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Research Topic

My topic is fashion and identity. I felt it's a hard one as the key word for a research paper. Because identity is subtle, a little bit abstract as the motif. My first research question is "how can you define your clothes?" for which I will list 1 or 2 stories to show how people wear the same piece garment but has different stories with it(like vintage clothing story album). Somehow, I noticed that it's much more like a novel than research paper.

Then I turn to an interesting phenomena nowadays in China. Young people who wear fancy clothing actually hardly meet ends up. This gives me a hint that clothing may hide identities or misdirect that. So my research question turns into: Dose fashion shows our identities or hide them? Even it's a yes-no question. The answer is far beyond a simple yes or no. Like Joanne Entwistle did talked about this in her book *The Fashioned Body: Fashion, Dress and Modern Social Theory*. In the fourth chapter, She points out that "authenticity" can be modified by man-made results. appearance cannot be trusted for lots of people became as "self-made man". She also mentioned that in a urbanized "anonymity" world, people pay so much attention on their appearance for a good first impression. This fact shows both sides of my research question. On one hand, people do judge people's identity by their clothing. On the other, people can hide their true identity by "looks fancy". Another source is from Frank Stan who thought when we meet a stranger, we're inclined to label them by their dressing.

Therefore, dressing is viewed as the represent of people's statues and personalities no matter is natural or with concerns.

Joanne's book was published in 2005, while Frank Stan's in 1991. I also want to compare these two sources from different time to show the change of people's opinions for fashion and identity via the time period.