

EDITORIAL

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This first issue of Fashion Highlight marks the birth of a new journal in the fashion studies landscape, with the aim of sharing advances in scientific research in fashion nationally and internationally, contributing to current and future debates, disseminating original and innovative research, and supporting scenarios under construction in the digital and physical territories of the contemporary. The space of fashion in design cultures in academia is increasingly relevant and recognized, although it is the outcome of a rather recent path, which is nourished by the constant dialogue with historical, social, legal and scientific disciplines. There are many aspects that bring fashion, with its practices and research, closer to other dimensions of the project, such as design and architecture, but equally numerous are the elements of specificity, starting with its connection to the body and the issues of gender identity that this implies. For these reasons, it is important to identify spaces dedicated to the complex territory that characterizes academic fashion research, spaces that Fashion Highlight aims to inhabit, to further strengthen this process of defining identity, of identities.

Fashion is here considered in its characteristic tension between past and present, as a catalyst for the instances and languages of interpretation of the contemporary. The editorial project therefore accommodates its explorations from the aspects of environmental, social, economic and digital sustainability of the project, moving between past and present. It welcomes research on aspects related to craftsmanship, the preservation of deep-rooted manufacturing processes and new generative, computational and AI frontiers, as well as the study of new materials and fibers with high longevity, regenerated and recycled. Also considered of great interest are issues related to the relationship and communication between physical and digital, the management of integrated processes from concept to sale, and the development of digital technologies in the fashion system for performance and safety improvement. Also of particular interest are the relationships between global and local, with the overcoming of Eurocentric visions and the opening to alternative histories. Also included in this cultural research space are studies concerning

new teaching methods and training tools in the industry.

In the complexity of the fashion system, scientific research is the result of relationships and connections between different disciplinary areas, and Fashion Highlight aims to be an open space of trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral confrontation. The ecological and digital transitions involve the fashion system making it necessary to study and understand the transformations taking place, in order to be able to disseminate research and offer companies support to operate in the contemporary. The journal was born in the Italian research system, where the process of positioning fashion within project cultures is still ongoing and is fed by the local and global confrontation between the educational, creative and productive system of fashion it represents.

Fashion Highlight aims to be a space for sharing ongoing research and ideas in the making, particularly by PhD students who have recently started their own research path. In fact, there are two sections: "Essays," which includes scientific articles positively evaluated by double blind peer-review, and "Shaping Research," which offers the opportunity for young researchers to approach the academic literature and start disseminating their ideas, also thanks to the open access mode and the absence of publication costs.

I conclude this first editorial of Fashion Highlight by thanking all the colors that made it possible to embark on this adventure: the University of Florence and the Department of Architecture DIDA, for the constant support in our research activities; Firenze University Press, for agreeing to publish the journal and to disseminate it within the international scientific community; the two deputy directors, Prof. Chiara Colombi and Prof. Gabriele Goretti, the scientific board, editorial board, editorial staff and reviewers, who contribute to the scientific quality of Fashion Highlight and will make it grow with their ideas.