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**RCDF**

Dear RCDF community,

We hope this message finds you all well and in good spirit. We are happy to share some updates on our projects and activities, as well as updates from the various communities that make up the Collective.

Our monthly online **Conversations on Resilience & Fashion** initiated in

Our monthly online [Conversations on Decoloniality & Fashion](#), initiated in February 2021, continue each first Thursday of the month. This year, we are reflecting a recurring topic *Designing Goods, Crafting Communities: What is Really Being Lost?*, with different moderators and guests each month, from different communities around the world. Everyone is invited to join by registering on [Eventbrite](#).

In May 2024, we had our Annual General Meeting (AGM23), with a roundtable conversation on '[Exploring Decolonial Options in Fashion](#)' with Sandra Niessen, Jose Teunissen, Erica de Greef and Angela Jansen. We also organised our [3rd Decolonial Film Festival](#), curated by Mi Medrado and moderated by Tamara Poblete. Both recordings are now available on the [RCDF Youtube](#) channel.

In June 2024, we started our second edition of our [online introductory course on Decoloniality and Fashion](#), with twenty-one participants and four scholarships. We are once more incredibly blessed to have some amazing guest lecturers joining us, including Sandra Niessen, Sarah Cheang, Erica de Greef, Tamara Poblete and Loreto Martinez. If you wish to join next year, make sure to pre-register on the waiting list by [email](#) to avoid disappointment.

For the second edition of the [Global Fashioning Assembly](#), scheduled for October 2024, twenty communities have been meeting monthly to coordinate the different overall organisational tasks (establishing budgets, writing funding applications, animating social media, designing logos, establishing programmes, etc.) while each community has been working on their individual hosting programmes. Find out below which communities will be hosting this year.

Meanwhile, we are sharing updates from our communities around the world on projects, publications, podcasts, etc. If you want to stay updated, make sure to subscribe to the RCDF [website](#), [YouTube](#) channel and [Instagram](#).

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

The RCDF team

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## RCDF NEWS AND UPDATES

### CONVERSATIONS ON DECOLONIALITY & FASHION

So far, we have had five Conversations, hosted from [Kenya](#) (January), [India](#) (February), [Ghana](#) (March), Argentina (April, in Spanish) and Turkey (June, bilingual Turkish-English) and we are already looking forward to the next one on 4 July 2024. It will be hosted by the [Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs de Plantation Congolaise](#) (CATPC) from the Democratic Republic of Congo (in French). Together with members of the Collective, we will reflect on the role of raffia in relating to ancestry, community and art and the relation and role of fashion.

The selected materials and recordings of each Conversation since February 2021 on the RCDF [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel, are constituting a unique and dynamic online open-access archive. Join us by registering on [Eventbrite](#). A donation is voluntary to compensate the moderators and guests for their time and knowledge.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

On 8 May 2024, we organised our third Annual General Meeting since we transitioned into a not-for-profit foundation in October 2021. It is an important opportunity for the community to connect, reflect on past activities and project on future initiatives. It is also the opportunity to share the [Annual Report 2023](#) with the community and to renew [annual donations](#) in support of our work.

The first part consisted of a round table conversation on '[Exploring Decolonial Options in Fashion](#),' moderated by Mi Medrado (RCDF communication officer), with Sandra Niessen (acting chair of the RCDF Advisory Board), José Teunissen (chair of the RCDF Supervisory Board), Erica de Greef (member of the Advisory Board) and Angela Jansen (director of the RCDF).

The second part of the programme included the third [Decolonial Fashion Film Festival](#), curated by Mi Medrado and moderated by Tamara Poblete ([Colectivo Malvestidas](#)). A total of eight films were selected, including 'A Fashion Editorial in the Fashion Garbage Dump' (Paula Contreras Sánchez & Erick Labra Olave, 2024), 'Entangled' (Kaja Grujic, 2023), 'To Fashion' (New Zealand Fashion Museum, 2022), 'Relaciones' (Brenda Salirrosas, 2023), 'Abram os caminhos' (Marcel Marques, 2020), 'Mijo' (Mazdey, 2021), 'Transmutações do Feminino' (Samuel Alexandre, 2021) and 'Semióticas de la costura / Semiotics of sewing' (Loreto Martinez y Tamara Poblete, 2022). Followed by a thought provoking conversation between Tamara and the directors.

## ONLINE COURSE DECOLONIALITY & FASHION

Beginning of June, we started our second [online introductory course on Decoloniality & Fashion](#), for which we received so many applications that we had to add people on a waiting list (for next year). Once more, we are very excited to have such a rich diversity of participants from different geographies, ages and practices as well as some inspiring fashion researchers to guest lecture, including Sandra Niessen, Sarah Cheang and Erica de Greef, Tamara Poblete and Loreto Martinez.

For the last class, we will have hosting communities from the Global Fashioning Assembly joining us to explore alternative ways of coming together to create and share fashion knowledge and how to create decolonial cracks and resist the social, cultural and ecological violence of dominant contemporary fashion.

If you are considering to join our next course, please make sure to pre-register on the waiting list by [email](#) to avoid disappointment.

## GLOBAL FASHIONING ASSEMBLY 2024 (GFA24)

The twenty communities, from 26 countries in 6 continents, that will be hosting the second edition of the [Global Fashioning Assembly](#) in October 2024, are now confirmed and include **Mweno Colectivo de Moda e Arte Decolonial** (Angola), [New Zealand Fashion Museum](#) (Aotearoa), **Abya Yala Coalition** (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru), [Austrian Centre for Fashion Research](#) (Austria), **Little Threads of Thoughts**

(Belgium), **Moda e Decolonialidade: Encruzilhadas do Sul Global** (Brazil), [Cobbled Goods](#) (Canada), [Colectivo Malvestidas](#) (Chile), [Centre for Research of Fashion and Clothing](#) (Croatia), [Fashion Liberation Collective North Africa](#) (Egypt, Morocco, Wales), [Ghana International Fashion Team](#) (Ghana), **Friends of Kheta Crafts** (India), [Born Nomad](#) (Kazakhstan), [Own Your Culture](#) (Kenya), [Pakistan Collective for Decolonial Practice](#) (Pakistan), **Lowlands Decolonial Fashion Network** (Netherlands), [Mendit Research Lab](#) (Russia), [African Fashion Research Institute](#) (South-Africa), [Witches of the East Collective](#) (Turkey), [Fashion Act Now](#) (United Kingdom).

The communities have been meeting monthly to coordinate the different overall organisational tasks coordinated by four organically created teams (budget, planning, communication and production team) consisting of members of the different hosting communities. Meanwhile, each community has also been working on their individual hosting programmes, of which some have already started and can be discovered on the [GFA Instagram](#).

For this second edition, we are still looking for volunteers to help with communication, social media prior to the Assembly and technical support during the online event in October 2024. Contact us by [email](#) if you are interested.

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## NEWS FROM THE COALITIONS

### AFRICA

- **Ghana** - Ghanaian fashion designer Beatrice 'Bee' Arthur, of the [Ghana International Fashion Team](#) (GiFt) has joined the many artistic voices of '[Plastic Presence of a Fluorescent Future](#)' at the Mother Earth Festival 2024 on the grounds of Aburi Botanical Gardens in Accra. The expo serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of oceanic degradation and ubiquitous presence of plastic bottles. Through a captivating fashion and multimedia installation, Bee Arthur explores innovative approaches to waste management, recycling, upcycling and eco-friendly alternatives. The expo not only serves as a platform for artistic expression through fashion but also sparks crucial conversations

about consumer habits, corporate responsibility, and the importance of conservation efforts.

- **Kenya** - In April 2024, Nairobi was one of the sister sites of the [State of Fashion Biennale 2024](#). Chepkemboi Mang'ira from [OwnYourCulture](#) moderated a panel on 'Threads of Tradition: Resistance Through Craft' with Kenyan designers [kikoromeo](#), [katushnairobi](#), and [hisi\\_studio](#). The exhibition titled [Tradition\(al\)](#) curated by [Sunny Dolat](#), a renowned cultural producer and creative director, brought together 19 designers from across the continent who employ unique ways to preserve their heritage through design. The significance of this exhibition was seeing the diverse and nuanced expressions of African heritage.
- **Kenya** - In June 2024, Chepkemboi Mang'ira was invited by [Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute](#) to moderate a conversation between exhibiting artist Xenson (Samson Ssenkaaba) and cultural producer Sunny Dolat on sustainable production and consumption practices and heritage preservation. Listen to the conversalon [here](#).

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## PUBLICATIONS - COURSES - PODCASTS - EXHIBITIONS - PROJECTS

### (ONLINE) PUBLICATIONS

- Special Issue of DISCERN Journal on '[Decentring Design: Crafting Shifts, in and Through Fashion](#)' guest edited by Dr Francesco Mazzarella and Dr Seher Mirza, including an exhibition review by Dr Erica de Greef on '[Designed for life: Fashioning emergent futures](#).'
- Sark, Katrina. "[Locational Fashion Cultures](#)." Fashion Theory. April 2024, DOI: 10.1080/1362704X.2024.2338578.
- Sark, Katrina and Arnold, Sara. "[Fashion Activism and Extinction Rebellion](#)." Fashion Theory. February 2024.
- Sark, Katrina. "De-Gendering Fashion in Mainstream Media." [Routledge History of Fashion and Dress, 1800 to Present](#). Ed. by Véronique Pouillard and Vincent Dubé-Senéal. London: Routledge, 2023. Open Access. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429295607>.

### (ONLINE) CONFERENCES

- On Thursday the 27th of June 2024, at 4.30pm CEST, Professor R. Vázquez Melken, appointed as Professor of Post/Decolonial Theories and Literatures, with a focus on the Global South at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Amsterdam, will deliver his Inaugural Lecture 'On the Coloniality of Thought.' It will be accessible by [livestream](#).

## (ONLINE) RESOURCES

- The Canadian Fashion Scholars Network collectively developed an open-sourced [Digital Resources](#) for educators, researcher, curators, and other professionals. Experts from different countries and fields of research collaborated together and contributed with their time and expertise to put this resource together. The main focus is on ethics, sustainability, and decolonization of fashion studies, fashion education, and fashion curation.

## (ONLINE) EXHIBITIONS

- The [Weaving The Threads of Refugee Entrepreneurs](#) exhibition took place on 20 June 2024 at the Humble Gallery at Rosetta Arts in London, showcasing refugees and asylum seekers' fashion products inspired by their personal cultural heritage. This exhibition was a spin-off from the AHRC-funded [Decolonising Fashion and Textiles: Design for Cultural Sustainability with Refugee Communities](#) project, delivered in partnership with [Centre for Sustainable Fashion](#), UAL and [Rosetta Arts](#). This phase of the project, Weaving The Threads of Refugee Entrepreneurs welcomed a cohort of local refugees and asylum seekers to engage in textile-making workshops funded by Newham Council. Some products were for sale, and all profits will go to the designers and makers of the work. For more information, you can contact [Francesco Mazzearella](#).

## (RESEARCH) PROJECTS

- '[Fashioning Stories of Change](#)' performances by '[Decolonising Fashion and Textiles](#)' project led by Dr Francesco Mazzearella at the Victoria and

Albert Museum in London on 21 June, as part of Refugee Week.

- [DIE4ART](#) (Decolonial Inclusive Education 4 Creative Arts) is a new decolonial creative platform and consultancy by Naomi Smith, a decolonial creative, activist and librarian specialising in Fashion and Global Black Studies from London. Using her theoretical expertise gained from a Masters in Race and Resistance, her professional experience of being an educator teaching communities and students inside and outside of university on how to critically deconstruct and reflect on decolonial information and her personal experience of being a creative, she wants to use @die4artbynaomi to work with marginalised brands and creatives to develop their decolonial empowerment and influence; Help brands develop community building and connect to new audiences through collaborative exhibitions, workshops and events which share a decolonial vision; add decolonial educational value to brand storytelling and creative direction; develop strategies and corporate mission to incorporate diversity inclusion and equity values.

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## **CALLS FOR PAPERS - CONTRIBUTIONS - FUNDING - JOB POSTINGS**

### **PAPERS**

- The zine [The Yarn](#) is inviting contributions for their second edition '[On Colonial Violence in Fashion Museums](#).' The Yarn is a zine that gives a platform to individuals impacted by or aware of colonial violence in fashion. After a first edition focussed on fashion schools, The Yarn is now collecting testimonies in fashion museology. The goal is to share often overlooked experiences. This initiative, launched in 2023 by Antwerp-based researcher Pierre-Antoine Vettorello, was motivated by Françoise Vergès' call for anti-imperialist resistance, the practice of marronage and Frantz Fanon's concept of collective catharsis as a method to combat colonial violence. Contributions are welcome in forms of an article, poem, letter, interview illustrations, photographs, etc. and may be submitted in any vernacular language, as long as they are translated into English (the editor may do this if you are unable to do so). You can send your contribution by [email](#) before 1 July 2024.



- The [Critical Pulse](#) is looking for submissions of articles, reviews, interviews, and original photos and artwork. It is a non-profit online magazine, launched by Dr. Kat Sark and fashion media students in Denmark and Canada, with two issues per year (September and January). It was launched in 2020 with the aim to create a critical fashion media platform for young scholars and established experts, with a focus on ethical values, including inclusivity and diversity, ethics and sustainability, social justice, intersectional feminism, and decoloniality.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

- A special issue of the '[Fashion, Style & Popular Culture](#)' Journal on '[Fashion and Culture in East Asia: Sociocultural Identities](#)' is welcoming contributions. This Special Issue will focus on issues of East Asian sociocultural identity. Fashion, Style & Popular Culture has published on topics relating to fashion and style, however, through this lens we hope to unpack issues surrounding different facets of identity such as gender, the body, sexual orientation, class and race. We are aiming to specifically address identities that are less represented in East Asian cultures at large, not merely just in fashion. The power of fashion and beauty comes from its ability to act as a lens through which we can understand complex societal issues, and this is what we hope to highlight. Essays, exhibition reviews and book reviews are welcomed. Deadline for submission is 1 December 2025.

## FUNDING

- [Cycle 2 of Moving Narratives: A mentorship programme](#) by the Prince Claus Fund & British Council is inviting applications. Are you an artist or cultural practitioner recentring marginalised histories or challenging contemporary narratives? Then you are invited to apply for Cycle 2 of Moving Narratives: a multi-disciplinary programme, which supports artists to explore and strengthen creative practices that reconsider historical legacies and explore emancipatory movements. Each year, Moving Narratives brings together 12 socially and politically engaged mid-career artists and cultural practitioners working across diverse mediums and approaches. Different interpretations of the mentorship's overarching theme are welcomed. The deadline for

submissions is [16 July 2024](#).

## JOB POSTINGS

- The Department of Arts and Sports Sciences at TU Dortmund University is offering a [Professorship \(W3\) Cultural Anthropology with a focus on fashion and material culture](#). The Center for Cultural Anthropology of Textiles at the Institute of Art and Material Culture combines scientific, didactic and design approaches in the field of sartorial, material and visual culture. Application deadline is [23 July 2024](#).
- UAL Decolonising Arts Institute (DeAI) is seeking to appoint a new [Professor in Anticolonial, Postcolonial and Decolonial Histories and Praxes](#) to play a pivotal role in developing, driving, co-leading and delivering our interdisciplinary creative research agenda as an Institute within Europe's largest provider of creative education. The Institute is a collaborative and inter/multi/un-disciplinary space that welcomes colleagues who can bring a range of disciplinary expertise or an unorthodox disciplinary trajectory to the imaginative reconstruction of creative research. Application deadline is [26 June 2024](#).

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## MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

If you wish to join the Collective, you can send us an [email](#).

The Collective is a not-for-profit organisation registered in the Netherlands. You can support our initiatives with singular, monthly or yearly donations by [Paypal](#) or bank transfer (IBAN: NL39INGB0674877012/ BIC: INGBNL2A).

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE RCDF COMMUNITY





Donate to help us safeguard our independence



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