

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Journal of Fashion Studies

Clothing and Dress in Times of Mass Violence

Clothing is ubiquitous in practices, experiences and images of genocide, occupation and displacement. Garments appear on bodies, against bodies and – devastatingly – in the absence of bodies; they are also used as instruments of humiliation enacted by military state apparatuses as well as tools of insurgent protest and resistance (see Archer 2014; Tynan 2020; Filippello 2026). Clothes are materially and conceptually bound to these conditions, as they are carriers and signifiers of intimacy, labour, ideologies, care and memory. Moreover, clothes circulate through journalism, humanitarian discourse, legal frameworks, digital media and global spectatorship. To attend to clothing in contexts of mass violence is to attend to the conditions under which lives are made in/visible and un/grievable.

Clothing and dress provide a critical lens for interpreting the material, social and affective dimensions of colonial state violence, revealing how vulnerability and power are inscribed onto, and contested by, un/clothed bodies. This Special Issue of *International Journal of Fashion Studies* seeks to develop methods capable of positioning fashion and textile scholarship in relation to urgent political and humanitarian concerns. Recent work has indeed begun to address this gap by attending to garments as trace, relation and evidence within the image field of unfolding ethnic cleansing in Palestine (Fahd and Robinson 2026; Muhawar 2026). Building on this work, the Special Issue asks what it means to think about clothing under conditions of state violence, and what it means to do so at this current juncture. We take the ongoing destruction of life in Gaza as a central provocation, while also acknowledging other contemporary sites of mass violence, including Sudan, Congo, Lebanon and Iran, among other contexts. Indeed, we welcome contributions on/from other locales extending beyond Palestine.

While this Special Issue will necessarily engage the connections between bodies and clothing under political, social and physical duress, we encourage authors to consider both reparative and diagnostic approaches. Reparative methods might attend to forms of memory, care, resistance and sociality through clothing and material culture, while diagnostic approaches may analyse how garments register and make legible the dynamics and ideologies of state violence. The Special Issue will foreground interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from visual culture, media studies, anthropology, sociology, art history, photography theory, gender and sexuality studies, critical race and postcolonial studies, alongside fashion studies.

The issue will include five to seven articles in the 6000–8000-word range that combine theoretical and empirical work, as well as shorter (non-peer-reviewed) submissions, visual essays, creative and/or reflective works and reviews (which will be featured in the journal's 'Open Space & Reviews' section). Submissions may address, but are not limited to:

- dress under siege, displacement and occupation
- clothing and the killed body
- dress in images of mass violence
- uses of clothes in solidarity movements
- repression, looting, or confiscation of clothes by military enforcement entities

- archives of clothing, disappearance and loss
- garments as trace or evidence or memorial form
- clothing and grief, mourning and care
- humanitarian visibility and the politics of dress
- the ethics of looking at clothing in images of violence
- children's clothing and domestic life in conditions of destruction
- interdisciplinary approaches to, and methodological interventions for, the study of dress and violence

If you are interested in writing a piece in a language other than English, you can find information regarding translation on the journal's website, where you can also see this CFP: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/international-journal-of-fashion-studies>

Timeline

Deadline for abstracts: 21 August 2026

Notification of selected contributors: 4 September 2026

Submission of full manuscripts: 1 February 2027

Submissions should be sent to the three guest editors of the Special Issue: Dr. Cherine Fahd (Cherine.Fahd@uts.edu.au), Dr. Roberto Filippello (r.filippello@uva.nl) and Dr. Todd Robinson (Todd.Robinson@uts.edu.au)

Editorial Team

Dr Cherine Fahd

Associate Professor of Visual Communication, University of Technology Sydney

Cherine Fahd is an artist and writer working across photography, video and participatory practice. Her work examines portraiture, ethics and the political and social life of images, with a focus on how visibility and recognition are structured.

Dr Roberto Filippello

Assistant Professor of Media and Culture at the University of Amsterdam

Roberto Filippello is a scholar of visual and material culture who works on the relationship between dress and politics, specifically in SWANA. His work examines how fashion and textile-based practices can serve as forms of critique that destabilize colonial, capitalist and heteropatriarchal systems.

Dr Todd Robinson

Senior Lecturer in the School of Design, University of Technology Sydney

Todd Robinson is an interdisciplinary researcher, designer, curator and artist specializing in the relationship between fashion and embodiment. His research is oriented towards developing embodied perspectives in fashion studies and the associated implications for fashion practice, theory, technology and ethics.

References

Archer, Nicole (2014), 'Security blankets: Uniforms, hoods, and the textures of terror', *Women & Performance*, 24: 2&3, pp. 186–202.

Fahd, Cherine and Robinson, Todd (2026), 'Clothing without bodies', *Fashion Highlight*, 5, pp. 16–25.

Filippello, Roberto (forthcoming 2026), 'Fashion storytelling and the aesthetics of queer stealth in Jenin', *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, 22: 2.

Muhahwar, Laila (2026), 'An egregious case of cultural appropriation: The dress in the portrait', *Third Text* (Forum: 'Thinking Gaza: Critical Interventions'), 11 March, pp. 1–8, www.thirdtext.org/mushahwar-thedress. Accessed 10 April 2026.

Tynan, Jane (2020), 'Images of insurgency: Reading the Cuban Revolution through military aesthetics and embodiment,' in C. Baker (ed.), *Making War on Bodies: Militarisation, Aesthetics and Embodiment in International Politics*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 213–41.