

Rachel Chang

Dress Practice Interview Reflection

Subject: Shanna Park



Shanna's Closet



Shanna's Leggings Stash

Shanna's dress practice was very different when compared to my own. When interviewing my friend Shanna, I noticed that her dress practice was heavily influenced by her hometown and the environment that she grew up around. Shanna is from Suwanee, Georgia. A small town in Georgia, filled with southern aesthetics that can be described as minimal, simplistic, and uniform.¹ "Our experience of embodiment is thus always mediated by the culture we line in." Her closet focuses on being comfortable, while also looking somewhat presentable. I connected this with the quote from Entwistle's reading from week 4, *The Dressed Body*, because of how Shanna's environment impacted her personal taste in clothes. The social anxieties imposes itself upon the body and constraints it to act in particular ways. This is due to her exposure to other girls within her district because this composition of dress is typically the non-formal uniform of the area. Shanna likes her closet being very minimal and simplistic, and her choice of garment is her drawer of leggings. This is due to the comfortability provided by the garment, as well as the simple fact that this garment will match with anything combined with it. The overall interview helped me understand how one's habitus and exposure to social and cultural "norms" really establish the foundation of what one's personal aesthetic might turn out to become. Even when I thought I could not learn more about my roommate because of how close we already are, I learned so much about why she dresses the way she does, and why she focuses so much on comfortability.

¹ Evans, Mary, and Ellie Lee. *Real Bodies: A Sociological Introduction*. Hampshire, England: Palgrave, 2002, pg. 138.