

EuroWeb Workshop: Theoretical concepts on dress and identity, visual codes in prehistoric and historic societies

Hosted by the **Natural History Museum Vienna**
25th to 27th April 2022 in Vienna

Coordinators: Karina Grömer (Natural History Museum Vienna), Kayleigh Saunderson (University of Vienna), Elisabeth Trinkl (University of Graz)

What is a “visual code”?
How do textiles contribute to identity?
In which contexts can we observe these processes?

Visual codes, which vary with and within different societies, comprise aspects of the external appearance of people that are communicated non-verbally. This includes clothing (also shoes and headgear) as well as hairstyles and various accessories.

Are there rules within a specific society that prescribe or even prohibit certain items of clothing, colours, raw materials (e.g., fur, silk), costume components, accessories for certain social groups, for men and women or for certain age groups?

In this workshop, we will work on theoretical concepts: different perspectives — such as cultural anthropology, material culture studies, social psychology, evolutionary anthropology and modern fashion studies. The discussions include theories on visual coding, body language, fashion theory, gender & age and social hierarchies. The participants will:

- Receive a reader with 5 selected articles, with which we will discuss the theories
- Present short statements with case studies from their own research
- Set the case studies into a context with the theoretical approaches and form ideas on how to include theories in their own work

Pre-workshop online-meeting

Friday 25th Feb. 2022, 3 to 5 pm CET: Zoom-event as preparation (introduction to the workshop, deciding on subjects of presentations, literature to read and discuss etc.).

Participants will receive the Zoom-Link.

Workshop in Vienna

Monday 25th April 2022: Arrival in Vienna

2 pm CET: Introduction of the participants at the Natural History Museum of Vienna (Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna) and discussion of the readers.

In the **evening** we will enjoy some sparkling wine on the rooftop.

Tuesday 26th April:

9 am to 5 pm: Presentations

Wednesday 27th April:

9 to 11 am: Discussing and comparing the presented time periods

11:30 am to 1 pm: Excursion – working with Karina’s reconstructed garments and viewing the archaeological textiles of the Natural History Museum

1 pm to 2 pm: Lunch

2 pm: Excursion to the archaeological collection of the University of Vienna’s Department of Prehistory and Historical Archaeology and the exhibition “Ariadne’s Threads – Haute Couture in Minoan Crete and Mycenae” at the Department of Classical Archaeology (both Franz Klein Gasse 1, 1190 Vienna): The exhibition presents reconstructed clothing of the Minoan and Mycenaean periods on Bernice Jones’ scientific basis and offers a detailed, vivid insight into the textile crafts and the colours of the 2nd century BCE.

Departure

The readers are:

I. Gilligan 2016: Clothing; To Afford Protection Against Climate and Weather. In: T. Shackelford, V. Weekes-Shackelford (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Science*. Cham: Springer.

S. Harris 2019: The sensory archaeology of textiles. In: R. Skeates and J. Day (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Sensory Archaeology*. Abingdon: Routledge, 210–232.

A. Lurie 1981: *The Language of Clothes*. New York: Random House.

C. M. Sommer 2012: Dress and Identity – A Social Psychologist's Perspective. In: S. Schrenk, K. Vössing and M. Tellenbach (eds.), *Kleidung und Identität in religiösen Kontexten der römischen Kaiserzeit*. Publikationen der Reiss-Engelhorn.-Museen Mannheim Bd. 47. Regensburg: Verlag Schnell & Steiner, 257–263.

M. L. S. Sørensen 1997: Reading Dress: the Construction of Social Categories and Identities in Bronze Age Europe. *Journal of European Archaeology* 5/1, 93–114.

Members of EuroWeb are eligible for reimbursement of travel costs according to the COST rules. Financial support can be offered for accommodation, meals and short distance travel expenses (please see Annex 1 3. Funding Scheme).

If you are interested in registering for free, please send us your CV, a letter of motivation (max. 500 words) and a short description of what you would like to work on in our workshop (max. 500 words) to the following address: textiles@uni-graz.at until **31st January 2022**. We can only choose a maximum of 12 participants and will let you know if you are registered till 13th February. Feel free to ask us any questions via our e-mail.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Please use only the official e-mail address for all exchanges:

textiles@uni-graz.at

