern Europe'

Session 2: Everyday Fashion and Identity (11:30–12:45)

Chair: Flora Dennis

- Michele Nicole Robinson: 'Cross-Cultural Exchange and Artisan Dress in Early Modern Italy'
- Elizabeth Currie: 'Gypsies and Fortune Tellers: Dress, Identity and Exclusion in Early Modern Italy'

Session 3: Novelties and Key Agents of Popular Fashion Change (14:00–15:45)

Chair: Giorgio Riello

- Paula Hohti Erichsen: 'Colour and Novelty in Italian Artisans' Dress'
- Andrea Caracausi: 'Ribbons and Trims in Early Modern Italy'
- Stefania Montemezzo: 'Artisans 'à la mode'. The Availability of Fashion Items in Early Modern Venice, Florence, and Siena (16–17th c.)'

Session 4: Beyond Italy: Artisan Fashions in Europe (16:15–17:30)

Chair: Tessa Storey

- Amanda Wunder: 'Between Town and Court: Royal Artisans and Fashion in Seventeenth-Century Madrid'
- Anne-Kristine Sindvald Larsen: 'Artisan 'Fashions' in Early Modern Denmark: A Case-Study'

Closing Response and audience discussion (17:30–18:00)

Giorgio Riello

Saturday 12 September

Session 1: Historical and Digital Reconstructions of Dress (09:30–11:15)

Chair: Maria Hayward

- Jenny Tiramani: 'What is Historical Reconstruction?'
- Sophie Pitman: 'Reconstruction as a Methodology: The Mock-Velvet Doublet of a Florentine Seventeenth-Century Waterseller'
- Maarit Kalmakurki: 'Animating Historical Garments: Digital Reconstruction of the Refashioning the Renaissance Doublet'
- Valerio Zanetti: 'The Experience of Wearing an Early Modern Artisans' Doublet'

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Session 2: Approaches to Historical Reconstruction (11:45–13:15)

Chair: TBA

- Piia Lempiäinen: 'Knitting for Science: The Refashioning the Renaissance Citizen Science Project'
- Miriam Pugliese: 'Producing Silk in Traditional Methods'
- TBA: 'Knitting a Renaissance Stocking: A Maker's Perspective'
- Early Career Researchers' Lightning Talks

Session 3: Reconstruction as a Methodology in Material Culture History (14:30–16:15)

Chair: Paula Hohti Erichsen

- Pamela H. Smith: KEYNOTE 'Reconstruction in Research and Pedagogy: The Making and Knowing Project'
- Sven Dupré: KEYNOTE 'Site Matters: Histories and Designs of "Re-Methods"'

Session 4: Discussion and Close (16:45–18:00)

Chair: Evelyn Welch

- TBA: Response
- Panel Discussion: Pamela H. Smith, Sven Dupre, John Styles, Giorgio Riello, Maria Hayward
- Paula Hohti Erichsen: Closing

Reception (18:00–19:00)

Sunday 13 September

Workshop: Silk Fibre Preparation

Nido di Seta

How was silk fibre prepared in the early modern period? This hands-on workshop, led by Miriam Pugliese from the Nido di Seta cooperative based in Calabria, will cover the whole process of extracting silk fibre, from discussing the cultivation of mulberry leaves, to caring for silkworms and selecting cocoons. During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to experiment with the process of silk preparation, from extracting and reeling silk, to twisting, doubling and degumming the thread.

This workshop will be hands-on, and involves fire and water, so please wear clothes that can be easily laundered.

Places are limited and will be filled in the order of registration.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN MARCH

refashioningrenaissance.eu/conference