

## *Call for Papers*

### **TAILORING IDENTITIES. *The long history of the masculinisation of womenswear / Pour une histoire de la masculinisation de la mode féminine***



Fashion operates within a system where objects are imbued with gendered meanings through materiality, craftsmanship, and social perception. Gender studies have long explored how clothing serves as both a reflection of and a battleground for shifting societal norms, reinforcing or subverting binary constructs. The gendering of fashion extends beyond garments themselves to encompass accessories, textiles, production techniques, and even the ways in which clothing is displayed, marketed, and consumed. These practices reveal entrenched power structures, as well as the fluidity and contestation of gendered aesthetics across different historical moments and cultural contexts. Understanding fashion as a site of negotiation highlights its capacity to both affirm and destabilise dominant narratives, allowing for alternative expressions of identity to emerge.

The evolving relationship between fashion and identity is intricately tied to the masculinisation of womenswear, a phenomenon shaped by shifting cultural, social, and aesthetic paradigms. From the 15th century through the 20th century in Europe, womenswear increasingly incorporated elements of masculine dress, challenging rigid sartorial norms and redefining the boundaries of gendered appearance.

## TAILORING IDENTITIES – Call for Papers

Organised by Palais Galliera and the Fashion Heritage research chair at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne/HiCSA as part of a research project for an upcoming exhibition, *TAILORING IDENTITIES* aims to critically examine this transformation, and the different practices of dressing and cross-dressing connected to it. We aim to consider how tailoring and craftsmanship adapted to accommodate a more structured silhouette, modelled after a non-normative definition of femininity, and how women and gender-nonconforming individuals engaged – however visibly – with masculine aesthetics as an assertion of autonomy, defiance, or belonging. By interrogating the interplay between fashion and identity, we seek to illuminate the nuanced ways in which dress functioned not only as an expression of personal style but also as a medium of self-fashioning, resistance, and social negotiation.

By bringing together perspectives from fashion studies, gender studies, and cultural history, this symposium will explore how notions of fashionability and taste were negotiated through the appropriation and reinterpretation of menswear. It will also address the role of clothing as a vehicle for resistance and identity formation, with a particular focus on lesbian identities and broader shifts in gendered fashion codes.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Historical precedents of masculine dress in womenswear
- The evolution of tailoring and craftsmanship in women's fashion
- Fashion as a tool for negotiating identity and power structures
- The role of photography, illustration, painting and literature in shaping perceptions of masculine aesthetics in womenswear
- Case studies of wearers and cultural figures who redefined the stereotype of vestimentary femininity through menswear
- Debates on gender-fluid fashion and its socio-political implications

We welcome proposals from scholars, curators, designers, and practitioners whose research or creative practice engages with historical and contemporary intersections of fashion, gender, and identity. Contributions from interdisciplinary perspectives, including but not limited to fashion studies, gender studies, queer theory, material culture, and visual culture, are especially encouraged.

### Submission Guidelines:

Proposals should be sent to Marta Franceschini, Emilie Hammen and Marine Kiesel at **[tailoringidentities@gmail.com](mailto:tailoringidentities@gmail.com)** in the form of a single PDF document, including a **max. 300-word abstract** and a **150-word biography**.

The file should be renamed as *surname-firstname-TI2025*.

### Deadline for submissions: 7th April 2025

Accepted speakers will be notified by **16th April 2025**.

The conference will take place at **Galerie Colbert (6 rue des petits champs) in Paris on 30th June and 1st July 2025**.

For any inquiries, please contact **[tailoringidentities@gmail.com](mailto:tailoringidentities@gmail.com)**.