

Call for Papers
EFHA International Conference 2024

Codes of Conduct

Responsibility and Ethics in Fashion Heritage

As the repository of our cultural and historical legacies, heritage holds profound significance in shaping societal identities and fostering intergenerational and intercultural bonds. The stewardship of heritage assets necessitates a commitment to responsibility, one that transcends preservation to encompass other areas, from sustainable management to equitable engagement and, in general, ethical code of conduct.

In 1972, UNESCO published the World Heritage Convention: an agreement elucidating the shared responsibility borne by the international community to protect cultural and natural treasures for posterity. Since then, institutions have advocated for a comprehensive approach to heritage conservation that integrates conservation principles with socio-economic development imperatives. Lately, the discourse on heritage and responsibility has gained paramount importance. In 2022, ICOM defined the museum as:

a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection, and knowledge sharing.

This definition, which can be extended to institutions (at least public ones) safeguarding heritage, highlights the imperative of collective action in safeguarding and leveraging our diverse heritage; developing methodologies to address issues of social, economic, political and ethical responsibility has become central as museums and cultural institutions rethink their role and their mission looking at how to shape their future developments.

Fashion heritage encapsulates the unique traditions, customs, and craftsmanship of diverse communities worldwide. It encompasses the rich tapestry of styles, techniques, and cultural narratives woven into the fabric of human history. From traditional vestimentary practices to industrial production processes, fashion heritage is a heterogeneous field reflecting the evolution of societies, identities, and aesthetic sensibilities. As custodians of this heritage, fashion heritage professionals, scholars and institutions bear a profound responsibility to preserve and study the legacy of fashion for present and future generations.

So, in the context of fashion heritage, ethical responsibility entails respecting the origins and significance of cultural garments and accessories, collaborating respectfully with artisans and indigenous communities, and ensuring equitable representation and recognition of diverse cultural expressions within the fashion landscape.



The conference **Codes of Conduct. Responsibility and Ethics in Fashion Heritage** will address the responsibilities fashion heritage professionals and institutions faced, face now and will face in the future, outlining a wide-ranging, nuanced definition of 'responsibility' in relation to both heritage objects and to the public(s) which encounter them. We welcome papers reflecting on the responsibilities fashion heritage institutions have assumed and assume to preserve, exhibit, and interpret fashion heritage today, in a variety of instances:

- *Responsibility and accountability*
- *Museums' mission and curatorial autonomy*
- *Co-creation practices and museums 4.0*
- *Sustainable Preservation and Museum Management Practices*
- *Sustainable exhibition practices (recycling, upcycling, scenography) vs. available budgets of fashion collection institutions*
- *Digital technologies in preservation and display*
- *Ethics in making permanent and temporary exhibitions*
- *Co-creative interpretation practices (labelling and cataloguing)*
- *Inclusivity in collecting and exhibiting practices?*
- *Geopolitics in collecting and exhibiting practices?*
- *Social and ethical code of conduct*
- *Ethical issues related to funding/sponsorships*
- *Relationship between public and private in museums and cultural institutions*
- *Logistics of management (loans, temporary exhibitions/money generation, infrastructures, labour, policies)*
- *Educational and Learning practices*
- *Public programming*

The proposals should be sent to info@fashionheritage.eu in the form of one Word document including a **max 300-word abstract** and **150-word biography**. The file should be renamed as **surname-firstname-EFHA24**. The deadline for the Call for Papers is **19th August 2024**, and accepted speakers will be notified by 19th September 2022.

The symposium will take place on **21-22 November 2024 at MUDE – Museu do Design e da Moda in Lisbon**. Tickets will be available for booking from October 2024.