

Dr. Heather Marie Akou

Associate Professor of Fashion Design (with tenure)

Education

PhD, University of Minnesota (2005)
Design, Housing, and Apparel

MA, University of Minnesota (2001)
Design, Housing, and Apparel

BA, Macalester College (1998)
Art (Studio)

Academic appointments

Indiana University, Bloomington (2011-present)
Associate Professor of Fashion Design
Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design

Indiana University, Bloomington (2004-2011)
Assistant Professor of Fashion Design
Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design

Administrative appointments

Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design
Fashion Design program director (2022-present)
Fashion Design area co-coordinator (2019-2022)
Director of the Sage Collection (2017-2021)

Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design
Department Chair (2014-2017)
Associate Chair (2013-14)

Highlighting denotes work at the rank of associate professor
(not considered for tenure)



I'm a historian of fashion, dress, and the body.

My research interests include African dress and fashion, Islamic fashion, the politics of dress, working-class histories of dress in the US, museum collections, and narratives about dress and the body.

I'm currently working on a new monograph about the history of service-industry uniforms in the US. I'm also gathering data about secret society regalia from the early 20th century.

hakou@iu.edu

Honors and awards

IU Presidential Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program

Award/workshop for research support and professional development - \$50,000 (2022-23)

Inaugural cohort of four faculty members from IU Bloomington

IU Institute for Advanced Study

Grant for collaborative research - \$3,180 (2022), on hold due to COVID-19

IU Office of the Bicentennial

Grant for the Sage Collection - \$10,000 (2018)

Big Ten Academic Alliance

Departmental Executive Officer program (2016-17)

IU New Frontiers in the Arts + Humanities

Grant for research - \$30,000 (2012)

Active memberships in professional societies

Costume Society of America (North America, <https://costumesocietyamerica.com>)

Association of Dress Historians (UK, <https://dresshistorians.org>)

Popular Culture Association (US, <https://pcaaca.org/>)

Dress and Body Association (International, <https://www.dress-body-association.org>)

Affiliations at Indiana University

Core faculty

MA in Curatorship (2021-present)

Adjunct Associate Professor

Art History (2017-present)

Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (2014-present)

Anthropology (2009-present)

Faculty Affiliate

Center for Studies of the Middle East (2010-present)

Islamic Studies Program (2008-present)

African Studies Program (2004-present)

Research

All publications are single-authored unless otherwise noted

Books

(under contract), *On the Job: A History of American Work Uniforms*, London: Bloomsbury Academic (completed draft has 80,000 words, 114 images; scheduled for publication in 2024)

JoAnn McGregor, Heather Akou, and Nicola Stylianou, eds. (2022), *Creating African Fashion Histories: Politics, Museums, and Sartorial Practices*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press (350 pages)

(2011), *The Politics of Dress in Somali Culture*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press (200 pages)

Peer-reviewed articles and chapters

(completed draft), "Echoes of War: Body Armor for Safety and Fashion," chapter accepted for an edited volume on fashion and politics (5,600 words)

(2022), 'Islamic Fashion,' *Routledge Handbook of Islamic Ritual and Practice*, edited by Oliver Leaman, New York: Routledge, pp. 314-324 (5,000 words)

(2022), 'Stories Behind the Collections and Why They Matter: Three Examples from Indiana University,' *Creating African Fashion Histories*, eds. JoAnn McGregor, Heather Akou, and Nicola Stylianou, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 229-251 (8,000 words)

(2021), 'Playing Pocahontas: Secret Society Regalia for Women in the United States, 1900-1950,' *The Journal of Dress History*, 5(5): pp. 8-42. (7,500 words)

(2020), 'Food-Service Uniforms and the Symbolism(s) of Wearing a Mask,' *Clothing Cultures*, 7(2): pp. 147-163, print release in May 2022 (6,500 words)

(2020), 'Prison Uniforms on the Outside: Intersections with US Popular Culture,' *Fashion, Style & Popular Culture*, 7(4): pp. 473-499 (8,000 words)

(2020), 'Freedom of Speech: A Recent History of Political T-shirts in the United States,' *Clothing Cultures*, special issue on 'Dress During Times of Unrest,' 6(2): pp. 179-198 (6,000 words)

(2019), 'Tetela Amulets: Reinterpreting a Medical Anthropology Collection as a Fashion Benchmark,' *International Journal of Fashion Studies*, 6(2), pp. 163+ (6,500 words) DOI: https://doi.org/10.1386/inf_00002_1

(2019), 'Политика и сокрытие лица: от «запрета на паранджу» к фейскини' (Politics and Concealment: From the Ban on the Burqa to the Facekini), *Russian Fashion Theory*, 53(4): pp. 205-232 (9,000 words)

(2018), 'The Politics of Covering the Face: From the "Burqa Ban" to the Facekini,' *Fashion Theory*, 25(1): pp. 5-30, print release in 2021 (9,000 words), DOI: 10.1080/1362704X.2018.1546491

(2015), 'Becoming Visible: The Role of the Internet in Dress Choices among Native-Born Converts to Islam in North America,' *HAWWA: Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World*, 13(3): pp. 279-296 (6,500 words)

(2013), 'A Brief History of the Burqini: Confessions and Controversies,' *Dress*, 39(1): pp. 25-35 (5,500 words)

(2012), 'The Changing Politics of Textiles as Portrayed on Somali Postage Stamps,' proceedings of the Textile Society of America, (3,000 words), <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1653&context=tsaconf>

(2010), 'Interpreting Islam through the Internet: Making Sense of Hijab,' *Contemporary Islam* 4: pp. 331-346.

(2010), 'Hate Crimes and Profiling,' *September 11 in Popular Culture: A Guide*, eds. Sara E Quay and Amy M. Damico, Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, pp. 29-30.

(2010), 'Looking Like a Terrorist,' *September 11 in Popular Culture: A Guide*, eds. Sara E. Quay and Amy M. Damico, Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, p. 13

(2010), 'Dressing Somali (Some Assembly Required),' *Contemporary African Fashion*, eds. Suzanne Gott and Kristyne Loughran, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 191-204.

(2010), 'Head Coverings in the Virtual Umma: The Case of Niqab,' Proceedings of the Textile Society of America (3,000 words), <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/tsaconf/3/>

(2008), 'Documenting the Origins of Somali Folk Dress: Evidence from the Bonaparte Collection,' *Dress* 33, pp. 7-19.

(2007), 'More than Costume History: Dress in Somali Culture,' *Dress Sense: Emotional and Sensory Experience of the Body and Clothes*, eds. Donald Clay Johnson and Helen Bradley Foster, Oxford: Berg Publishers, pp. 16-22.

(2007), 'Building a New 'World Fashion': Islamic Dress in the 21st Century,' *Fashion Theory* 11(4): pp. 403-421.

(2004), 'Nationalism Without a Nation: Understanding the Dress of Somali Women in Minnesota,' *Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 50-63.

Editor-reviewed research publications

(2022), 'Beyond Listening: Systemic Transformation in Fashion Studies and Fashion Collections,' *African Arts*, 55(2): pp. 6-7 (1,000 words)

(2021), 'Униформа в сфере услуг и маска как символ' (Service Uniforms and Masks as Symbols), «НОВАЯ НОРМА»: гардеробные и телесные практики в эпоху пандемии (*Dressing and Body Practices in a Pandemic Era*), ed. Liuda Aliabieva, Moscow: New Literary Observer, pp. 165-169. (2,500 words)

(2021) 'Telling History through Costumes,' *The Art of the Character: Highlights from the Glenn Close Costume Collection*, London: Scala Arts & Heritage Publishers, pp. 55-63 (3,000 words)

(2019), 'Muslim Dress,' Berg Fashion Library, Bibliographic Guides. Oxford: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing. DOI: 10.5040/BIBART16002 (5,000 words)

(2018), 'The Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection: A Critical Review of Uses for Teaching and Research,' *American Craft Inquiry*, 2(2): 52-60 (3,000 words)

(2014), 'Burqini,' *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, volume 11, ed. Joanne B. Eicher. Oxford: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, DOI: 10.2752/BEWDF/EDch10721 (3,500 words)

(2010), 'Somalia,' *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, volume 1, eds. Joanne B. Eicher and Doran Ross, Oxford: Berg Publishers, pp. 413-420.

(2007-2009), 'Is There an 'Islamic' Dress? Evidence from the Internet Generation,' *Khil'a Journal for Textiles of the Islamic World* 3: pp. 1-16.

Research lectures

(2022), "Company Policy: A History of Pullman Porter Uniforms, 1865-1965," Costume Society of America (juried, held in Minneapolis-St. Paul)

(2022), "Islamic Fashion and Anti-Fashion," University of Georgia (invited, "Diversity in Fashion" series)

(2022), "'Tasteful It's Not": The Rise of Mass-Manufacturing and Waitress Uniforms in the US,' Popular Culture Association (juried, held online from the United States)

(2021), 'Playing Pocahontas: Performing (White) Womanhood and Leadership through Secret Society Regalia,' Dress and Body Association (juried, held online from the United States)

(2020), 'Fleshing Out Historical Fiction: Fashion Influencers,' Dress and Body Association (juried, held online from the United States)

Research lectures, continued

(2020), 'Service-Industry Uniforms and the Symbolism(s) of Wearing a Mask,' New Normal symposium, Fashion Research Network (invited, held online from Moscow by *Russian Fashion Theory*)

(2020), 'Reflecting Popular Culture in Museums (or Not): The Case of Prison Uniforms,' Popular Culture Association (juried, canceled due to COVID-19)

(2018), 'Globalization, Fashion Scholarship, and Fashion Collections: The Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection at Indiana University,' Framing the Global symposium (juried, held at Indiana University)

(2018), 'Creating African Fashion Histories: How Fashion Collections Have Influenced the Study of Fashion,' American Craft Council (invited, held in Minneapolis)

(2016), 'The Legacy of Mary Warren: A Collection at Indiana University,' Creating African Fashion Histories symposium (invited, held in Brighton, UK)

(2015), 'Best Practices in the Collection of African Dress: The Mary Warren Collection,' Costume Society of America (juried, held in San Antonio)

(2012), 'Reflections on Somali Dress: Islam, Gender, and Globalization,' Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University (invited)

(2012), 'The Changing Politics of Textiles as Portrayed on Somali Postage Stamps,' Textile Society of America (juried, held in Washington, DC)

(2012), 'A Brief History of the Burqini: Confessions and Controversies,' Costume Society of America (juried, held in Atlanta)

(2010), 'Head Coverings in the Virtual Umma,' Textile Society of America (juried, held in Lincoln, Nebraska)

(2010), 'Islamic Swimsuits: Filling a Need or Creating a New One?' Veiled Constellations (juried, symposium at the University of Toronto)

(2009), 'Dressing for Islam: The Role of the Internet,' Society for the Anthropology of Religion (juried, held in Pacific Grove, California)

(2008), 'Islamic Fashion: Reflecting and Shaping a Macroculture,' American Anthropological Association (juried, held in San Francisco)

(2007), 'Fashioning an Image of Islamic Dress: Contributions from Internet Commerce,' American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies (juried and accepted, did not attend for health reasons)

(2007), 'Interpreting Images of Somali Dress: Photographs from the World's Fair,' Arts Council of the African Studies Association (juried, held at the University of Florida)

Research lectures (continued)

(2005), 'The ABCs of Somali Dress: An Evaluation of DeLong's 'Expert Viewer's Framework,' International Textiles and Apparel Association (juried, held in Boston)

(2005), 'More than Costume History: The Definition of Dress and Somali Aesthetics of the Body,' Senses and Sentiments of Dress (juried, held at the University of Minnesota)

(2004), 'Ruining the Country: The Aesthetics of Somali Dress, 1960-1991,' African Studies Association (juried, held in Washington, DC)

(2004), 'From 'Merikani' Cloth to Life in America: Somali Dress and the Cultural Authentication of Imported Textiles,' Textile Society of America (juried, held in Oakland, California)

(2004), 'The Construction of 'African Dress' in Minnesota,' Arts Council of the African Studies Association (juried, held in Boston)

(2003), 'Ethnic Dress? Understanding Somalis in Minneapolis-St. Paul,' International Textile and Apparel Association (juried, held in Savannah, Georgia)

(2003), 'The Case of Somali Women's Dress in Minnesota: Evaluating Herbert Blumer's Theory on Fashion,' Making an Appearance: Fashion, Dress, and Consumption (juried, symposium at the University of Queensland, Australia)

(2003), 'From Desert to Diaspora: A History of Global Influences on Somali Dress,' Costume Society of America (juried, held in Charleston, South Carolina)

(2002), 'Dressing Somali: The Effects of Trade and Nationalism on Somali Dress, 1800-1960,' African Studies Association (juried, held Boston)

(2002), 'Fashion in West Africa: Connections between Hand-made and Factory-made Cloth,' The Cultured Body: African Fashion and Body Arts (juried, symposium at the University of Iowa)

(2002), 'The Aesthetics of Wrappers: Transforming African Dress for African-American Consumers,' Costume Society of America (juried, held in Chicago)

(2001), 'Post-National Identity? The Dress of Somali Women in Minneapolis-St. Paul,' African Studies Association (juried, held in Houston)

(2001), 'To Wrap or Not to Wrap? A Comparison between West African and American Aesthetics,' Wrapped and Draped: Alternative Fashions (juried, symposium at the University of Minnesota)

(2000), 'Cloth in Contemporary West Africa: A Symbiosis of Hand-made and Factory-made Cloth,' Textile Society of America (juried, held in Santa Fe)

Teaching

Published curricular plans on Bloomsbury Academic

(2019) 'African Dress'

(2019) 'Aesthetics'

(2019) 'Religious Dress'

Courses regularly taught (current list)

SOAD-N120 – Fashion Police: How Fashion Intersects with the Law

SOAD-F301 – Fashion Studies: Cultural Aspects of Dress

Variations: Dress and Religion
Standards and Ideals for the Body
Introduction to Dress Studies

SOAD-F312 – Fashion Studies: Autobiographies of Dress and the Body

SOAD-F406 – Fashion Studies: Fashion Theory

Variations: Designing in a Democracy (political t-shirts)
Uniforms (military, work, school, sports)

ARTH-A691 – Curating Museum Displays and Exhibitions: Exhibiting Fashion

Directed learning

(Note: The Eskenazi School does not have any PhD students)

Jantina Anderson (2023-present), committee member for PhD in Urban Education Studies at IUI
Black hairstyles and dress codes in corporations and schools

Elizabeth Lopez-Ruiz (2023-present), advisor for Individualized Major Program (undergraduate)
Fashion theories and cultures

Emily Zarse (2022-present), advisor for MA in Curatorship

Liliana Rocha (2021-present), advisor for MA in Curatorship

Lilliana Rocha (2019), MFA student in Fibers
independent study course on the aesthetics and politics of textiles in Columbia

George (Te) Silva (2018), co-advisor for Individualized Major Program (undergraduate)
politics of fashion and the body, nominated for an outstanding thesis award

Directed learning, continued

Lori Frye (2017), thesis committee member for MS in Apparel Merchandising

Defining a Presidential Look: An Analysis of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Presidential Campaign Dress

Rachel Rose (2017), advisor for MS in Apparel Merchandising

Senior Cords: An Indiana Apparel Phenomenon

Molly Keogh (2017), advisor for MA in African Studies

Who Hwe Wo Nua/You See Your Sibling: Locating Batik Within Ghana's Textile Practices

Kristen Otto (2017), PhD student in Anthropology

independent study course on African textiles, dress, and museum collections

Natasha Heines (2014), MFA student in Fiber Arts, committee member for oral defense

Natasha Heines and Goerge (Te) Silva (2014)

independent study course on subcultures and postmodern fashion

Catherine Bishop (2011), thesis committee member for MA in Anthropology

African Occasional Cloths

Petra Slinkard (2008), advisor for MS in Apparel Merchandising

Dreadlocks in Babylon: Techniques and Motivations for Wearing Dreadlocked Hair in Southern Indiana

Sonia Akhras-Rasad (2007), advisor for MS in Apparel Merchandising

A Comparison between Batik and other Resist-dyed Textiles

Mary Embry (2006), advisor for MS in Apparel Merchandising

Fair Trade and Service-learning: The Case of a Symbiotic Relationship Used to Institute a SIFE Program

Jessica Rall (2006), advisor for MS in Apparel Merchandising

Body Exposure in Fashion and Theater of the 1960s

Guest teaching

Guest lecture (via zoom) for a fashion studies class at the University of Minnesota (2022)
Historical background to the anti-hijab protests in Iran

Workshop for IU India Gateway (2021)
Politics Behind T-Shirts (2.5 hours online for 40+ high school students throughout India)

Guest lecture (via zoom) for a fashion studies class at the University of Minnesota (2021)
Dress in the practice of Islam

PACE-C100: Introduction to Theories of Leadership (2019, 2020)
Comparing US military uniforms from World War II and Vietnam

EDUC-E300: Elementary Education for a Pluralistic Society (2018)
Use of dress/fashion in classroom teaching using the Sage Collection

HON-H236: Use of Force (2018)
Military uniforms in the Sage Collection

COLL-S103: Arts of War (2018, 2019, 2020)
Military uniforms in the Sage Collection

GNDR-G310: Representation & The Body (2018)
History, aesthetics, and politics of the burqini (Islamic swimsuits)

SOAD-A100: Introduction to Art, Design + Merchandising (2017, 2018)
Range of my teaching and research in fashion design; my professional pathway

SOAD-D277: Materials and Components of Interior Design (2017)
Construction, identification, and uses of textiles in home furnishings

AMID-R100: Introduction to Retail Design & Merchandising (2014, 2015, 2016)
Examples from my research on African and Islamic fashion

AMID-R404: International Trade in Textiles and Apparel (2011)
Introduction to global trade in/from Africa

AMID-R100: Introduction to Apparel and Textiles (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011)
Examples from my research on African and Islamic fashion

Service

Media interviews

WBIC radio program (US, 9/2/2022)

History and class implications of “no white after Labor Day”

Chasing Leviathan podcast (US, 2022)

Prison uniforms and work uniforms

Immigrantly podcast (US, 2021)

Body-mind practice of prayer in Islam

El País newspaper (Spain, 2020)

<https://smoda.elpais.com/moda/harry-styles-senior-cords-universidad-indiana-bode/>

TV3 television (Spain, 2020)

<https://www.ccma.cat/tv3/alacarta/telenoticies/per-que-molts-nord-americans-no-es-volen-posar-la-mascara-per-prevenir-la-covid/video/6050368/>

Belahdan video (US, 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkAK7DcIMAg>

Vox magazine (US, 2020)

<https://www.vox.com/2020/5/29/21273625/coronavirus-masks-required-virginia-china-hong-kong>

WTIU *Journey Indiana* television program (US, 2019)

<https://indianapublicmedia.org/journeyindiana/episode-109.php>

The Atlantic magazine (US, 2016)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/08/burqini-history/495524/>

Folha de São Paulo newspaper (Brazil, 2016)

<http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/mundo/2016/08/1804675-veto-ao-uso-do-burquini-nas-praias-chega-a-12-cidades-da-franca.shtml>

Belahdan video (US, 2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDGmtMLvaRY>

The Attitude with Arnie Arnesen radio program (US, 2016)

Burqini bans in France

Belahdan television broadcast (US, 2011)

The Politics of Dress in Somali Culture

Muslim Voices podcast (US, 2008)

‘The Veil’ (<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/57414>)

Professional service

Editorial board for *Dress: Journal of the Costume Society of America* (US, 2021-2025)

Bloomsbury Fashion Central advisory board (UK, 2019-present)

Grant proposal reviewer, Austrian Science Foundation (Austria, 2019)

Board of Directors, Costume Society of America (US, 2012-16)

Journal manuscript reviewer

African Studies Review (US): 2012, 2017

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (UK): 2017, 2018

Contemporary Islam (Netherlands): 2014

Critical Studies in Fashion & Beauty (UK): 2020

The Design Journal (UK): 2017, 2018, 2021

Dress (US): 2011, 2017, 2022

English Language Notes (US): 2021

Fashion Theory (US): 2019, 2023

International Journal of Communication (US): 2023

International Journal of Fashion Design, Technology and Education (UK): 2014

Journal of Consumer Sciences (South Africa): 2017

Journal of Folklore Research (US): 2018

Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies (US): 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Religions (Switzerland): 2019, 2021, 2022

Sustainability (Switzerland): 2022

Textile History (UK): 2016

Women's Studies International Forum (UK): 2016, 2018

Africa Today (US): 2011

Textile: Journal of Cloth and Culture (UK): 2008

Western Journal of Black Studies (US): 2011

Book proposal and manuscript reviewer

Bloomsbury Academic (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2023)

Indiana University Press (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Oklahoma University Press (2021)

External reviews for promotion

University of Nebraska - Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design (2022)

Dominican University - Fashion Merchandising and Design (2021)

Brooklyn College - Art History (2021)

Arizona State University - Fashion Design (2020)

University of Wisconsin - Interior Design (2014)

Service publications

- (2010) 'Colonialism to Independence (Africa),' *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, volume 1, eds. Joanne B. Eicher and Doran Ross, Oxford: Berg Publishers, pp. 44-50.
- (2008), 'Body Adornment and Clothing: Trade,' *New Encyclopedia of Africa*, eds. John Middleton and Joseph C. Miller,' New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 251-253.
- (2004), 'Islamic Dress,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 250-254.
- (2004), 'Jilbab,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 288-290.
- (2004), 'Plain Weave,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 416-417.
- (2004), 'Twill Weave,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 419-421.
- (2004), 'Satin Weave,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 417-419.
- (2004), 'Jacquard Weave,' *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. Valerie Steele, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, p. 415.

Published book reviews

Dressing Modern Like Our Mothers: Dress, Identity, and Cultural Praxis in Oromia (Northeast African Studies, forthcoming in 2023)

Long Live the President! Portrait Cloths from Africa (Africa Today, 2011)

The Essential Art of African Textiles (African Studies Review, 2009)

Bogolan: Shaping Culture Through Cloth in Contemporary Mali, 2nd ed. (African Studies Review, 2009)

Mode in Afrika (African Arts, 2009)

Cloth in West African History (Technology & Culture, 2007)

Clothing as Material Culture (Technology & Culture, 2007)

Campus service

Search committee for Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs (invited, 2023)
Working group for IU Strategic Plan 2030, "Research: Strengthening Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across the Research Enterprise" (invited, 2022-present)
Faculty sponsor for Muslim Women of IU (invited, 2021-present)
Muslim Voices advisory board member (invited, 2019-present)
Institute for Advanced Study advisory board member (invited, 2019-present)
Bloomington Faculty Council (elected representative, 2018-20)
Faculty Mediation Committee, BFC (elected, 2018-20)
Long-Range Planning Committee, BFC (invited, 2017-20)
College [of Arts + Sciences] Policy Committee (elected, 2017-20; elected chair, 2019-20)
Faculty Advisory Board, Mathers Museum of World Cultures (invited, 2013-17)
Chair of Undergraduate Affairs, African Studies Program (invited, 2011-13, 2019-20)
Mentor for Betty Dlamini, senior lecturer in African Studies (2018-20)
Mentor for Jacinda Townsend, assistant professor in English (2011-13)
Faculty Advisory Board, Office of Women's Affairs (2010-2012)

School service beyond administration (Eskenazi School, 2016-present)

Search committee in Fashion Design, chair (2023)
Science Fest committee (2018-2020)
Curricular committee on intellectual property (2018)
Search committee in Fashion Design, chair (2018-19)
Search committee in Fashion Design, member (2017-18)
Faculty Advisory Board (2016-17)

Department service beyond administration (AMID, 2004-2016)

Central Planning Committee for the Eskenazi School (2014-16)
Department executive committee (2011-2014)
Promotion and tenure committee (2011-2014)
Search and screen committee, chair (2010-12, 2013-14)
Undergraduate Teaching Intern policy committee (2007-08)
Scholarship committee (2005-07)
Advisor for Kappa Omicron Nu honor society (2004-07)

Public service

Co-Director (invited) of the Bloomington Multi Faith Alliance (2022-2025)

Member (elected) of the Board of Trustees for the Islamic Center of Bloomington (2013-2022)

Chair (elected) of the Board of Trustees for the Islamic Center of Bloomington (2016-2021)

Dress and Body Association

In 2020, I co-founded the Dress and Body Association and continue to manage the finances, website, collaborations, and conference planning. My current co-director, Stefan Rabitsch, is an associate professor of American Studies at the University of Oslo. His main responsibilities are social media, global networking, managing abstract jurors, and co-hosting our annual conference. As a registered 501(c)(3) organization that fosters interdisciplinary scholarship on dress and the body, the DBA operates entirely online. Our most recent conference in November 2022 had 42 speakers from 15 countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

2020 Conference

Virtually (Un)Dressed: Researching the Body in the Digital Age

2021 Conference

Defining the Contours of Dress Studies

2022 Conference

The Beginner's Mind: Asking and Telling About Dress Studies

2023 Conference

Climate Change: Implications for Dress and the Body

From our mission statement:

'Dress' is a highly inclusive concept that includes all varieties of body supplements and body modifications found in human cultures around the world. It is not limited to clothing, costume, or fashion or to any particular time, place, or economic structure. The mission of the DBA is to bring together scholars from diverse disciplines and areas of the world to share academic research about dress and body practices, to offer quality opportunities for networking, and to forge links with like-minded individuals and organizations.