



Politics of Appropriation in Dress

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Introduction:

This research is a psychological analysis of the way people make judgements concerning clothed appearances. A core component in this research is a consideration of how consciousness is developed, and how evaluative methods influence everyday decisions about the appearance of others contribute towards how judgements are ranked and react to in the social setting.

Discussion:

Conflict between perceptions of correct or incorrect appearances are at the core of the decision process. How individuals internalize and process conflicts is determined in expectations of far reaching critical analysis of oneself and one's culture and society. Instinctive judgements are mediated through the onslaught of images, data, and opinions from outside one's preferred realm, these realms provide a further collection of knowledge, but not necessarily the decondition of perspective. It is crucial to understand the agenda of dressing in terms of territories we operate in and those that are used by others.

"Fashion subjectivity are shaped in part by the interplay of subject positions (e.g. nationality, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality) ... subject positions cannot be totally separated from one another and they intersect in complex ways." Susan Kaiser (2012). This research develops the idea that appearance as territory is seized from one's ideology and not one's identity. Appearance is therefore unpacked as a political presentation; agreed upon or not agreed upon by both wearer and viewer. How each of us views the other, is the underlying condition for much social conflict and notions of social acceptance.

Simmel (1904) comments, "Union and segregation are the two fundamental functions which are... inseparably united." Simultaneously, territorialization and deterritorialization inhibit the unpacking of every presentation of dress, causing decision anxiety for individual wearers, fashion planners, and assessors of national security.

Method:

In this paper analysis of a series of photographs and events will demonstrate how appearance judgment is constructed. A critical lens is used to examine current controversies regarding how clothing is appropriated, valued and devalued, in an attempt to own appearance. ownership, and how any deviation from a perceived standard may undermine or threaten "normality". Next, we demonstrate how 'we see them, and how they see us', and how understanding, without exception, is never achieved. An example

of false conclusions are organized briefly in Figure 1. This photograph was taken during a 2016 Summer Olympic volleyball game. Featuring a German player in a two-piece uniform, and an Egyptian player in full sleeve tee-shirt and leggings and a hijab, this image drew controversy from the international media, it hastens discussion concerning cultural clash and appropriation as the labyrinthine complex intersection of postmodernity.

In analyzing this image, one may argue the subjects are distinctly defined as oppositional; each has a strong sense of ideological grooming that may be inescapable without the existence of apportion and subsequent 'fashioning' of appropriated garments. Speculation of on subject to the other subjects, as self and other, with connotation to ethnicity, religion, and culture as stubborn fixtures.

From outsider the [picture] frame we might judge both subjects as athletes from different cultures, consumed with their own prejudices: both convey ideals of certainty and possibly truth.

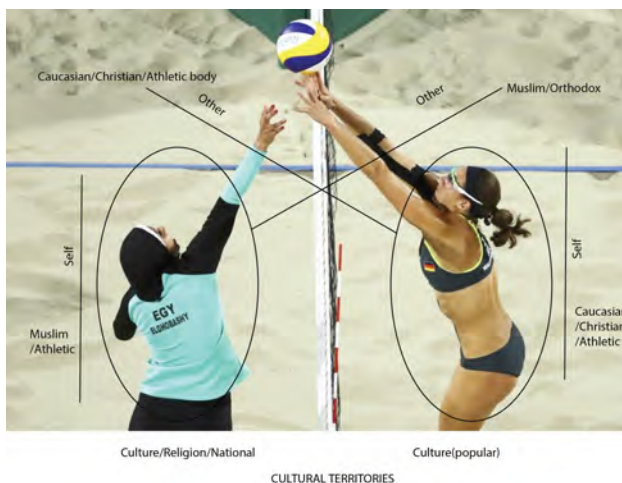


Figure 1 : Image (original) from the 2016 summer Olympics volleyball match, accessed from Daily Mail UK

Conclusion:

Fashion thrives in the insecurities of people who reconnoiter their ideologies for appearance advantage. In this operation assurance is provided in new offerings that essentially pick 'n' mix from appropriated items of appearance; in this we outline how fashion might be predicted for the future. Emergence of the "Make America Great Again" snap back, the pussy hat, and the Nike pro hijab are some of the examples how fashion plays a key role in territorialization of groups holding strong, if not tacit belief. How people view themselves within the social structure and judge others, is also an evaluation of the current global political system and has much to contribute to fashion's operation as a predictive system.

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