The range of stay in the prison varied from 3 months (minimum) to 2 years counting from the day of their admission into the prison. The experimental group was subdivided into two categories: 'high' and 'low' on the basis of the significant evidence of violence during their criminal activities. A group of another 85 normal females (having no record of imprisonment) matched in age, educational and socio-economic backgrounds were considered as control group. One way ANOVA and t-tests were applied to verify the proposed hypothesis.

The results largely attribute towards accepting the hypothesis i.e. the more the aggressive a prisoner i.e. the high in her body-buffer zone. In fact, the crowding and very cause physical proximity existing in female enclave causes psychotraumatic irritation in each jail inhabitant female. The results of valuing under such perpetual conditions of environmental limitations in the female enclave might lead to behavioral explosion or development of diverse unhygienic habits and conditions on the part of jail detained female inmates. Since criminality is largely a matter of learning through intimate interactions, the female enclave in its existing architecture and population may be said to act as a school of crime rather than reformatory-rehabilitative base. The integral part of this study has pointed out the need of remodelling the female prison institution where irritation due to physical closeness should be brought down to the minimum.

References

Bonaiuto, M & Bonaiuto, F., Rome, Italy

FUNCTIONAL CHOICE OF DRESS AND THE INFLUENCE OF CLOTHING ON SELF-IMAGE

Summary:

The choice of dress which corresponds to aims and needs or the influence of clothes on human behaviour, constitutes interesting examples of inter-relationships between the individual and the environment. Attention is focused on the case of dress chosen in order to confer social prestige and on dress which convey the reverse.
Subjects of both sexes, young and more mature, of average social class, were examined. The two opposing sets of clothing show special characteristics and the functional significance of these was explored. Change in the clothes produces clear-cut effects on certain aspects of one's self-image, while other aspects are unaltered. The structure of the personality and environmental demands can increase or reduce these clothing effects.

Dress and person-environment relations:

There are many types of relations between the environment and the human being. It is possible to use different criteria of classification and of study in regard to these. Some of our research conducted at the Department of Psychology of the University "La Sapienza", Rome, since 1985, has particularly centred on the relations concerning the dress of both women and men, especially in terms of the psychological aspects of dress. That is, the choice of dress in its strict relation to predefined objectives and the influence of dress on human behavior. Several considerations are, at this point, in order.

a) Clothes and their accessories constitute a kind of micro-environment for people, more or less responding to certain of his or her needs. The individual may be integrated with it to greater or lesser degree, ranging from maximal fusion and assimilation (the clothes as a complement of the body and of one's self-image, as a prosthesis, as an instrument...), up to aspects of splitting and of contrast with the self.

b) People's dress is generally an important element of environment (physical, perceptual and social). In it, and as a function of it, these same people communicate, make decisions, move and act. As an environmental element, clothes and their accessories contribute to determining the role of the human figure together with make-up, body shape, posture, gesture, voice, name, etc.

c) For certain persons, or in given environmental circumstances, the importance of dress, the attention paid to it and the psychic resonances of its variations become more important. In other circumstances, this importance is reduced. One can attempt to determine relations among the structure of personality, environmental parameters, function and the psychological importance of dress.

Studies of the psychology of dress:

Scientific research on the theme of dress are numerous, yet differing in the aspects studied, methods used, and results reported. They range in character from the economic and business to the historical, sociological and anthropological. Of the systematic research concerning this latter, mention should be made of the work of A.L. Kroeber (1919) and J.Richardson & A.L.Kroeber (1940). These researches concentrate on the stable and variable aspects of certain parameters regarding women’s attire, i.e., dress length and material abound from 1700 to 1900. The authors found periodic fluctuations; they also report that, in historical periods and by increased tension and socio-cultural instability, style variations in women's fashions were more emphasized. For an opposing view, the recent work of D.Simmon (1977) should be consulted.
The works dealing more explicitly with the psychological determinants of dress are to be found frequently in unsystematic collections of examples, descriptions, and interpretations, at times brilliant, they contain, such as the works of S.H. Bills (1915), J.C. Flowers (1950), E. Schiller (1950), R. House (1954), R. Sigurd (1969), and B. Rodaysky (1971).

Additionally, there are marginal observations within other studies, as in the case of N. Wulfsenstain (1955) or P. Anatozio & A. Albergotti (1961).

Over the last few years, experimental psychological research and systematic observations on dress have turned on the direct recording of behaviour and lived experiences as well as on the examination of cognitive and emotional processes according to approaches typical of the disciplines (R. Poll, 1975; L.R. Rozenski & T.G. Eysenck, 1975; J.H. Portesberry, J. Nagler, F. Nettels and N. O'Connor, 1978; E. Hoffmann, 1981; M.R. Solomon & J. Schepfer, 1982).

A systematic study on the structure, properties, and some psychological effects of "prestige" dress:

a) Objectives and procedure. In a pilot study conducted in Rome during the 5-year period 1988-1994, we set out to identify the characteristics and the effects of dress which confer social importance. That is, prestige dress was compared to clothing styles of the opposite type, or non-prestige dress.

In the study, each subject was asked to dress using items from his or her wardrobe in such a way as to "have the maximum prestige in regards to authority and other persons". The subjects were then assembled in one of the university's halls where they found a rather fluid situation of social acceptance and reasonably natural interpersonal relations.

While there, they were interviewed, asked to answer some written questions and to provide evaluations of themselves, their external image and that of their clothes through the use of a series of 7-point scales designed to measure personal experience. These scales allow the subject to rate themselves from 0 to 5 in correspondence to more than 200 opposing pairs of adjectives or phrases. A specially designed "topological chart" was also used. With a graphic model depicting three possible representations in front of them, the subjects were asked to focus on the area of the self in their own phenomenal field, to focus on eventual differences between periphery and the central nucleus of the self, and to state whether the phenomenal importance of the self was felt as distributed to the periphery (on the "surface"), or was diffuse throughout the inner area, or peculiarly concentrated in the self's inner nucleus.

Each subject finally underwent an analysis of the formal qualities and aspects of psycho-dynamic interest as shown by their clothes, their accouterments, and by the complete set taken as a whole. In addition, a complete photographic record was made.

On a different day, the same person is asked to come dressed in the opposite way, that is, in "non-prestige" clothes; and is investigated in an identical manner.

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The sessions were organised to give adequate rotation in the test order; and the experimental groups consisted of an equal number of men and women, from an urban environment and belonging to the average social class. Once the second round of interviews had terminated, the subjects were given a series of psycho-diagnostic tests to determine certain main personality traits. In order to take seasonal variation into account, winter dress was studied as much as summer dress.

The study was carried out for two different age groups: (i) young university students or high school alumni aged 18 to 25 years; (ii) adult graduates or alumni aged 43 to 50 years.

Complementary field studies were also carried out.

b) A first glance at results. Examination of the first sizing results shows that each of the two opposing sets of clothes offers particular constant characteristics as well as properties which vary as function of personality, sex, social conditions and age-linked roles and tastes. Through the preparation and choice of their dress, the subjects have formulated social messages and have revealed attitudes, intentions, standards, schemes and ways of elaborating informations.

The "prestige" dress is generally characterised by the use of very new or relatively new apparel, the higher cost of these articles and accessories, the relative exhibition of wealth through the use of expensive objects, and the exhibition of affluence, care and self-love through the use of clean, pressed, patchless and unblemished clothing. In some cases one resorts to chromatic attributes of shininess (as in patent leather shoes) and of glitter (as in paillettes, studs and metal buttons). Homogeneous colours are often employed - solid colours - as are delicate colours like white, meant to show care and precision by the fact such clothing, so easily soiled, is worn spotless.

Great attention is also given to co-ordination of items such as belts, handbags, shoes, which are often homogeneous. It is also evident in the colours of accessories and fabrics, which are harmonious. Matching features between overcoat and dress, between top and blouses, are noticeable as well. The importance attributed to qualities such as balance, proportion, ability to direct, and the ability to reduce or avoid compro-
mises, clearly emerges. Other fundamental aspects of "prestige" dress are the high degree of sexual differentiation and furthermore the wide variety of the clothing. It accentuates the inner-individual difference and, hence, the degree of personalisation. This element also increases the range of look available to the person when appearing in public.

In a general sense, in the case of "prestige" clothing, the resulting attire is generally close-fitting, well-tailored to show off the figure; and it is complex, heightening the structure of the human figure by a wealth of specific trimmings and detail-work which increases definition. In this way the perceptual role of the human figure as the "frame of reference" is accentuated. In fact, prior research has shown that one of the most important factors in assigning the role of reference system to part of phenomenal field is the "degree of definition" (P. Komatsu, 1978, 1981, 1983). The "non-prestige" dress is, in comparison, poorly defined, tending towards homogeneity and shapelessness.
As to influences of clothing on self-image, results of the particular topological test used are quite sensible. The subject choices are different in each of the two experimental situations and show an overall shift of the phenomenal importance of the self from the centre to the periphery in "prestige" dress, and the reverse in "non-prestige" dress, especially for women.

The numerous personal experience evaluation scales which we applied enabled us to determine on which aspects of self-perception, dress variation had a large, a slight or no influence at all.

The most sensitive self-perceptual aspects are those concerning importance, social prestige, self-affirmation and furthermore elegance, beauty and evidence: all these qualities are intensified by "prestige" dress. This has generally also a feature of self-perception of greater control and command and a less possibility of movements and hand works. Of great interest are affects on emotional tonality of the self. The wearing of "prestige" clothes produces a reassuring and anti-depressant effect. There are also some differences in favour of the "prestige" dress in terms of a group of functional abilities, aspects of order, accuracy and of identity. The degree of sexual differentiation, of femininity or masculinity, and of sexual ability perceived in the self, are greater in "prestige" dress. Numerous aspects of one's physical person are influenced in self-perception. "Prestige" dress makes one feel taller, more slender, slimmer, well-proportioned but also slimmer. On the whole, the subject perceive itself more satisfied with her or his body.

The aspects of self-perception which are not affected by this variation of dress are basic qualities of character, morality, intelligence and certain fundamental aspects of self-reality.