FUTURESCAN 3: INTERSECTING IDENTITIES

ASSOCIATION OF FASHION AND TEXTILES COURSES

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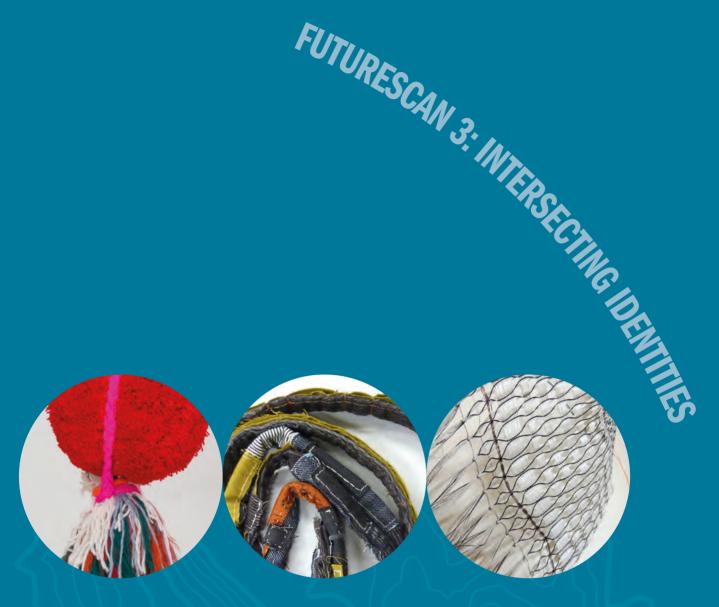
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## **CONTENTS**

FO			

BY NOA RAVIV

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY
DESIGN & FABRICATION
BY PROF CAROLE COLLET
KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY
THE POWER OF MISTAKES

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY
FROM SPECIALISATION TO GENERALISATION
BY PAUL SIMMONS

KEYNOTE BIOGRAPHY
RE-THINKING HOW WE MAKE THINGS
BY PROF REIKO SUDO

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 

### **RESEARCH PAPERS**

	THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DESIGN THINKING	10
5	TECHNIQUES TO ENHANCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNING	
	JANE RITCHIE, DR AMANDA TINKER, DR JESS POWER	
6	MATERIAL BOUNDARIES	21
	ANNE MARR, REBECCA HOYES	
_	TAKING TEXTILES OUT OF THE BOX: SHORT PAPER	32
7	AND HANDLING WORKSHOP	
	JILL RODGERS, GRAINNE SWANN	
8	FASHIONING THE BRAND – A CREATIVE AND	39
Ŭ	COMMERCIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE ROLE	
	OF THE BRAND IN FASHION	
0	STEPHEN M. WIGLEY	
9	LIFE OF THE CLOTH: STORIES IN THE MAKING	52
	CLAIR SWEENEY	
	COMMUNITY VOICES IN DESIGN PRACTICE:	62
72	A CASE STUDY OF UNDERSTANDING OLDER ADULTS'	
12	CLOTHING NEEDS FOR KEEPING WARM AT HOME	
	ALISON GWILT, CATHERINE HOMER,	
	GRAEME SHERRIFF, CHARMAINE CHILDS	
	FROM COUNTERFEIT TO CLASSROOM	71
	ANGELA ARMSTRONG, ANN MUIRHEAD	
	AN INTERNET OF SOFT THINGS	84
	DR AMANDA BRIGGS-GOODE, DR MARTHA GLAZZARD	,
	SARAH WALKER, RACHEL LUCAS	
	THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION WITHIN COLOUR	94
	TREND FORECASTING	
	DR JULIE KING	

DRAWN TOGETHER: A CONVERSATION WITH THE COLLECTION. A DIGITAL AUTO-ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY INTO THE CREATIVE MAKING PROCESS JOANNA NEIL	99	THE PROBLEMS WITH THE EXTENDED SLEEVE STYLES OF POST-WAR DRESS HELEN BURBIDGE	177
DESIGN: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED	112	THE WEAR PROJECT: IDENTITY AND CLOTHING IN RELATION TO COSTUME DESIGN AND EDUCATION NADIA MALIK	188
By Digital Technologies for the Development, Fabrication and Presentation of Repeat Pattern Natalie McLeod		STITCHED TOGETHER – COMMUNITY LEARNING, COLLABORATIVE MAKING HANNAH MAUGHAN, PROF FIONA HACKNEY	194
APPROPRIATION, EPHEMERA AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF WASTE MATTHEW TAYLOR, JADE WHITSON-SMITH	123	FASHION EDUCATION IN BRAZIL DR LUZ GARCÍA NEIRA	207
SOLAR TEXTILES: SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN MARIANNE FAIRBANKS	131	OPEN TO CHANGE: SLOWING DOWN TO EXPLORE AND INNOVATE NICOLA REDMORE	215
MAKING WAVES: THE GLOBAL REACH OF A CORNISH VILLAGE	138	CUTTING YOUR COAT ACCORDING TO YOUR CLOTH LINDY RICHARDSON	222
JULIE RIPLEY WEAVING DNA: AN EXPLORATION OF NOTIONS OF IDENTITY AND THE RE-APPROPRIATION OF TEXTILES	146	SECOND SKIN ITERATIONS: PROGRAMMES AND PROTOTYPES JOSIE STEED, SUE FAIRBURN	230
CLAIRE ANDERSON, HANNA DÍS WHITEHEAD  "DOES ANYONE HAVE A PATTERN FOR A	154	ANIMATING FASHION DESIGN CONCEPTS KATHRYN MCKELVEY	240
SOMBRERO TO FIT A CROCHET MONKEY?" KNIT AND CROCHET AMATEURS SHARING MAKING IN ONLINE / OFFLINE CRAFTING COMMUNITIES ALISON MAYNE		INNOVATION THROUGH INTERPRETATION: INVESTIGATING INDIGENOUS AND HISTORICAL MATERIAL CULTURE AS A DESIGN TOOL LYDIA BARTLETT	247
THE BODY OF NURSING AS SEEN THROUGH THE NHS NURSING UNIFORM LAURA HARDINGHAM, RACHEL HEELEY	162	THE BANNER AS REPRESENTATION OF IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY FIONA RAESIDE-ELLIOTT	253
PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH DR KAREN SHAH	168	SMOCKING IS EVIL?' UNPICKING AND REBINDING LES BICKNELL	262



## **FOREWORD**

# FORMED IN 1977, THE ASSOCIATION OF FASHION AND TEXTILE COURSES (FTC) IS A SUBJECT ASSOCIATION WHICH EXISTS TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP FASHION AND TEXTILES THROUGH ACADEMIC DEBATE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

The Association, through its networks has links with industry, public and professional bodies and acts to advise on quality in educational matters. The aims of the FTC are to:

- Stimulate academic debate across the constituent elements of fashion, textiles and related areas, in order to maintain an informed and current overview of the sector;
- Provide a forum for discussion, support and dissemination of learning and teaching, research, practice and scholarly activity for fashion and textiles:
- Liaise with public and professional bodies to advise on quality educational matters and take a pro-active role in lobbying the interests of the sector.

The Association actively supports and promotes fashion, textiles and related research through conferences, symposia and events. Hosted by The Glasgow School of Art, Futurescan 3: Intersecting Identities, 11th-12th November 2015. marked the third conference in the Futurescan series. The first conference Mapping the Territory, took place at the University of Liverpool in 2009, followed in 2013 by Collective Voices at Sheffield Hallam University. FTC conferences and publications disseminate preliminary, existing and completed projects, which reflect a continually evolving research culture. Futurescan 3: Intersecting Identities brought together educators, established and early career researchers, postgraduate students and industry practitioners. With an increased number of submissions, this most recent conference captures the development of fashion and textiles research post REF2014.

In particular, there were increased co-authored, collaborative submissions and participation from postgraduate researchers, many of whom previously attended the annual FTC Research Event.

The multifaceted identities of those employed by the fashion and textiles sector triggered the overarching theme of Futurescan 3: Intersecting Identities. In higher education individuals operate in complex roles as teachers, educators. facilitators, instructors, mentors, supervisors, creative practitioners, researchers, collaborators, coordinators, managers and leaders. They do so in a continually evolving system, responsive to external factors including the latest government agendas, policy initiatives and industry developments. The fashion and textiles industry is transient. Creative professionals work as designers, artists, makers, colourists, stylists, photographers, illustrators, technologists, futurologists, curators, authors, historians, conservators, journalists, buyers, marketers and publicists. It is commonplace for individuals to associate with numerous intersecting identities within the global fashion and textiles community. The selected double-blind peer reviewed papers featured in this publication encompass research projects intersecting around the following themes:

- Education and Industry
- Research and Teaching
- History and Contemporary Practice
- Creative Practice and Theory
- Making and Technology
- Sustainability and Society
- Local and Global Communities

The Futurescan 3: Intersecting Identities keynote speakers provided diverse and international perspectives surrounding the conference themes. Professor Carole Collet from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, focused on innovative research at the intersection of biology and design to create sustainable futures. Noa Raviv, Creative Director NOA RAVIV. described experiences from student, to graduate, to independent practitioner, highlighting the importance of making mistakes and connecting with industry to develop innovative work, utilising combinations of traditional textile techniques and 3D printing. Timorous Beasties Founder and Designer, Paul Simmons, took delegates on a journey from printed textiles specialisation and key historical influences, to crossdisciplinary design practice. Finally, Reiko Sudo, Professor at Tokyo Zokei University, Design Director and Owner of Nuno Corporation and 'weaver of new ideas' discussed intersecting traditional techniques, materials and aesthetics with cutting-edge technologies to create innovative textiles. To accompany this presentation delegates interacted with numerous textile samples produced by Nuno Corporation.

For the first time, the *Futurescan* conference linked with two associate journals *Fashion Practice: The Journal of Design, Creative Process & the Fashion Industry* and *Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice* (JTDRP) published by Routledge (Taylor & Francis). These connections have resulted in further opportunities for delegates to publish. A call issued by the JTDRP requested articles developed from conference papers and a special edition of the journal will be published 2016-17.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK FOR MAKING THE 2015 CONFERENCE, FUTURESCAN 3: INTERSECTING IDENTITIES AND THIS POST-CONFERENCE PUBLICATION POSSIBLE.

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Helena Britt Co-Editor