



## **SIZING AND FIT**

Susan P. Ashdown: Discussant  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

The three papers in this session address the complex topic of the relationship between clothing and the body, each from a different perspective and each resonating with the others. The papers present an investigation of the parameters of grading and the resultant sizing systems, an analysis of individual's perceived sizes compared to the sizes selected using anthropometric measures, and a gallery of images documenting the inadequacy of current systems to fit the range of body sizes, proportions, and stances in the population.

Nancy Schofield's paper demonstrates a gradual narrowing and standardization of the parameters used to create sizing systems over time, resulting in limited proportional relationships, ranges, and increments between sizes. Lashawnda McKinnon's study shows the problems generated when sizing systems do not accommodate appropriate proportional choices, as it was often not possible to assign an individual a size based on bust, waist, and hip measurements when each measurement mapped to a different size. Janet Hethorne's observational study provided visual confirmation of the problems of sizing systems by documenting a wide range of body proportions, stances, and individual variations in the population, a range clearly not accommodated by current sizing systems.

The limitations of current sizing systems documented in each of these studies represent lost opportunities for the apparel industry to provide well-fitting clothing for the full range of the population. Individuals with normal but nonstandard bodies can be fitted with improved sizing systems. The combination of new tools for research in the area of sizing and fit of apparel such as 3D body scanning and the need for better fitting clothing provide opportunity and means for promising research in this area.