

# Charlotte Jirousek

Web Bio

## Information

### Biography

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#### Biographical Statement

I am an associate professor and curator at Cornell University in the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design. My PhD and MA degrees were in Applied Design at the University of Minnesota; at the Masters level I specialized in theory of design and color with particular emphasis on textiles, and a minor in Museology; at the PhD level I pursued design foundations education practice and theory, and minored in Art History.

I teach courses in design foundations and cultural/historical aspects of textile and apparel design. I was an early adopter of new computer teaching technologies, recognizing the computer as a very apt tool for visual studies and creative design production. I created the first full-blown online course textbook for FSAD 1250 *Art Design and Visual Thinking*; I also introduced the teaching of Photoshop to the FSAD curriculum when I developed a course on *Photoshop in Textile Design*; a course that was subsequently folded into the foundation CAD course taught to all entering freshmen. I also teach FSAD 4200 *History of color and design in textiles* and FSAD 6750 *Aesthetics and meaning in world dress*, a course that is somewhat unique in its integration of the study of Euro-American and world dress.

My life-long connection to Turkey and past development work there has led me to take advantage of my networks, knowledge of the language and culture to pursue my research there on historical and cultural aspects of the design of textiles and dress. This research has led to publications on these topics, but also to long-term collaborations with Turkish Universities in curriculum development projects as well as joint research efforts that have resulting in visiting scholar collaborations here at Cornell as well as joint publications and presentations. More recently this experience has been applied to a collaborative USDA-funded educational development project on issues of social responsibility in the global textile and apparel industry, the end product of which will be a series of online distance learning courses. My commitment to cross-cultural studies and the global nature of the textile and apparel industry led to the development of the first FSAD international field trip to India in January 2011, repeated in January 2012.

#### Department Website Summary

course website for FSAD 1250 Art, Design and Visual Thinking:  
<http://char.txa.cornell.edu/>

Online catalog and galleries for the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection:

<http://costume.cornell.edu/>

## **Professional**

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### **Research**

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#### **Current Research Activities**

Centers around the history of dress and textile technologies. I am particularly interested in the relationship of Islamic dress and textiles to European dress, and the history of Ottoman textile industry and trade, particularly as evidenced by surviving vestiges of traditional textile production technologies and systems.

### **Extension**

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### **Education**

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### **Courses**

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#### **Courses Taught**

[FSAD 1250](#) - Art, Design, and Visual Thinking Fall; (3)

FSAD 4200 History of Color and Design in Textiles Spring; (3)

FSAD 6750 - Aesthetics and Meaning in World Dress Fall; (3)

FSAD 3990 - Sustaining Global Apparel Supply Chains Spring; (1)

IARD 4020 - Agriculture in the Developing Nations I Fall; (3) [India field trip]

IARD 6020 Agriculture in the Developing Nations II Spring (3) [India field trip]

FSAD 4010 - Empirical Research Fall/Spring; (var cr)

FSAD 4020 - Supervised Fieldwork Fall/Spring; (2)

FSAD 4030 - Teaching Apprenticeship Fall; (var cr)

### **Websites**

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#### **Related Websites**

[Cornell Costume Collection](#) <http://costume.cornell.edu>

FSAD 1250 online textbook: <http://char.txa.cornell.edu>

[Personal Website](#): <http://char.txa.cornell.edu/charhome/myhome.htm>

### **Administration**

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## Administrative Responsibilities

FSAD Director of Undergraduate Studies (July 1, 2009- present). Manage Undergraduate programs for FSAD, oversight of recruitment, admissions process, curriculum and course development; monitoring of student progress and requirements and other matters pertaining to programming and individual concerns of undergraduates.

Curator of the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection. This involves establishing accessions and collections management policy for the collection, training and supervising volunteers and student staff in these practices, organizing and supervising special projects and exhibition installation, maintaining storage conditions and managing the collection budget.

Current Collection activities are listed in the section on Teaching Goals and Initiatives.

## Publications

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### Selected Publications

Davis, Elizabeth and Jirousek, Charlotte. *Ladies of Taste and refinement: How lace democratized women's dress*. Dress, 2010. Costume Society of America Stella Blum Research Award article.

Jirousek, Charlotte. *Rediscovering Camlet: Traditional mohair cloth weaving in Southeastern Turkey*. Proceedings of the Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium, 2009

Jirousek, Charlotte. "Turkish Dress." Encyclopedia of World Dress, Berg Publications, 2010

Jirousek, Charlotte. "The Kaftan." Encyclopedia of World Dress, Berg Publications, 2010.

Jirousek, Charlotte. *Rediscovering Camlet: Traditional mohair cloth weaving in Southeastern Turkey*. Proceedings of the 2008 Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium, 2009

Jirousek, Charlotte. "Carry it close to your heart: Exchanges of textiles associated with courtship and marriage." In *The Fabric of Life: Cultural Transformations in Turkish Society*. Global Publications, State University of New York, Binghamton, 2005.

Jirousek, Charlotte. "Finding the Cloth for the Clothes: Traditional Weaving Technologies in Anatolian Turkey." In *The Fabric of Life: Cultural Transformations in Turkish Society*. Global Publications, State University of New York, Binghamton, 2005.

Jirousek, Charlotte. "Ottoman Influences in Western Fashion." In *Costume and Identity in the Ottoman Empire Istanbul*: Bogazici University, Eren Publications, 2005]