CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Focus Issue of the Clothing & Textiles Research Journal

Fashioning AI × Policy: Rethinking Governance, Creativity, and Ethics in Fashion Futures

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Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force across the fashion industry, profoundly influencing design ideation, material innovation, production, retail, and consumer interaction (Zhang et al., 2025). Generative design models, machine-learning recommendation engines, and predictive analytics are now integrated into the creative and operational ecosystems of fashion (Sohn et al., 2020). These tools promise efficiency and personalization, but simultaneously challenge long-standing norms surrounding authorship, originality, transparency, and accountability, issues at the core of fashion's creative and cultural identity (Noti-Victor, 2025).

Despite the rapid diffusion of AI across fashion sectors, the policy infrastructures and ethical frameworks governing its deployment remain fragmented. As fashion increasingly intersects with algorithmic decision-making, global governance initiatives are beginning to formalize expectations for transparency and accountability. The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) represents the first comprehensive legal framework for AI, mandating the classification of risks, human oversight, and the disclosure of AI-generated content to safeguard consumers and prevent deception (European Union, 2024b). Complementing this, the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR, Regulation (EU) 2024/1781) extends the digital traceability mandate through Digital Product Passports (DPPs), which document provenance, material composition, and lifecycle impacts, redefining how accountability and sustainability are embedded into product design and marketing (European Union, 2024a).

Beyond Europe, similar policy debates are accelerating in other jurisdictions. In the United States, proposed legislation, such as the AI Labeling Act of 2023 (S. 2691) and the Generative AI Copyright Disclosure Act of 2024 (H.R. 7913) (Congress, 2023; Congress, 2024), underscores a growing policy emphasis on transparency and accountability in artificial intelligence. The AI Labeling Act requires clear and conspicuous disclosure when content is AI-generated, including associated metadata indicating the tool and date of creation (Congress, 2023). Similarly, the Generative AI Copyright Disclosure Act requires developers to disclose copyrighted materials used in model training datasets to the U.S. Copyright Office, thereby enhancing data provenance and accountability in the development of generative models

(Brisbois, 2024; Congress, 2024). These initiatives reflect heightened concerns surrounding intellectual property rights, consumer trust, and the spread of misinformation in AI-generated creative content (Future of Privacy Form, 2024; Wittenberg et al., 2024). Meanwhile, industry research suggests that compliance-driven transparency can also serve as a strategic advantage, as AI-enabled data analytics and DPP-based traceability enhance sustainability reporting and accountability, leading consumers to perceive such disclosures as indicators of brand authenticity, ethical integrity, and environmental responsibility (McKinsey & Company & BOF, 2025; Park & Yoon, 2024).

Against this backdrop, fashion scholars and practitioners face an urgent need to theorize how policy, culture, and technology co-evolve to shape future creative systems (Boughlala & Smelik, 2025). Yet, the academic conversation around AI in fashion remains dominated by technical or aesthetic perspectives, with limited attention to governance, regulation, and ethical accountability. The proposed Fashioning AI × Policy Focus Issue addresses this critical gap by exploring how evolving policy regimes, spanning disclosure requirements, data governance, and sustainability mandates, mediate the relationship between technological innovation and creative expression in the fashion industry.

This Focus Issue, developed in conjunction with the *Fashion Symposium 2026*, aims to advance interdisciplinary dialogue at the intersection of fashion studies, public policy, digital ethics, and consumer behavior. It seeks to promote both theoretical development and empirical research that examines how policy interventions can foster equitable and responsible innovation in the fashion industry. The issue emphasizes the role of AI not only as a driver of efficiency and creativity but also as a tool for transparency, inclusivity, and cultural preservation. By doing so, it positions the Clothing and Textiles Research Journal at the forefront of scholarly discussions on the governance of emerging technologies shaping the future of fashion. The Focus Issue welcomes a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

- AI-generated design, authorship, and copyright governance
- Algorithmic bias, inclusivity, and representation in fashion AI
- Digital Product Passports and lifecycle traceability systems
- Consumer trust, disclosure formats, and digital communication design
- Comparative analyses of AI regulation across jurisdictions
- Sustainability and circularity policy alignment with AI technologies
- Ethical frameworks for responsible AI deployment in fashion supply chains
- Labor and workforce transformation under emerging AI policy regimes
- Fashion education, data literacy, and regulatory compliance training
- AI technologies in fashion supply chains and their policy implications for business and industry sectors
- Theoretical or conceptual models linking technology, culture, and policy

Types of manuscripts will be accepted:
- Full research papers (empirical or theoretical)
- Systematic or critical literature reviews.

Eligibility: Authors who do not attend the symposium are welcome to submit their papers in response to this call for papers.

Focus Issue submissions are double-blind reviewed and follow CTRJ procedures. Author revision time is shorter for Focus Issue submissions. Major revisions require 3 months, minor revisions require 1 month, and acceptance with edits requires 2 weeks. Manuscripts are published online upon acceptance, prior to their inclusion in the journal's focus issue

Should you have any inquiries about this Focus Issue, please contact the guest editor(s).

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