

Issue #7: Fashion & Identity
(winter 2026)

Deadline: 18th of April 2026,
23:59 PM CET

Every day we express ourselves by the way we dress. We use clothes to express what we stand for and what we fight against. We weave our grief into veils and proudly celebrate our identities through statement shirts. Fashion serves as a powerful semiotic system through which individual, collective and cultural identities are created, maintained, challenged and made (in)visible across time and space. As such, Amsterdam Museum Journal (AMJournal) #7 Fashion and Identity (published open access in December 2026) focuses on how identities reflect on both historical and contemporary conditions of the fashioned body, which often remains underexamined in academic research.

With approximately 10,000 objects, the fashion collection of Amsterdam Museum represents one of the oldest fashion collections in the Netherlands. With a strong commitment to document fashion as cultural heritage, our central mission has been to present a multitude of voices in our collection, exhibitions and programs. With recent initiatives such as *Maison Amsterdam* (2021), *Continue This Thread* (2023), and *Unboxing: Fashion from the Archives* (2024) exemplifies our devotion to dialogues with emerging makers and researchers, digital innovations, and reflexively rethinking heritage in contemporary fashion and identity discourses.

For edition #7, AMJournal invites scholars from all disciplines and from all over the world to investigate the ways fashion shapes identities, and vice versa. Questions that could be considered, but are not limited to: How does individual expression create collective belonging? How do political, historical, and class systems affect fashion? How can sartorial representation serve as a symbol for activism and be a form of activism itself? How is fashion used for inclusion/exclusion mechanisms? How do music and (pop) culture shape trends in fashion? What about the tensions between cultural (re) appropriation and cultural inspiration/appreciation? How does digital technology affect physical identities? And if fashion is characterised by the relentless speed and constant accelerations, what happens to our identities when we slow down?

To encourage quantitative and qualitative research contributions, we welcome both empirical papers and essays. AMJournal welcomes contributions from scholars in all stages of their research careers – including junior scholars, ambitious students, and freelance researchers. We value author accessibility and encourage submissions from diverse academic and professional backgrounds.

Suggested research topics include:

Fashion, Identity and...

1. Activism
2. Anthropology
3. Arts
4. Citizenship
5. Climate
6. Indigeneity
7. Communities
8. (Sub)Cultures
9. Design
10. (De)coloniality
11. Diaspora
12. Economy
13. Ethics
14. Gender
15. History
16. Intersectionality
17. Politics
18. Queerness
19. Subalternity
20. Technology

(Note. This list is not exhaustive)

Types of contributions

For Edition #7 “Fashion & Identity”, AMJournal calls on authors from all disciplines to submit abstracts for the following contributions (deadline 18th of April, 2026).

The Essays

The essay is relevant to the current edition. Specifically, the essay provides a valuable contribution to the literature and polyphony that surrounds the theme. Authors should be explicit as to their own positionality, as well as the positionality of their contributions in the broader academic space and public discourse. As such, authors present a clear thesis statement in the text for which they offer sufficient reasoning. The argumentation in support of the thesis statement is embedded in existing academic literature. Therefore, essays should be well referenced and include a clear theoretical framework.

Short Essays are 2000-4000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, and endnotes

Long Essays are 4000-6000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, and endnotes

The Empirical Papers

The empirical papers present studies that are based on empirical analyses (e.g., data driven research, case studies, experiments). Authors present a defined research questions or hypothesis that is relevant to the current journal edition, which they explore by means of analysis. The qualitative or quantitative research results are presented and discussed with demonstrative or illustrative examples selected from the data/corpus/cases studied. The article provides a clear theoretical framework and methodology for research and follow the standardized structure for research articles (introduction, theory, methodology, results/analysis, discussion, conclusion).

2000-6000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, tables, figures, and endnotes

The Visual Essays

The visual essays consist of analyses of a series of images relevant to the issue's theme, as a printed exhibition. The visual essay should represent a critical academic reflection of the visuals, with a focus on what is presented or represented. The visuals can be a series, or a combination of multiple independent visuals sharing a common denominator. The visual essays should be well referenced, include a clear contextual framework and present an explicit thesis.

The author is required to research the use of the desired visuals (copyright). The images should be high resolution; there are no strict guidelines concerning the amount of images.

Visual Essays are 1000-3000 words excl. abstract, key words, reference list, tables, figures, and endnotes

Abstract Submissions

Submit an abstract of your contribution (max. 400 words excluding references and endnotes) plus five key words. Submit the title page and the abstract as two separate documents. On the title page, make sure you mention 1. your full name(s) and contact information, 2. the discipline(s) in which you (and your co-authors) operate, 3. the text's full (working) title and a running title (five words max.), 4. the type of contribution, and 5. if you qualify for the Best Paper Prize. Note, all abstracts undergo double-blind peer reviewing. As such, all abstracts should be *anonymized/ pseudonymized*.

The Best Paper Prize

To encourage contributions by junior¹ and freelance scholars, a Best Paper Prize is awarded each edition. The contributor of the winning contribution will be awarded a certificate and 350 euros.

Abstract Deadline

Submit your abstracts before 18th of April 2026, 23:59 PM CET to journal@amsterdammuseum.nl.

¹PhD, MA, MSc, and rMA students

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