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<tr>
<td>Creators</td>
<td>Tomaney, Mo and Craig, Lucinda</td>
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Conversations about sustainability in the School of Fashion & Textiles at CSM

Analysis of market research about the curriculum during Green Week 2013
Prepared for Anne Smith: Dean of School of Fashion & Textiles
March 2013

Report prepared by

Lucinda Craig
ELUCIDATION
www.elucidationresearch.co.uk

Mo Tomaney
CSM
motomaney@gmail.com
Project was a contribution to Green Week 2013

Conducted by ELUCIDATION at the Super Swish during Green Week - a small ‘toe-in-the-water’ attitudinal appraisal

Target - 50 interviews with staff & students across the School of Fashion & Textiles

114 interviews achieved - research exceeded expectation

Research framework developed by Mo Tomaney, Senior Research Fellow at CSM with ELUCIDATION, an independent research consultancy

Some clear emerging findings could be substantiated by more comprehensive research

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013 motomaney@gmail.com
Management summary

1. A generational difference* is identified with students being engaged with sustainability and social innovation to quite a significant degree more so than staff.

2. There is a receptiveness to more inclusion of sustainability themes & application to fashion practice in the curriculum – some feel current content is ‘just right’ but many others think it is ‘too little’.

3. ‘Cross-disciplinary input’, ‘external speakers’ and ‘ex-curricular activity such as Green Week and this Swish’ are all wanted as well as ‘more about sustainability on my course’.

* Based on a survey of 103 CSM students and 11 staff during Green Week on March 7th 2013.

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013  motomaney@gmail.com
Enthusiastic survey participation: a topic people like to engage with

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<th>Who</th>
<th>When</th>
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<td>114* interviews</td>
<td>11 staff + 103 students</td>
<td>7th March 2013</td>
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<td>38 questionnaires on an iPad</td>
<td>Mainly 1st years on BA Fashion and BA Textiles</td>
<td>Day of the Big Green Super Swish at CSM</td>
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<tr>
<td>110+ self-completion</td>
<td>A few from Jewellery &amp; MA courses</td>
<td>Incentivised with Ben &amp; Jerry’s ice cream</td>
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Researcher Lucinda Craig
Project proposed by Mo Tomaney

* Total does not = 148 because some overlap

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013  motomaney@gmail.com
Green week appreciated but many felt it needed more publicity

Opportunity to boost engagement: students love fun, social ‘green’ activity

77% thought UAL Green Week was good or great

Swish and Swap Shop best appreciated events

94% thought the Swish was good or great

Minimal awareness of UAL events outside of CSM

Recycling clothes is very good and it brings people together...

It’s really important that we teach students to be more aware – it’s less visible in the fashion industry but it is where we’re going

It’s good for the environment, especially for design students, it interests me, swapping is better than wasting...

It could have been better advertised. Although it’s going on and there are great activities people aren’t aware of any of it
Strong sense that CSM School of Fashion & Textiles courses could include more on sustainable thinking, practice & social innovation…

Few thought there was too much on these topics with opinion split between whether inclusion was ‘just right’ or ‘too little’

Inclusion of sustainable thinking

- Too much: 3%
- Just right: 55%
- Too little: 42%

Inclusion of social innovation

- Too much: 5%
- Just right: 45%
- Too little: 50%

Inclusion of sustainable practice

- Too much: 5%
- Just right: 47%
- Too little: 48%

Many thought a fair amount was already in courses with obvious topics included being
- sustainable materials
- sustainability in fashion generally
- over-consumption of fashion
- and innovation in sustainable design and technique
Appetite for more learning across a broad range of themes related to sustainability with emphasis on innovation and projects in developing countries.

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013
motomaney@gmail.com
Complex topic deserving more attention

“It’s a big and overlooked part of fashion that deserves more attention”

“We are a generation who should be conscious of everything! So we can actually change things!!”

“Sweat shop awareness and facts about the high street”

“I think it would be really eye-opening if more sustainable learning was integrated into the fashion and textiles courses ”

Complexity of the topic is acknowledged

“I feel that fashion is just one small area effecting the environment and overall there is so much more that we can be doing individually or as a group ”

“There are so many influential people who could give good talks ”

“I think that you can’t do textiles and not know about it because it is the future ”

“Knowledge is generally quite basic -- would be good to have time for these topics to be covered in greater depth”

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013
84% claim sustainability is a consideration in their practice

84% say it is a consideration with 26% saying it is a big consideration

- 0% a big consideration
- 11% a little consideration
- 26% not a consideration
- 58% not at all a consideration
- 5% not sure/never thought about it

“Sustainability in general is overlooked in most mediums – fashion is no different.”

“The world is moving in an eco-friendly direction but it is too segregated. We as fashion students should promote sustainable living as well as being concerned for hunger and animals.”

“Thinking about it but I need to think about it more.”

Staff comments show there is quite a feeling of guilt about it – especially about wastage

“It isn’t something that I’ve ever explored in the past, therefore I didn’t think I need to do it at the moment”

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013
Marked enthusiasm going forward for more curricular inclusion of sustainability

Students would appreciate delivery being:
• in the context of their own course
• cross-disciplinary
• and including external speakers and ex-curricular content
Students' ahead of staff in their commitment to and enthusiasm for all things eco/sustainable. Agreement with attitudinal statements shows students are markedly more engaged than staff.

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Students regard 'green' fashion as an inevitable part of the future.
A complex topic - people holding contrary opinions or with views not matching behaviour

Students more enthusiastic than staff but can be naïve about the variance between expressed opinion and behaviour:
• desire for new sustainable fabrics to work with
• eco-fashion blogs
• charity shopping and re-inventing garments
• re-cycling and ‘green’ things outside of college
• engaged with sustainability through college work

But, other conflicting responses:
“*I love fast fashion – I can’t afford to wear designer stuff*”

“I *never think about sustainability when I buy fashion*”

“I *don’t want to learn about sustainable fashion*”

The survey offers many indications that students believe ‘green’ fashion is here to stay and that they want to learn more about it for commercial and personal reasons

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<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
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<td>14%</td>
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Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013  motomaney@gmail.com
So what next?
Recommend more debate and research

Insight

A generational shift is identified

Students engage with sustainability as a driver for innovation to a greater degree than staff

Receptiveness to more curriculum inclusion – some feel current content is just right’ but many others think it is ‘too little’

‘Cross-disciplinary input’, ‘external speakers’ and ‘ex-curricular activity such as Green Week (& the ‘Swish’ are all wanted as well as ‘more about sustainability on my course’

Learning

CSM should think hard about more inclusion around sustainability

Students - in many cases international - are asking for more and diverse aspects of sustainability to be addressed in curriculae.

Students are open about methods of delivery. However, they believe that sustainability is here to stay & should be given more attention.

Action

Opportunity for staff/ students debate

Extend reach & analysis of these preliminary findings with a 2nd survey reaching a more widespread audience

Important for UAL/CSM to forge ahead – this limited survey offers a clear learning that CSM School of Fashion & Textiles collegiate seek sustainability innovation & inclusion

Mo Tomaney & Lucinda Craig for CSM March 2013 motomaney@gmail.com
Thank you

We’d be happy to answer any further questions so please don’t hesitate to contact us:

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