



ETVA European Seminar - Call for papers

"Looking at and transcribing textile-objects in Human and Social Sciences".

Online, 7th October, 2022.

Crossing sources and methodologies of very different natures is today at the center of research in the human and social sciences. Real objects, their materiality, their visual aspect are for curators, ethnologists, archaeologists or restorers, and even collectors, data of first order, but the great majority of academic studies concerning the textile and clothing field, rest until now essentially on written and iconographic sources, more rarely oral and material. However direct confrontation with the materiality of textiles, or the lack of materiality, is the central core in the concrete and pragmatic understanding of the processes of creation, the modes of use and even the social systems and organizations that result from them. To decipher a piece of clothing is to know how to read its shape, its colors, its materials and its techniques and of course its purpose, its uses, but also its age (in its life as an object). These data allow us to better consider the place of the object in the society from which it comes and to consider its history up to us as an object of heritage (museum object, collection object etc.). It is indeed a question of seeing an object, of tracing its biography by confronting its materiality. From there, how to retranscribe this meeting that we could make with the object-textile, or its image, and thus how to describe and make visible these data? It is thus a question here of crossing the material and visual studies of the textile allowing the access to their reality of the object-image. We know that textiles participate in systems of representation and that their images change according to the person who captured them (an 18th century painter, a researcher, a curator), according to the light, according to the understanding we have of them, etc. The images that textiles convey and that are made of fabrics, clothes, costumes, crossed with a study of the direct materiality of the textile, have much to reveal about societies (about conceptions of the body, questions of gender, hierarchies, the way they look at themselves and at others...).

Therefore, we propose a reflection on the intersection of materiality and images in studies on textiles and clothing without chronological or geographical boundaries. We will be able to examine in particular the multidisciplinary methodologies related to the creation of archives by researchers who study these textiles directly in collections or in the field, their techniques of visual and written transcribing of the fabrics and their manufacturing techniques, in particular the methods of archaeological description for example which can be used in other research contexts.

Several questions will run through our day:

- How to study the materiality of textiles and translate them visually?
- What are the methodologies of approach and the conceptions of researchers, creators and curators (photographs, drawings, etc.) in relation to the textile object?
- What are the visual sources related to textiles, how to work with and on them?
- What are the differences between working directly with the material and working on the visual sources of textiles? How to cross-reference these sources?

This call is widely open to all disciplines, researchers and practitioners who are interested in this subject and propose a free reflection whether through the presentation of a methodology, the study of a specific case, the presentation of working materials that raise questions.

Proposals should be accompanied by a short presentation of the researcher and should be sent before 31st July 2022 to: [**asso.etva@gmail.com**](mailto:asso.etva@gmail.com).

ETVA is an association of researchers who wish to promote the study and exchange of international knowledge related to textiles, clothing, fashion and the field of appearances. You are welcome to join if you wish via the membership form on the website. Membership allows us to develop scientific events and to disseminate the work of our members.

The ETVA board is composed as follows:

- Daniel Devoucoux – president,
- Pascale Gorguet-Ballesteros – honorary president,
- Shantty Turck, Lara Le Drian, Caroline Dourthe et Irène Calvi.

For more information, please visit our web page: www.acorso.org/etva/



Regards et
transcriptions des
objets-textiles en
SHS

Séminaire en ligne le vendredi 7 octobre 2022

ETVA asso.etva@gmail.com

Jupe à crinoline, collection Crévy, Conseil Départemental du Morbihan