

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Edited by Ben Barry, PhD (Chair of Fashion, Ryerson University, Canada) & Deborah Christel, PhD (Independent Scholar and Inclusive Fashion Designer, U.S.A.)

The Fashion Activists' Reader: Transforming Fashion Education and Ending Body Oppression

Description:

Over the last decade, scholars, media and the public have exposed the dire consequences of excluding diverse populations from fashion and have urged the fashion industry to reform and foster inclusion. Despite these calls for transformation, fashion education has remained cowardice and primarily continued to privilege narrow body ideals, design practices grounded in hierarchy and Eurocentrism, and recruitment strategies and educational environments that exclude diverse populations of students. We believe that fashion education is the birthplace of a new fashion paradigm because it is where the fashion industry's future creatives and business people are taught how to think about, design for and market to people. This edited volume develops and advocates for an inclusive fashion pedagogy that values, celebrates and welcomes all bodies. Our aim is to share the strategies and experiences of fashion educators who challenge the centering of thinness, whiteness, Eurocentrism, heterosexuality, able-bodiedness and gender binaries that fuel outdated teaching methods and practices and ultimately limit the progressiveness of fashion education and industry practice. We hope to open up a space to dissect fashion education, optimistically propose new pedagogy and share the challenges and possibilities of new teaching methods.

This book will be the first to comprehensively examine pedagogical approaches used to disrupt thin-centric, racial, sexuality, gender exploration and oppression in fashion education. We hope to bring together a contingent of scholars from a diverse range of disciplines to share approaches to teaching about fashion from an inclusive and radical perspective.

Proposed Timeline

Statement of interest, abstract and author biography (January 11, 2019)
Request for full chapters (February 2019)
Complete chapter (August 30, 2019)

Submissions are to be emailed to:

Ben Barry <bbarry@ryerson.ca>

Deborah Christel <deborah.christel@kadevos.com>

Submissions:

We envision the book as being made up of an extensive array of relatively short (i.e., 5000 word) and accessibly written chapters that describe the lived experiences and analyze the pedagogical approaches used by educators who foster diversity in bodies, fatness, sexuality, gender, race, disability, Indigenous perspectives and fashion diversity in their teaching approaches. We also wish to bring attention to the ways in which scholars have struggled to incorporate inclusive teaching practices and/or have experienced resistance within their classrooms, institutions and/or industries.

Each chapter will include "calls to action" that faculty, academic administrators, educational institutions and industry can adopt to promote inclusion in their teaching or workspaces.

All chapters should be written in first-person and grounded in lived and professional experiences. Fashion education will benefit from faculty's personal narratives because these stories reveal that fashion design and educational practices are dynamic processes based on the interaction between human thought and behavior and personal, social and material environments. We invite chapters on a variety of topics that address inclusion in fashion education, such as, but not limited to:

- Teaching that centers diverse bodies/forms of embodiment and the successes and shortcomings of these practices.
- Promoting safe fashion learning spaces for all learners, regardless of gender, sexuality, age, body size, race, disability etc.'
- Convincing and navigating colleagues, institutions and industry partners who may be resistant to including topics of fat, queer, race or ability into fashion education.
- Recruiting students from underrepresented groups to fashion school and supporting them during the fashion educational journey.

We request a 500-word "statement of interest" that includes the title of the proposed chapter and an abstract that provides an overview of key ideas to be discussed. Please also include a separate 50-word biography on the author(s).

