

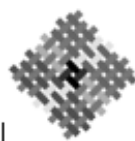
International Seminar on, ‘**Costumes – Past, Present and Conserved**’, organised by TCRC at Lecture Room 2, IIC Annexe, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020

Textiles and Clothing Research centre, with its aim to nurture research, education and knowledgeable discussions around textiles and clothing of India and the world, held its 2<sup>nd</sup> international seminar on 1<sup>st</sup> February this year. The topic of this seminar was ‘Costumes – past, present and conserved’. The call for papers was circulated in June 2019, and we received a good response. It felt good to see how Indian scholars had so much to offer, the research papers came from many different institutes and individuals. We created a peer-review team and went through all the papers. After careful peer review of all the abstracts, final papers were called for, and we were very excited to go ahead with the seminar!



Figure 1 IICD Seminar Invite - designed by Ms Smita Singh, Image courtesy: Mehrangarh Museum Trust Jodhpur

Being a young non-for profit organisation, we were happy to get sponsorship from the India International Centre, Sagar NGO and the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur. IICD faculty member Ms Swati Sinha helped us with graphics and Dr Barun Gupta helped with the compilation. Our final program in Figure 2 below was circulated, and we published our book of abstracts, with an aim to come out with conference proceedings soon.



## Textiles and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC)

International Seminar on  
'Costumes – Past, Present and Conserved'  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2020

Lecture Room 2, IIC Annexe, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

### Program Schedule

9:30 – 10:30am	Registration and Tea
10:30-11:00am	Welcome address by TCRC president Dr Anamika Pathak Key Note Address by Sr. Prof. Asha Baxi (ex-Dean NIFT)
11:00-12:30pm	Session – I Costumes – PAST Moderator – Dr Toolika Gupta <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Story of a Royal Wardrobe of Baroda State by Ms. Gurvinder Kaur Gunder &amp; Prof. (Dr.) Anjali Karolija, MSU Baroda, Vadodara.</li><li>2. Charming Chintz – A Indo- European fashion fabric by Dr. Malini Divakala, NIFT Hyderabad</li><li>3. Embroidered Cholis of Pahari Region: A Technical Study by Dr Rohini Arora</li><li>4. The politics of khadi in the cultural context of modern India and contemporary times: Timeless silhouettes: angrakhas &amp; blouses, Ms Shelly Jyoti, A textile artist and Designer</li></ol> Q&A
12:30-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30pm	Session – II Costumes – CONSERVATION Moderator – Mr R P Savita <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tash Cloth Costumes: Creating a Scientific and Historical Corpus' by Ms Smita Singh, Textile Conservation Consultant, New Delhi.</li><li>2. Conservation of 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Century Central Asian Textile Shoes by Dr Binoy Sahay and Ms Imrana Wasi, National Museum</li><li>3. Costume of Ramayana Dance Drama and Puppet Show in Thailand – A rare collection of National Museum Bangkok, by Mrs. Anita Bose, Bangkok.</li><li>4. Natural Detergents for Washing Historic Textiles- A study by Ms Rini Hazel Templeton, National Museum Institute, New Delhi.</li></ol> Q&A
3:30-3:45pm	Tea break
3:45-5:30pm	Session – III Costumes – PRESENT Moderator – Dr Anamika Pathak <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A Study on Distinctive Clothing Worn by Shia Muslim Women on Various Occasions by Ms Andleeb Fatima And Dr Simmi Bhagat, University of Delhi</li><li>2. Pasaljha: A status possession and its influence in costumes among the Lajci tribe of Mizoram by Ms. Lisa Lalnuankimi Pachuau, Dr. Ritu Mathur &amp; Dr. Kiran Kapoor.</li><li>3. Costume designing of Early Marathi Period Films (1913 CE to 1947 CE) by Dr. Nitin Hadap, Symbiosis International University, Pune</li><li>4. Costumes Of Folk Dances Of Western Rajasthan, by Dr. Kiran Kapoor</li></ol> Q&A
5:30-6:00pm	Annual General Meeting of TCRC

The seminar was attended by many researchers, educators, textile enthusiasts and designers, like Padmshree Gulshan Nanda, Ms. Ritu Sethi, Mr. B. B. Paul, Dr. Banhi Jha and Dr Charu Smita Gupta. Ms Larah Rai and Mr Ali Nasir were handling registrations with help from Ms Madhulika and Ms Namita. They were distributing kits and had registrations forms ready, while tea and snacks were served at the counter. After happy meetings and hugs, tea and snacks, the audience entered the seminar hall.

The session started with a welcome address by Dr Anamika Pathak, Chairperson TCRC, where she spoke about the national and international achievements of TCRC, which was followed by the key-note presented by Prof. Asha Baxi the ex-dean of NIFT, on the ‘Sarees of India’, which was much appreciated by the audience. Rest of sessions went as planned, but two of our speakers, Ms Shelly Jyoti and Ms Smita Singh could not come that day due to ill health and we really missed their talks. We plan to conduct their lectures as stand-alone lectures for the public in future. For our audience who is interested can read the abstracts in our book of abstracts which can be downloaded from our website.

The first session was based on historic costumes. It was started by my presentation on historical Indian menswear, (the topic that is dear to me and has been my PhD research conducted at Glasgow University (2012-2016), it is during this period that I met many like-minded people and TCRC was conceived). My address was followed by papers presented on Royal wardrobe of Baroda by Ms Gurviner Kaur, from MSU, which was an interesting peek into the wardrobe of Maharaja Sayaji Rao. Dr Anjali Karolia, Professor MSU and the guide for this project was also present among us, it was a pleasure to meet her. The second paper was on Indian Chintz which became a fashionable fabric to be used in European garments. This paper was presented by Dr Mailini Divakala from NIFT Hyderabad and brought to light many interesting facts, we also learnt a local name for kalamkari. The last paper in this session was presented by Dr Rohini Arora, she gave an immersing and interesting talk on the embroidered cholis. Dr Arora, works with Himachali women and has given much impetus to Chamba or Pahari embroidery. She has held exhibitions of the women’s work in Delhi and abroad and being a core member of TCRC, she was kind enough to get lovely mementos for all our speakers.



Figure 2 Photo after the first session.



After the first session we broke for lunch and enjoyed a sumptuous meal while discussing many textile / clothing related topics! The next session was on conservation, it was an amazing session for all museum lovers, it told them about the art and science of conservation. The opening address was given by Dr R P Savita, Conservation Consultant at the Indian Museum Kolkata. Dr Savita's lecture on conservation of the last clothing worn by Mahatma Gandhi gave us goose bumps. His lecture was such a wonderful insight on how the conservationists in India face their own challenges. He narrated many stories with interesting visuals, from his 40 years long career. It was a treat! This talk was followed by an equally interesting lecture by Dr Binoy Sahai, Deputy Curator, National Museum, New Delhi and Ms Imrana Assistant Conservator, National Museum, New Delhi on conservation of shoes from the Central Asian Collection of the National Museum, in the National Museum at Delhi. This kept everyone glued to their seats and gave so much food for thought. Equally exciting and very fascinating was the paper presented by Dr Anita Bose from Thailand. She told us about the costumes of Ramayana dance-drama from the National Museum Thailand, the National Museum of Thailand. She told us about the costumes of Ramayana dance-drama in Thailand, and how the characters and their costumes are, how they are preserved in the museum and with what reverence is Rama worshipped there. Although the paper was about Thailand, but suddenly everyone felt so patriotic, it was an amazing presentation! The last paper of this session was a very technical paper on Natural Detergents to be used on historic textiles, to give them better life. It was very informative, and was presented by Rini Hazel Templeton.



*Figure 3 Display of a 100 year old salwar by Dr Kusum Chopra*

Of course after such an interesting session, tea and biscuits were waiting for us, but even more importantly, a 100 year old salwar was waiting to be displayed and discussed. The salwar was brought by one of our TCRC members, Dr. Kusum Chopra, and it belonged to her grandmother!! Everyone was so excited to see the style, pattern, embroidery, cut and construction of the salwar. It was an amazing example of a historic costume. We were told it took her almost two hours to put a nada through it and to wear it. The amount of gathers that would have created was beyond the imagination of many. So much for all textile lovers!

After tea, our last session began with a talk by Dr Anamika Pathak. Who better than her to talk on the importance of conserving our ethnic costumes and treasured textiles; being the head of Decorative Arts and textiles at the National Museum, she has guided and mentored so many young professionals in this field. Her introductory note was followed by a paper on distinctive clothing worn by Shia Muslim women on various occasions. The paper was presented by a research scholar from Lady Irwin College, Ms Andleeb Fatima. Her guide, Dr Simmi Bhagat, a core TCRC member, was also present and added to the discussions. This paper was a very interesting peek into the present status of clothing, vis-à-vis the ‘ethnic’ practices carried on by our society in the current times. Throwing light on Lusei tribe of Mizoram, and its prized costume ‘Pasaltha’, was the next paper, that was presented by Dr Liza Pachau, which was guided by Dr Ritu Mathus. She spoke about the present and the ethnic in a very similar context as Andleeb and both the papers were very insightful.



Figure 4 The audience



The last two papers of the seminar were on performance costumes. The penultimate paper was by Dr Nitin Hadap, from Symbiosis Pune, on the designing of Marathi Film Costumes. This is a very typical and rare research topic. It was an absolutely new line of work among Indian Scholars, we have had people commenting on costumes but not on how they were designed, or what was kept in mind. Dr Hadap's paper was very well received with much applause. The last but not the least, was a paper on Western - Rajasthani Dance costume by Dr Kiran Kapur. It was a very detailed presentation of the costumes of three dance forms and it showed how the folk dances that were meant for people to dance and enjoy have now become performances, thereby effecting the very nature of costumes to be worn.



*Figure 5 The TCRC community!!*

The day was about to end, but the attention was complete, and the interest among the audience was high, as each paper was so different, engaging and gave enough food for thought. Dr Simmi Bhagat finally gave a vote of thanks to all concerned. It was a wonderfully packed day, followed by the AGM, with a promise of more engagement among all textile and clothing enthusiasts.

Dr Toolika Gupta

Secretary TCRC