



CALL FOR PAPERS:  
Dress and Textile Collections amidst Covid-19

DATS invites submissions for this one-day online conference which explores the theme of dress and textile collections amidst Covid-19.

The global pandemic has altered the way many of us interact with dress and textile collections. DATS would like to explore ways museums, libraries, historic houses and universities are managing their dress and textile collections, during lockdown and after easing. DATS also invites you to share novel approaches used to engage audiences when sites were closed, tours limited and research visits reduced. We want to uncover how a need for adaptability and flexibility in the workplace has led to innovative ideas and case studies that could be implemented in dress and textile collections worldwide.

In a time of uncertainty for many working in the museum sector, DATS encourages papers that address ideas associated to recently furloughed staff and further funding cuts to the sector. What does the depletion of funding and reduced hours of staff really mean for dress and textile collections? How can we ensure their safety? We also welcome papers that address unsuccessful approaches to engagement and collections care.

Papers might address the following areas:

- Managing and maintaining collections care from home.
- Collecting dress and textile objects.
- New ways of engaging audiences with dress and textile objects.
- The impact of furloughed collections staff on dress and textile collections.
- Safe-guarding our collections for the future.

Please highlight whether you would like to submit a 10 or 20 minute paper. Please also indicate whether you would like to present your research live with a Q&A or pre-recorded.

DATS encourages diversity of experience and opinion. A digital conference enables us to transform the authorship of presentations, and audience in attendance. It offers an opportunity to widen participation in all its forms. As such we would encourage speakers from any dress and textile collection internationally, from large national museums, to small regional institutions, and private collections. We invite proposals from museum professionals, students, academics and researchers working with dress and textiles. This includes those with no institutional affiliation, and first time authors. We encourage speakers from all backgrounds, particularly those from, or working with, under-represented communities and collections.

If you have an idea for a paper, but would like advice or encouragement to shape it into a presentation, please get in touch with us at [conference@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk](mailto:conference@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk).

Individuals should submit:

- (1) paper title
- (2) abstract (up to 300 words)
- (3) biography (50 – 100 words)
- (4) postal address, email, contact telephone number and affiliation (if any), and
- (5) audio-visual preference.

**The deadline for abstracts is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

To submit a proposal please send details to [conference@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk](mailto:conference@dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk).