

Fashion and Function:

Exploring the Protective Uses of Dress in Times of Crisis



Dressing the Early Modern Network Conference

Friday 24 September 2021, Supported by King's College London, Online
11.00am GMT

Fashion in the early modern period was both creative and innovative, changing as people responded to the world around them. In times of crisis the functionality of dress as a way of providing protection became a practical concern for people, whatever their social status or financial means. From their materiality to their perceived protection, dress was adapted to serve a specific purpose. Whether dealing with personal crisis, such as illness and financial hardships or larger scale events such as famines, wars, plagues and pandemics, the protective uses of dress have been meticulously employed. From jewellery and amulets to protective masks and clothing, people in the early modern found subjective ways to dress in order to project a feeling of safety and security. Uniforms in times of war were designed specifically to protect from wounds and shield from the weather elements; masks were used during plagues and pandemics; while amulets were widely employed to ward off spirits, illness, and general bad luck.

This conference aims to generate a discussion about the various protective uses of clothing and jewellery, their methods of production, perceived safety and efficacy during times of crisis in the early modern.

Organised by Jola Pellumbi, Natasha Awais-Dean and Sara van Dijk
Dressing the Early Modern Network

Friday 24 SEPTEMBER 2021, 11:00-18:00
ONLINE
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11:00 Welcome by Organizers

11:15-12:30 Panel 1: Talismans

Chair: TBC

11:15-11:30 *Wearing Red Coral in Trapani during the Plague Epidemics of 1575 and 1624*
Roberta Cruciata (University of Palermo)

11:30-11:45 *"Worne about the neck": Healing and Preventing Ill Health in Early Modern England*
Mirren Brockies (University of Auckland)

11:45-12:00 *On the Production of Talismans and Their (Im)potency in Marsilio Ficino's 'De vita libri tres'*
Katharina Strika (Ludwig Maximilians University)

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-12.45 Break

12:45-13:40 Panel 2: Colour

Chair: TBC

12:45-13:00 *Fashioning a Sea-Green and Blue Revolution: Levellers, Dress and Gesture during the English Revolution, c. 1647-9*
Justin Schwartz (King's College London)

13:00-13:15 *The Plague Wrapped in Red in Early Modern Art*
Florence Larcher (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

13:15-13:35 Discussion

13:35-14:20 Lunch Break

14:20-15:35 Panel 3: Clothing

Chair: TBC

14:20-14:35 *Spanish Cloaks: The Patterns of Cloaks Worn in Spain around 1580*
Martina Hřibrová (Tomas Bata University)

14:35-14:50 *Fashioning a Daily Domestic Crisis: Reconstructing the Early Modern Apron as a Functional and Fashionable Accessory*
Jane Malcolm-Davies (University of Copenhagen)

14:50-15:05 *Clothing and Contagion: Protective Dress during Outbreaks of Plague in Early Modern Edinburgh*
Rachel Clamp (Durham University)

15:05-15:35 Discussion

15:35-15:50 Break

15:50-17:05 Panel 4: Disguise

Chair: TBC

15:50-16:05 *Concealed Freedom: The Tapada Limeña*

Luisina Silva Blanc (Independent scholar)

16:05-16:20 *A Tale of Stepfathers, Faith and Fashion: Lady Elizabeth Tudor's Use of Dress to Protect and Restore her Reputation after her Disgrace during the Seymour Scandal (1547-53)*

Megan Isaac (University of Southampton)

16:20-16:35 *"Conceal me what I am"- Protection and Masculine Clothes in Shakespeare's Comedies*

Imke Lichterfeld (University of Bonn)

16:35-17:05 Discussion

17:05-17:15 Concluding Remarks

17:15 Conference Ends

17:15-18:00 *Online Coffee Room/ Social Chat (optional)*