

ACORSO

GROUPEMENT D'INTÉRÊT SCIENTIFIQUE APPARENCES, CORPS & SOCIÉTÉS

Histoire et anthropologie du vêtement, de la mode et des apparences dans les sociétés occidentales de la Renaissance à nos jours
History and anthropology of clothing, fashion and appearances in Western societies from the Renaissance to the Present



TEMPORA

THE RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

APPEARANCES, BODIES AND SOCIETIES

Purposes

The Research Interest Group *Appearances, Bodies and Societies* (Acorso) studies from a scientific point of view individual appearances: the clothing apparatus but also all the preparations given to the face and body, posture and posture, silhouette, etc. He questions them by examining the uses of the contemporary world and those of the past, by considering the Western world in all its social complexity, since Modern Times.

Acorso works from a material culture history perspective and questions objects at several levels: their materiality and their relationship to the body; their technical, economic and social history; the museum policies that concern them (collection, presentation, etc.).

Acorso emphasizes:

- The importance given to objects in museum and private collections: questioned otherwise than texts and images, they must be at the forefront of historical sources.
- The necessary complementarity between university research centres and museums, the only guarantee of a true crossing of sources and genuinely multidisciplinary research.
- Decpartmentalization of research, between disciplines such as history, ethnography, sociology, art sciences, communication sciences.
- Geographical decompartmentalization

between researchers from different parts of Europe and from other continents, rich in the diversity of their issues and their methods, but too often separated by the inequality of resources or networks.

History and development

The creation of Acorso is the result of exchanges developed between researchers after several conferences and/or exhibitions, in the first decade of the 21st century, and the publication of outstanding works, in France and abroad, within the current of *Fashion Studies*.

The questions focused on the differentiated approaches to the concepts of «*mode*», «*fashion*», «*appearances*», «*clothing*»; on the necessary development of bridges and complementarities, cultivated in part of Europe but much less in France and in other countries. This situation was the result of a long-standing divergence between historian and museum approaches to the history of clothing, artificial thematic breaks (between clothing practices and dressings given to the body; between urban and regional fashions; etc.).

At the initiative of a nucleus of French researchers from universities and museums, a nucleus that quickly internationalized, major scientific projects have emerged, such as the international symposium *Faire l'Histoire de la mode dans le monde occidental*. (Paris, May 11-13, 2015).

The RIG was officially created in September 2015. It is hosted by the 7468 TEMPORA Reception Team (University

Rennes 2) and today brings together around thirty museum and university institutions around the world.

Since its creation, Acorso has grown and transformed:

- It has set up a website

<https://acorso.org>. The site is a tool for building research projects; a forum allows exchange between researchers, members of GIS; the site provides information on scientific events organized in Europe and on editorial activity.

- It is based on an online journal, *Apparence(s)*, which will soon publish two annual issues, in French and English, with the aim of obtaining the Scopus label.

- in 2021, a European thesis seminar will be created, online, endowed with a prize, allowing young researchers to discuss questions of sources, methods, and the objects of their research, in the presence of professors and museum curators, coming from several European countries.

Research activities

Acorso is above all a place of scientific reflection. Its first objective is to network researchers by insisting on the interdisciplinary and international character: to link university research centres and museums; unite the different parts of Europe, from West to East.

It is also a driving force for developing research programs, around the following orientations:

- * *examination of the transformations of appearances, especially in Europe and the Western world, from Modern times to the present day.*

- * *examination of the role of appearances in identity constructions of all kinds, geographic, social, gender.*

- * *archeology and museography of appearances and clothing.*

- * *epistemological reflection and special attention paid to sources, working methods, which place the objects themselves at the heart of the investigation*

The current actions in which Acorso is engaged are

- *Appearances and sociabilities in a long 18th century* (Aurélié Chatenet-Calyste, Rennes 2; Ariane Fennetaux, Paris).

- *Tailoring for Women* (Lou Taylor and Charlotte Nicklas, Brighton).

- *IN2FROCC, Childhood and Clothing* (Aude Le Guennec, Edinburgh).

- *IN :FaTE Dover, Fashion and Textiles in Northern France, Flanders, South-East England (1500-1950)* (Marjorie Meiss-Even, University of Lille ; Maude bass-Kruger and Karen Van Godtsenhoven, University of Ghent ; B. Thomas, University of Kent).

- *Fashion and the pandemic: creativity under constraints?* (Karine Grandpierre and Eleni Mouratidou, Sorbonne Paris Nord).

- *Plural approaches to historical stage costume (theatre and cinema)* (Lara Le Drian, EHESS).

- *Embroidery*: an international working network on embroidery is being set up, with two study days in prospect.

Acorso regularly organizes international conferences. Since *Faire l'histoire de la mode dans le monde occidental* (published in No. 9 of *Apparence(s)*), other events have taken place, such as *Modes et vêtements: collecte, exposition et recherche dans les musées de petite et moyenne taille en Europe* / Fashion and Clothing: collection, exhibition and research in small and medium size museums in Europe (Strasbourg-Haguenau, 17-19 May 2018).

Another international meeting, on the theme of *Mode et Démocratie* / Fashion and Democracy, will be organized in Sofia in 2022. Subsequently, the organization of these international conferences will be at a higher pace.

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exposition et recherche dans les musées de petite et moyenne taille en Europe (Strasbourg-Haguenau, 17-19 May 2018). Two international conferences are planned for 2022:

- *Exhibit fashion, from silhouette to model, a history of modeling to study clothing*, June 2022, organised in Mulhouse by the MISE (Aziza Gril-Mariotte and Mathilde Humbert).

Fashion and Democracy, organised in Sofia (Petko Hristov, IEFSEEM, Sofia, and Marco Belfanti, University of Brescia).

Study days and workshops, actions to support scientific publishing (which the site <https://acorso.org> reports on) are also organized and funded by Acorso, alone or in collaboration. Their pace has increased from 2019. The structuring of the European network of researchers will allow the development of a policy of seeking financial support in the years to come, amplifying scientific activity.

Finally, Acorso is responding to European calls, drawing on its current network of researchers, which it is constantly developing. The objective is to reflect on the reality and the limits of European identity, and to respond to current societal challenges (withdrawal into oneself, rejection of the Other, etc.). It raises the question of a possible European heritage of fashions and appearances, the nature of which must be defined, in the background of the diversity of expressions.

Operation

A General Assembly is organized annually, which is also a time for scientific discussion. A large part of the reflection is also nourished by exchanges on the Web and, in particular, on the site.

Becoming members of RIG is possible for institutions such as university research centres and museums, etc. The annual membership fee is 250 euros.

Acorso can be contacted at any time at the following address: acorso.gis@gmail.com

Acorso is hosted by *TEMPORA*, Équipe d'Accueil 7468, at the University Rennes 2:

GIS Acorso
Université Rennes 2
Place du Recteur Henri Le Moal
CS 24307
35043 Rennes Cedex

Partners (23th October 2021):

Abo Akademi, University, Helsinki,
Baselland Museum, Liestal, Basel,
Centre National du Costume de Scène et de la Scénographie, Moulins,
CRESAT (Centre de Recherche sur les Économies, les Sociétés, les arts et les techniques - EA 3436), Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse,
CRUHL, Université de Lorraine, Nancy (being finalised),
Dipartimento di Economia e Management - Università degli Studi di Brescia, Université de Brescia, Brescia,
Dress History Collective, University of Brighton, University of Brighton (School of Humanities), Brighton,
ETVA, Le Grand Fougerais,
Ghent University, Ghent (being finalised),
IEFSEM (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum) – BAS, Sofia,
INHA (Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art), Paris,
Institut für Kunst und Materielle Kultur, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund,
IRHiS (Institut de Recherches Historiques du Septentrion) – UMR CNRS 8539, Université Lille 3, Lille,
LabSIC (Laboratoire des sciences de l'information et de la communication – EA 1803), Université Paris 13, Paris,
LAHIC (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie et d'Histoire de l'Institution de la Culture) – IIAC (Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Anthropologie du Contemporain),

*École des Hautes Études en Sciences
Sociales, Paris,*
*LARCA (Laboratoire de Recherches sur les
Cultures Anglophones – UMR 8225),
Université Paris 7 Paris Diderot, Paris,*
*LARHRA (Laboratoire de Recherche
Historique Rhône-Alpes) - UMR CNRS
5190, Université Lumière Lyon2, Lyon,*
*Luxembourg School of Religion and Society,
Luxembourg,*
Musée Alsacien, Strasbourg,
Musée de l'Armée, Paris,
Musée de l'Impression Sur Étoffes, Mulhouse,
Musée de Bretagne, Rennes,
*Musée du Textile et de la Mode, Cholet (being
finalised),*
Musée Savoisien, Chambéry,
Musées Historiques, Haguenau,
Museon Arlaten, Arles,
*POLEN (Pouvoirs Lettres Normes - EA 4710),
Université d'Orléans, Orléans,*
*The Institute for Education in the Arts, Fashion
and Styles, The Fine Arts Academy,
Vienna.*
The New Europe College, Bucharest,
*The School of Textiles and Design, University
Heriot Watt, Edinburgh,*
Università Bocconi, Milano,
*Università di Bologna, Culture Fashion
Communication, Bologna-Rimini.*
*VIP&S (Violences, Identités, Politiques et
Sports – EA 4636), Université Rennes 2,
Rennes.*