

# **Dressing the Interior in the Early Modern:** Textiles in Various Domestic Settings

---



***Dressing the Early Modern Network Conference 2023***

**Saturday 23 September 2023, Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS), Leiden, The Netherlands**

Textiles, wall and furniture coverings played an important role in dressing interiors in the early modern period. From curtains to chairs, tables and beds a variety of textiles was needed to protect, adorn and transform rooms, homes and palaces. They were an important part of the dwelling as they linked the interiors together and showcased the taste and material means of the owners. Different rooms in the house served diverse purposes, from more public spaces such as waiting rooms, reception rooms and ballrooms to more private rooms such as the bedroom with its antechambers. In other households, rooms often had multiple functions and in many cases the distinction between private and public interior was more flexible. Textiles played an important role in distinguishing and modifying these spaces while giving a glimpse of the relationship that the owners had with those interiors.

While extant textiles have been frequently altered to fit new purposes denoting both their durability and the costly aspects of this medium, ledgers provide further examples of repairs and replacements. On the other hand, inventories give a more accurate picture of the changes in fashion over time. Fashions played an important role in the dressing of the interiors, from certain more desirable fabrics and colours being favoured over others, while also being altered according to seasons. This conference aims to generate a discussion about the use of various textiles in the interiors in the early modern focusing on their function, durability, colour, texture and pattern and how they were made to fit a specific purpose and give meaning to every room.

## **Registration**

Ticket price €15,00 + €1,92 administrative costs

Register before 20 September through [https://dressing\\_interior.eventbrite.nl](https://dressing_interior.eventbrite.nl)

Organised by Jola Pellumbi and Sara van Dijk, Dressing the Early Modern Network, and Alexander Dencher, Leiden University / Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

**Saturday 23 September 2023, Leiden University, Lipsius Building,  
Cleveringaplaats 1, Leiden**

**10:00-10:30 Registration**

**10:30-10:45 Welcome by organizers**

**10:45-12:15 Session 1: Interior and Experience**

Chair: t.b.c.

10:45-11:05 *Dangerous Liaisons Revisited: Drapery and Dress in Eighteenth-Century French Interiors*

Mei Mei Rado (Bard Graduate Center, New York)

11:05-11:25 *Tiny Textiles: Dressing the Interiors of Eighteenth-Century English Baby Houses*  
Amy Craig (Cambridge University)

11:25-11:45 *Eighteenth-Century Global Domesticity*  
Valeria Viola (University of Palermo)

11:45-12:15 Discussion

**12:15-13:00 Lunch break**

**13:00-14:30 Session 2: Objects' Pasts and Futures**

Chair: t.b.c.

13:00-13:20 *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ....Restore? A Case Study of Re-Using 'Original' Fabrics in the Collection of the Rijksmuseum*

Marjolein Koek (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)

13:20-13:40 *Bed of White Satin with Silk Embroidery and Bobbin Made Silver Edgings*  
Lena Dahrén (affiliated to Uppsala University)

13:40-14:00 *Second Skins: Seventeenth-Century Upholstery in the Collection of the Rijksmuseum*

Alexander Dencher (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)

**14:30-15.00 Coffee and tea break**

**15:00-16:00 Session 3: Materials and Materiality**

Chair: t.b.c.

15:00-15:20 *Strong Weave, Soft Texture, Crisp White. The Unravelling of Fustian in Dutch Interiors in the Early Seventeenth Century*

Sara Wieman (University of Amsterdam)

15:20-15:40 *Re-Materialising Walls through Intermedial Design: Chinese Silk and Paper Wall Hangings in Eighteenth-Century European Interiors*

Erika Riccobon (Leiden University)

15:40-16:00 Discussion

**16:00-16:45 Keynote lecture *The Seemingly Original Interior***

Anna Jolly (Abegg-Stiftung, Riggisberg)

**16:45-17:00 Closing remarks**