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Dress Practice Interview

The place you are from, the place you are in right now, plays a major role in shaping a person's dressing style. Other factors like the weather, the so called rules of the society also come into play but I agree with Sophie Woodward when she says "Because getting dressed typically occurs when one is alone and is an intensely private moment at which strangers are not present, it poses particular problems of access for an academic researcher".¹ I believe that the practice of getting dressed is both a very private and a very personal moment; looking at your naked self in mirror, accepting your looks, your body and its shape and then covering it with different fibers to either hide or accentuate different parts.

In technical terms, subject positionalities impact what people wear. To be more specific, subject positionalities like Nations, traditions, place, age etc. For example, in the interview Marina says "Fashion is very square in Brazil", by this she meant that people in Brazil have very similar dressing styles. She explained her statement by giving an example, "moms always have bell bottoms and they like to go for a Chanel bag."

This interview answered a few questions that I had in mind about varying dress styles. From the interview I realized that the intersection of personal tastes with the subject positionalities creates new and varying dressing styles. For Example, the interviewee personally liked metallic accessories; she styled heavy spikes chokers with blazers and baggy jackets which gave a new element to her look.

Before the interview I felt that the subject pre-planned her outfits in order to achieve put together looks but from her everyday morning routine I got to know that the interviewee never pre-plans her outfits. I drew a lot of similarities with the interviewee's dress practice. Mine and the interviewee's outfits depended on the temperature; both wanted to showcase a sort of rebellion against the rules of the society through their different ways of dressing.

The interview impacted my understanding of the relationship between body and clothing. It helped me relate the theoretical knowledge to the life of a human I know. The answers to different interview questions started to explain the different theories of clothing and body on its own. For example, I realized that the intersection of personal tastes with subject positionalities creates varying dress styles.

¹ Woodward, Sophie. *Why Women Wear What They Wear*. Oxford: Berg, 2007.



Image 1: The Spiky Hooped Choker



Image 2: The Feminine yet bold looking chained choker.