

(Re)Making for Life



PROFESSOR BECKY EARLEY

Making Sustainability, DMU, 7.9.26



How can **making
with used materials**
create climate
resilient change - in
practice, in industry,
and in communities?

Overview

- Rags to Riches
- Research Agendas
- Material Systems
- Social Shirts





Rags to Riches



SEPTEMBER 1997



MARCH 1996



BRITISH
FASHION
COUNCIL

LONDON
FASHION
WEEK

M&S





Dress Print Dress (1996)

East End Weeds Shirts (1999)



B.EARLEY







The TEN (2010)

Sustainable design
strategy cards

A reflective and generative
design thinking workshop
tool supporting designers
towards creative change



Black Hack Chat Shirts (2012)



The background of the slide features a grayscale photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several cacti, including a prominent one with many small, spiky flowers on the left. The ground is sandy and covered with small, dark, rounded objects, possibly rocks or seeds. A solid white horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

Research Agendas

(Re)made Shirts: **25-year Visual Timeline**, Three Phases (1999-2024)

Phase 1 (1999-2006)

Phase 2 (2007 - 2010)

Phase 3 (2011-2024)

Professor Rebecca Earley
Shirt Stories



Public Art Commissions Agency



Craftspace[®]

eden project



A · H · R · B
arts and humanities research board



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



mistra
future
fashion

TRASH
CASH



Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

Research Shirts: **Funding Timeline** (2001-2024)

5Ways



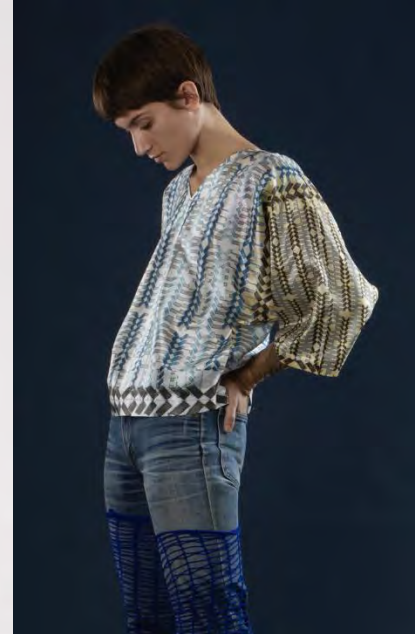
Worn Again



Mistra Future Fashion I



Mistra Future Fashion II



Trash-2-Cash



Herewear



Timeline of funded research projects based at Chelsea between 2001 – 2024 (totalling £2.3m)



Mistra Future Fashion

Design strategy, circular lifecycle speeds & textile finishing innovation

Trash-2-Cash

Circular textile-to-textile lifecycle
design thinking & DDMI

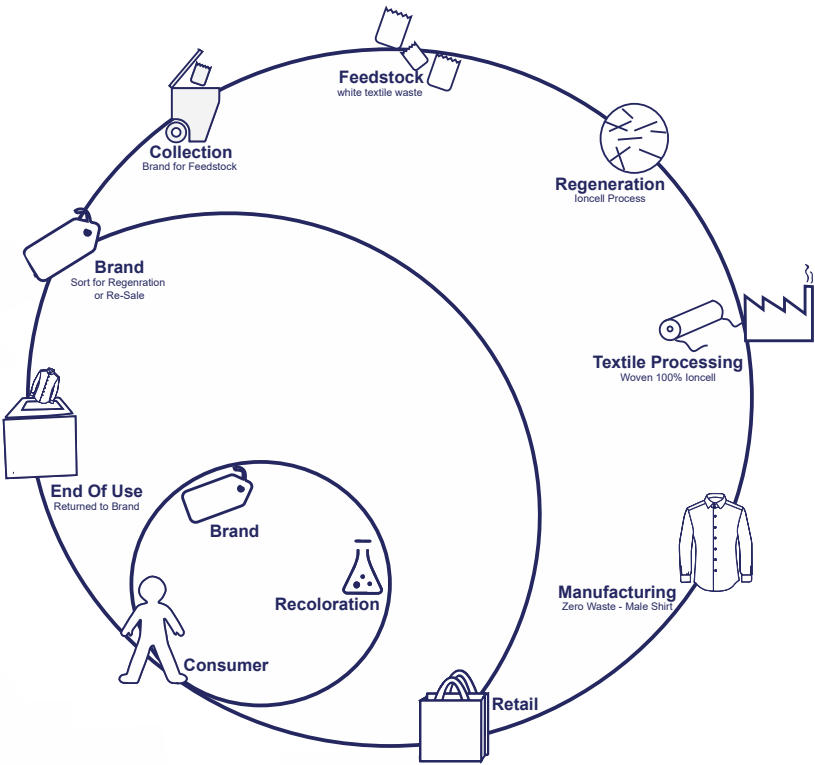


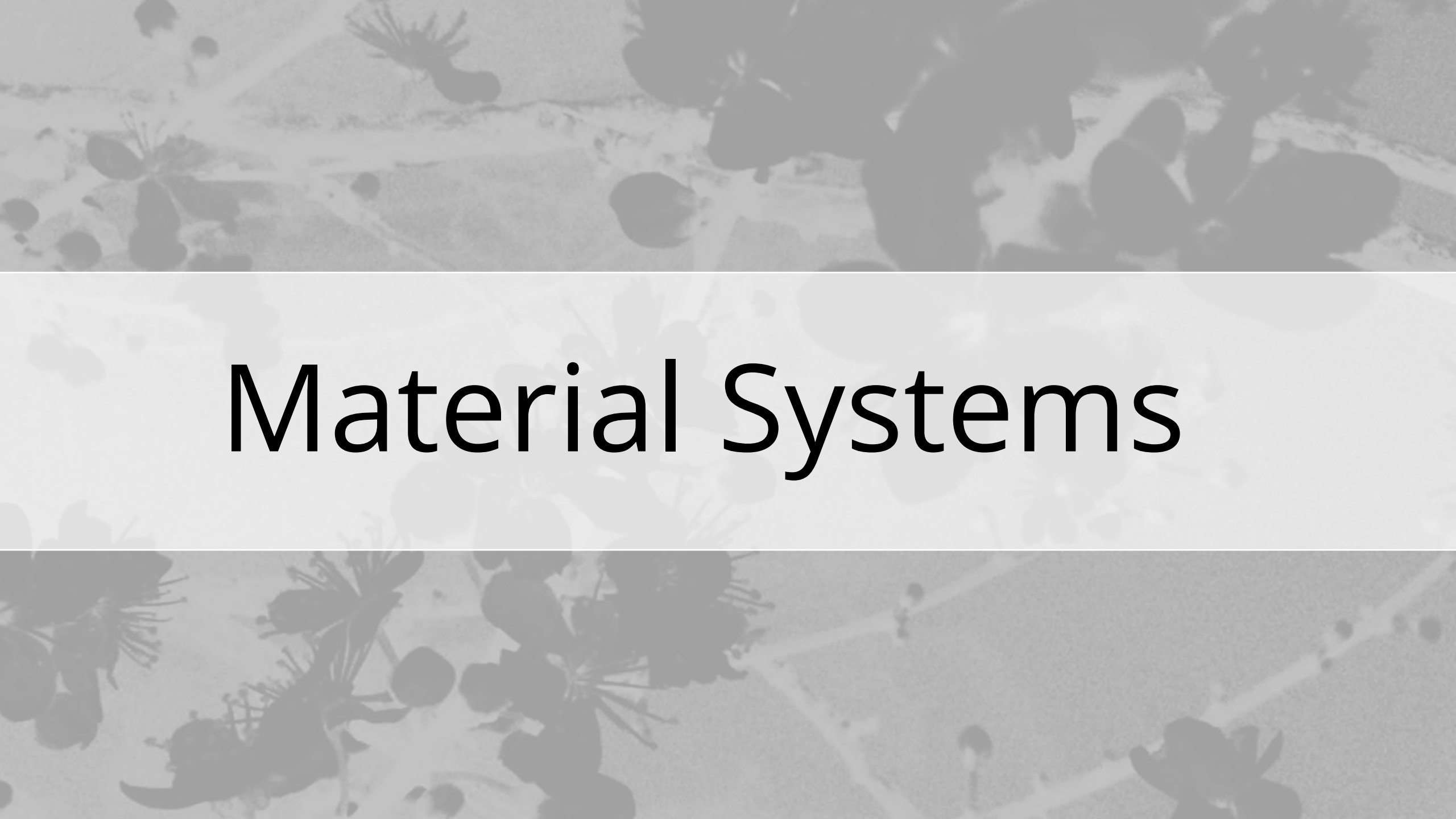
Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation



0° Degree Shirt (2018)

Giada Dammaco, Grado Zero Innovation, Italy
Becky Earley, Centre for Circular Design
Aalto University, Finland



The background of the slide features a grayscale photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several cacti, including a prominent one on the left and another on the right. The ground is sandy and covered with small, dark, scrubby plants. A wide, white horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

Material Systems

Polyester – the largest volume of fibre produced around the globe.

- Can be useful to achieve high durability.
- Often used in the wrong ways (because its cheap).
- The opportunity is to put it into new functional contexts.



Eternal Trench (2018)
Filippa K, Sweden
Mistra Future Fashion

Fashion Fascias (2018)

Research in the Trash-2-Cash project used old polyester fleece dressing gowns collected by SOEX in Germany to make new circular consol panels for cars.

This gear shift casing used polymer chain-extending additives with digital laser and print finishing with the recycled material to achieve personalised interiors, manufactured by MAIER in Spain.

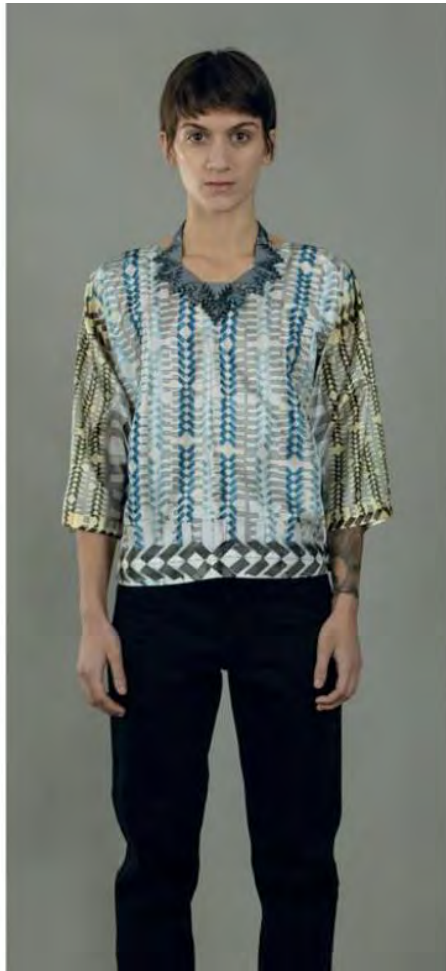


Image: MAIER

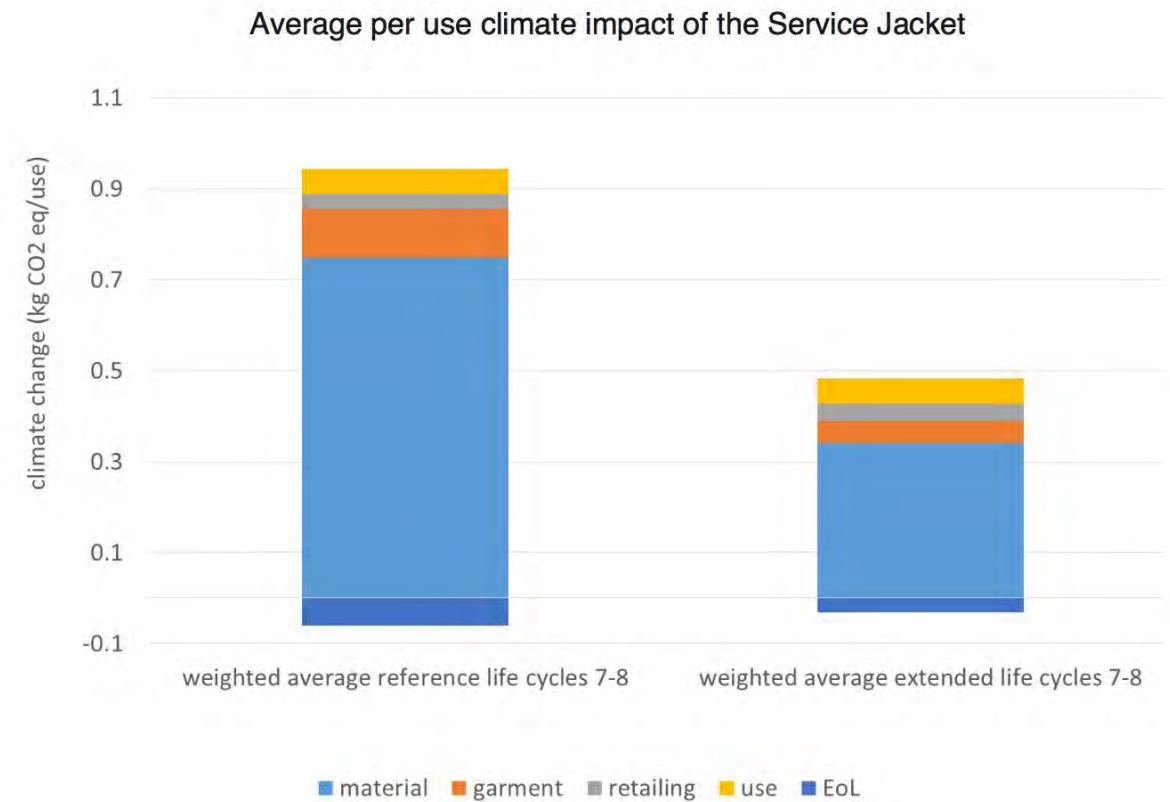
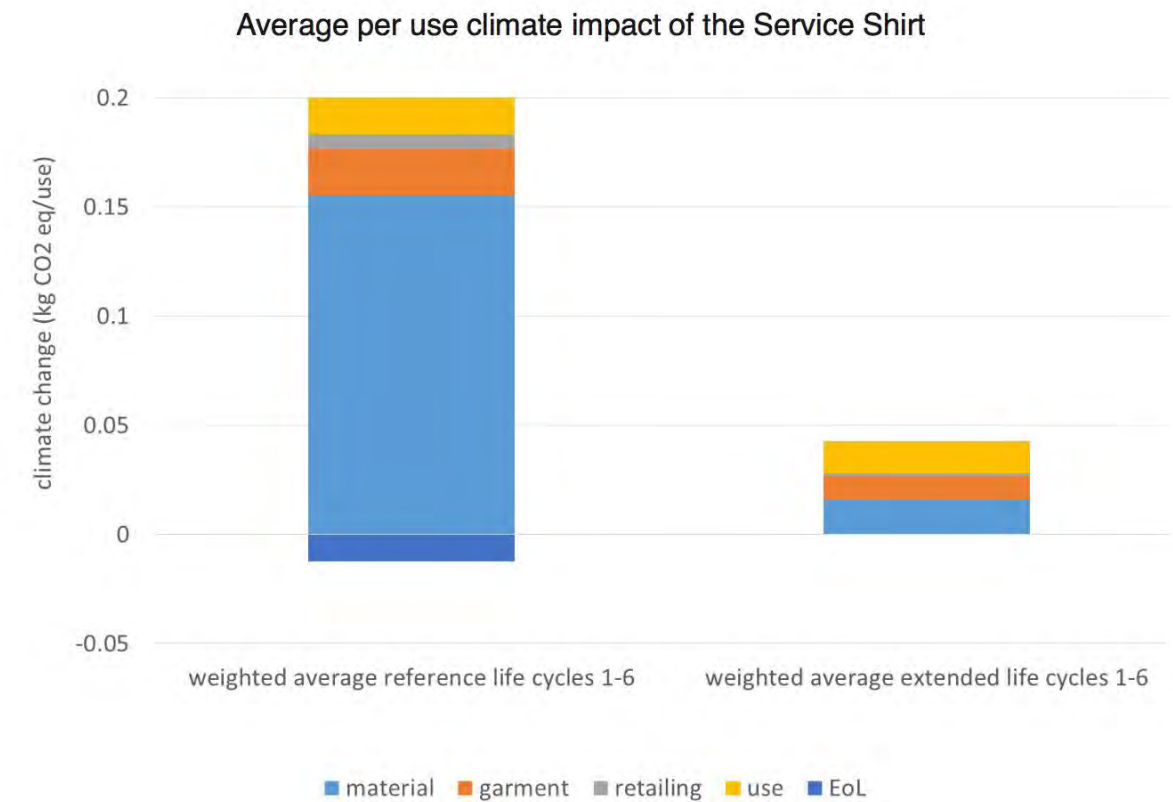


Image: B.Earley

Service Shirt: a super-slow shirt, jacket & jewellery concept



Service Shirt: LCA measurements for the super-slow shirt concept



Peters G, Sandin G, Spak B, Roos S (2018) LCA on fast and slow garment prototypes (D1.1.4.1 + D1.2.4.1).
Department of Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.



Biobased from agriwaste

2 FABIOLA PROCESS

3 PLA & HIGHPERCELL

4 COATING & FINISHING

5 PROTOTYPING

6 LCA (INC. SELECTED SOCIAL RISKS)

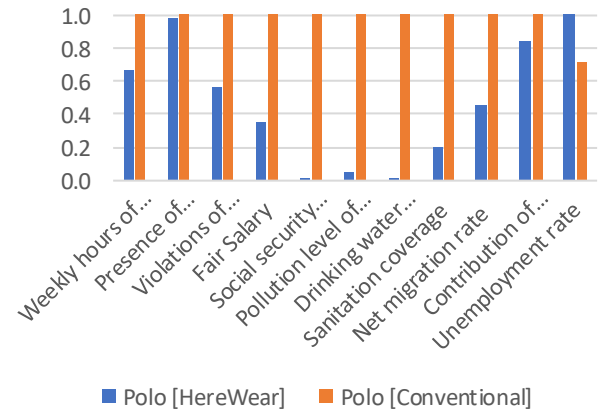
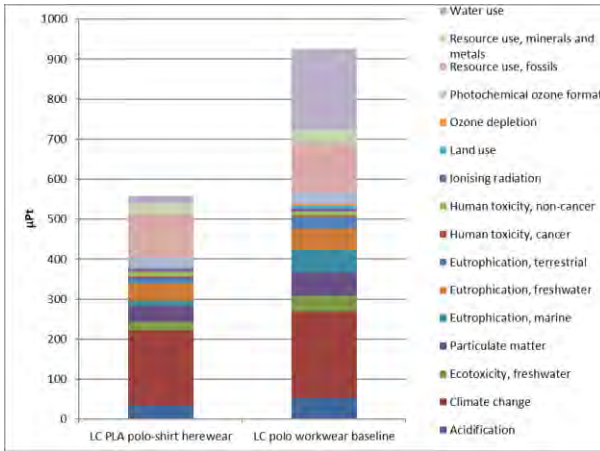
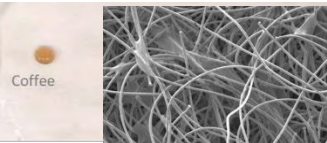
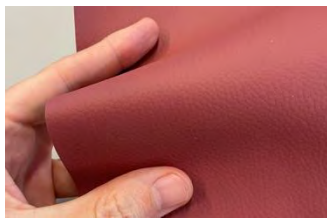
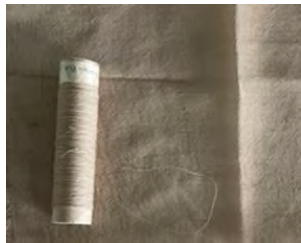
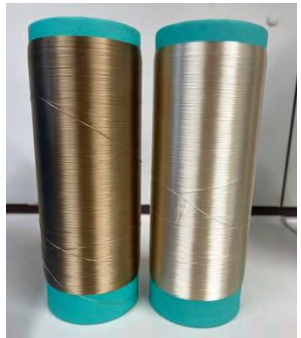
Wheat straw stalks



Cow manure



Seaweed extract



ual:

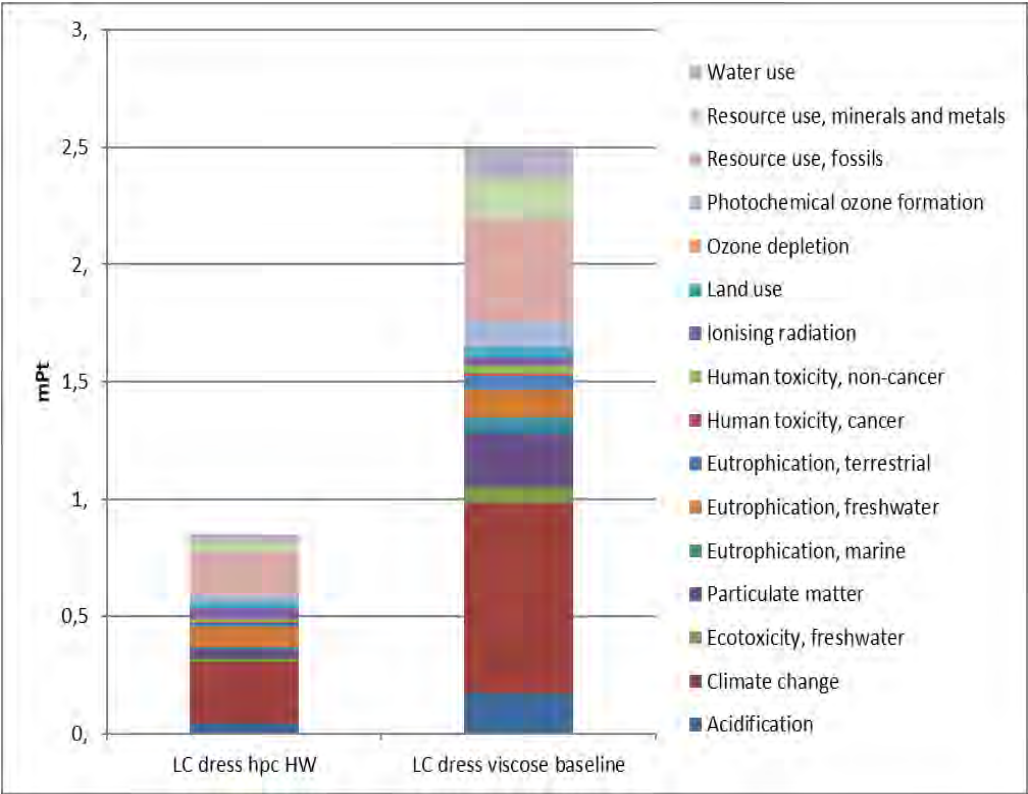


Biobased from agriwaste

5 **PROTOTYPING**



6 **LCA (INC. SELECTED SOCIAL RISKS)**



MATERIAL-FIRST DESIGN APPROACH

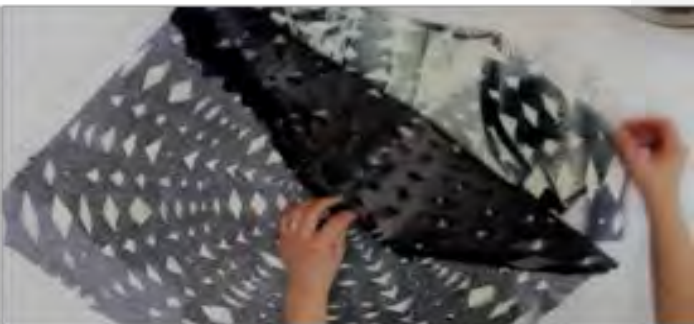
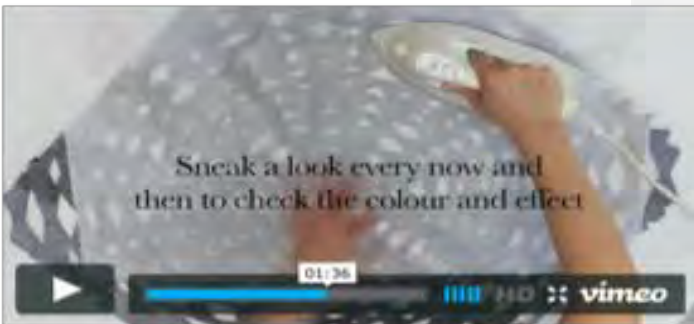


ual:



Social Shirts

Fast Refashion Shirts (2013)





Redressing Activism Shirt (2014)





Shanghai Shirt
(Earley & Spurgin
2015)

Silence Shirts (2017)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 646226



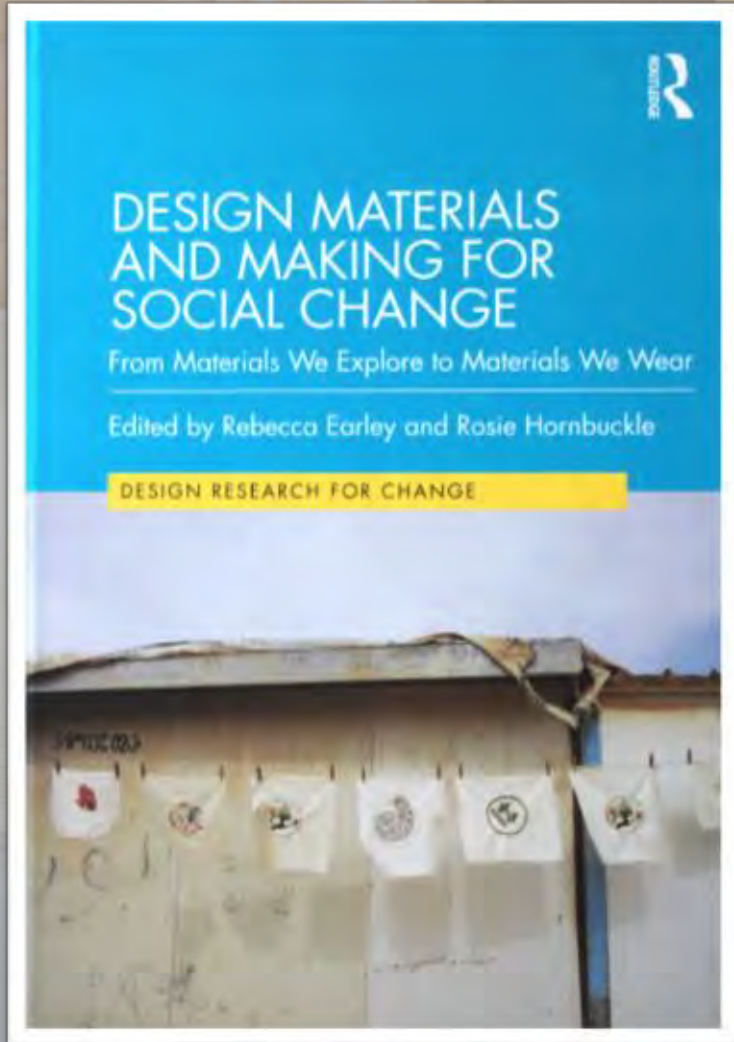
CULTURES
OF
RESILIENCE

Shavasana Shirts (Earley & Harvey 2016)

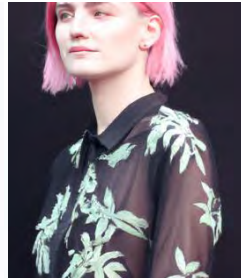


School Shirts
(2014-2016)

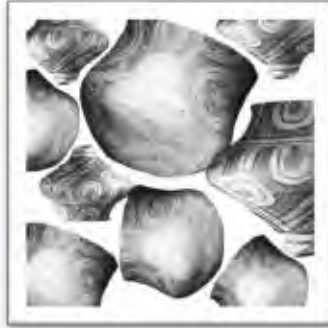
Design Materials and **Making for Social Change** (2023)



Bittersweet Shirts (2023)



Iași Cucuteni Shirt (2023)



Polyester Protest Shirts (April 2026)



"THIS PRINT ONLY
COVERS 5% OF THE
SHIRT SO IT CAN BE
RECYCLED!"



ual:

Palestine Protest Shirts (March 2026)



The **Neurodiverse Design Collective** (May 2026)

3 days | 7 talks
6 speakers | 4 venues

Clerkenwell Design Week 2026



Piers Roberts



Luisa Pires



Jessie Buckle



Katharine Pulford



Dr Silvia Grimaldi



Prof Becky Earley

CDW
CLERKENWELL
DESIGN WEEK
19-21 MAY 2026



Circular Textiles Day 2050

Every year the WCTD community
progress. Become a signatory, enter a case
our Knowledge Hub or host your own event.



Textile & Clothing Business Labs (TCBL)

The TCBL community brings people together; labs all
across Europe meet regularly & members carry out
research on core themes, often through EU-funded
projects.



Innovation Festival,

Festival is part of
ramme. It was set up
design community.



Global Change Award, H&M Foundation

If you have an idea you want to develop into a
commercial reality, there are now lots of places you can
apply for support. The GCA has an annual application
round.



Climate Emergency Network

If you are staff or a student at UAL you
this vibrant community of changemakers
campaigns, actions & activities to show
can, & must, respond to the climate
emergency.



DRS

a learned society
design
where members



The Design Journal & European Design Academy

The Design Journal is a leading international peer-
reviewed journal covering all aspects of design & its
interdisciplinary practices. It is aligned to the European
Academy of Design.



How can making
with used materials
create climate
resilient change - in
practice, in industry,
in communities...
and in each other?

Abundance Thinking
Research Agendas
Material Systems
Social Actions

creative
opportunities

abundance of useful
material resources

original insights

Abundance Thinking
Research Agendas
Material Systems
Social Actions

creative
opportunities

abundance of useful
material resources

original insights

Place at the top tables

interrogated,
modelled and shared
methods

Abundance Thinking Research Agendas Material Systems Social Actions

creative
opportunities

abundance of useful
material resources

original insights

Place at the top tables

interrogated,
modelled and shared
methods

whole system of
stakeholders

Digging deep into the
complexity brings
about real, tangible
change

model better systems

Abundance Thinking Research Agendas Material Systems

Social Actions

**creative
opportunities**

**abundance of useful
material resources**

original insights

Place at the top tables

**interrogated,
modelled and shared
methods**

**whole system of
stakeholders**

**Digging deep into the
complexity brings
about real, tangible
change**

model better systems

**Joy of new skills and
meeting others**

**show how the future
could be**

**encompass and
celebrate
differences**

Thank you

(Re)making for Life

beckyearley.com

profbeckyearley@gmail.com

creative
opportunities

abundancy of useful
material resources

original insights

Place at the top tables

interrogated,
modelled and shared
methods

whole system of
stakeholders

Digging deep into the
complexity brings
about real, tangible
change

model better systems

Joy of new skills and
meeting others

show how the future
could be

encompass and
celebrate
differences

WHAT I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT...

Development and Testing of Textile Design Strategy for the Circular Economy

- Earley, Rebecca and Forst, Laetitia (2026) 'Situating textile design: Practice research in interdisciplinary material science projects', in Simeone, L., Gray, C. M., Verhoeven, A., de Götzen, A., Bakırlıoğlu, Y., Zohar, H., Stead, M., and Buwert, P. (eds.), *DRS2026: Edinburgh*, 8–12 June.
- Earley, Rebecca (2024) 'Making Circular Design Guidelines: Reflections on a longitudinal practice research project which strategically explored sustainable, circular, local and biobased textile/fashion narratives.' International Conference of the Hellenic Society for Circular Economy, Chania, Greece, 12-13 September
- Earley, Rebecca (2022a) 'Research Shirts: a journey from sustainable to circular textile design'. In *Fashion as Indiscipline*, by Buard, Mallet & Mosse (Eds). Montreuil:B42
- Earley, Rebecca (2020) 'From Sustainable to Circular to Social Textile Design Research' Social Design Institute, Position Papers Series, University of the Arts London. October 2020.
- Earley, Rebecca and Forst, Laetitia (2019) 'Everything that Went Wrong: challenges and opportunities in designing and prototyping long-life garments in a circular economy', in *PLATE 2019 Conference Proceedings*, Berlin, 18-20 September
- Earley, Rebecca (2019) 'The Service Shirt: ultra-slow fashion textile design research for industry', in *Futurescan 4: Valuing Practice*, edited by: Helena Britt, Kevin Almond, Laura Morgan. ISBN: 978-1-5272-4969-1.

WHAT I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT...

Circular Lifecycle Speeds

Goldsworthy, Kate and Earley, Rebecca (2019) 'Circular Design Speeds: prototyping fast and slow sustainable fashion concepts through interdisciplinary design research'. **Project Report**. Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Stockholm, Sweden. MISTRA: Sweden

Goldsworthy, Kate, Earley, Rebecca & Politowicz, Kay (2018), 'Circular Design Speeds' Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice, Taylor & Francis

Workshops & Tools for Sustainable & Circular Design

Earley *et al* (2026) 'Materials-First and Product-First Approaches to Creating Local, Circular & Bio-based Textiles in the HEREWEAR Project', Sustainable Innovation Conference, University of the Creative Arts, 1.10

Earley, Rebecca and Goldsworthy, Kate (2019) 'Circular Design Researchers in Residence': a workshop report for the circular design speeds project with Filippa K (2016-2018). Residency Report. Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Stockholm, Sweden. MISTRA: Sweden

Earley, Rebecca (2017) 'Designing Fast & Slow: Exploring Fashion Textile Lifecycle Speeds with Industry Designers' (Earley 2017). The Design Journal, Taylor & Francis. vol. 20, Design for Next, pp.2645-S2656

Earley, Rebecca (2017) 'Playing for Time: workshop tools for designing extended life into fashion textile products' (Earley & Goldsworthy 2017), in PLATE: Product Lifetimes and The Environment, editors Conny A. Bakker, Ruth Mugge, IOS Press: *Research in Design Series*, Volume 9, p.137-132. ISBN:978-1-61499-819-8 (print) | 978-1-61499-820-4

Earley, Rebecca, and Hornbuckle, Rosie (2017) 'Face-ing Collaboration: A Meditation on the Faces of Circular Fashion Research'. Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice, Taylor & Francis

WHAT I'VE BEEN WRITING ABOUT...

Circular Design Futures

- Earley *et al* (2026) 'The potential of micro and SME fashion businesses in a bio-based local circular textile economy' in *Sustainable Development and Business Transformation*, Springer (*forthcoming*)
- Earley, Rebecca (2022b) '**Clothing 2050:** garment scenarios to drive circular material systems, in *Accelerating Sustainability in the Fashion, Clothing & Apparel System*, by Charter *et al.* Routledge
- Earley, Rebecca (2021) 'Sustainable Textiles for Fashion', Journal of Physics, Special Issue, Energy Roadmaps. IOP Publishing
- Earley, Rebecca (2020) 'Circular Fashion 2070: Clothing & Textile Cycles, Systems & Services'. Invited journal article in The Bridge: Linking Engineering and Society. National Academy of Engineering, 50th Anniversary Issue. (pp.45-47)
- Earley, Rebecca (2017) 'Circular Textile Futures', invited article for the 25th anniversary issue of the Design Journal, Taylor & Francis. 20:4, 421-434
- Pederson, Andersen & Earley (2018) 'From Singular to Plural: Circular Business Models for Fashion' Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management, 23(3), 308-326. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFMM-04-2018-0062>
- Real, Earley & Goldsworthy (2018) 'Practices, Places, Projects: Enrolling Stakeholders for Circular Fashion' (Global Fashion Conference Proceedings. In: What's Going On? Global Fashion Conference.