

Title	Block Pattern adaptation for Greek female adolescents with Scoliosis of the Spine: An investigation into the feasibility of incorporating body shape asymmetry into Sizing Systems to improve garment fit
Type	Thesis
URL	https://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/9195/
Date	2016
Citation	Tsakalidou, Maria D. (2016) Block Pattern adaptation for Greek female adolescents with Scoliosis of the Spine: An investigation into the feasibility of incorporating body shape asymmetry into Sizing Systems to improve garment fit. PhD thesis, University of the Arts London.
Creators	Tsakalidou, Maria D.

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

You are being invited to participate in a research project titled:

***'Block Pattern adaptation for Greek female adolescents with Scoliosis of the Spine:
An investigation into the feasibility of incorporating body shape asymmetry into Sizing
Systems to improve garment fit'***

In other words, you are being invited to participate in a research project aiming to create 'foundation patterns' (blocks) for fashionable clothing, suitable for individuals having distinctive spinal features, due to scoliosis.

It will be a great contribution to my research, if you finally decide to participate in this survey. Before, however, you decide to participate, it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what it will involve. Therefore, it would be wise for you to take your time reading the information below, carefully, and discuss it with others if you wish. Please feel free to ask, if anything is unclear, or if you would like more information.

The **purpose of this project** is to obtain reliable data for designing 'foundation patterns' (blocks), based on measure charts of body measurements of individuals with distinctive spinal features, due to scoliosis. Therefore, body measurements of 75 individuals (females aged 16-22) with various degrees of spinal curvature should be taken, as accurately as possible, after thorough observation of their different severity curves.

These blocks may be constructed to fit the curves of adolescent girls' spines diagnosed with scoliosis. Furthermore, these pattern blocks may be graded in all sizes, in a metric system of sizing, just like the one used for grading conventional pattern blocks. The only difference will be that these innovative blocks may also be graded in drop sizes, conforming to the different degrees of the spinal curves due to scoliosis.

At this point, the researcher's work will involve exploring issues at the intersection of medicine, ergonomics and fashion, due to the mere fact that her designs' primary aim will be a combination of comfort and ideal outward appearance of the wearer.

You are chosen to take part in this project owing to the distinctive configuration of your spine and your non-standard body dimensions. Your **participation is voluntary** and you may discontinue your participation at any time. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form.

The researcher and her assistant will take your body measurements – especially, your upper torso and spine measurements - by body touch, while a professional orthopaedist will measure your scoliosis degrees by scoliometer, in the presence of a gatekeeper (parent or guardian) and a witness (chaperon or nursing staff), in compliance with a certain code of ethics, and under the professional supervision of orthopaedist Prof. Anastasios Christodoulou, Director of the Spine Department at G. Papanikolaou Hospital, in Thessaloniki, Greece. The whole procedure will take place at one time, and is estimated to last approximately 45-60 minutes. During that time, you will be asked to stay in your underwear and remain as still as possible.

M. TSAKALIDOU	LCF	VERSION 7	26 th December 2014
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In addition, you will be asked to complete a **questionnaire** regarding your own perception of body image in relation to conventional retail clothing and the concepts of body image, clothing and fashion, in general.

Finally, you will be asked to complete an **evaluation form**, and may be invited, later, in a **wearer trial**, at the end of the project.

There are **no risks or disadvantages** related to this study. On the contrary, after this research is completed, the researcher aims towards a future collaboration with clothing manufacturers. This means that you may be able to find clothes without having any balance problems between the right and left side, as you, probably, had had with standard garments until now.

Your opinion and body measurements will be included / published in the final outcome of this research project and may be used in future research. However, your involvement in this study, and particular data from this research (i.e. name and contact telephone number), will be code numbered and will remain **strictly confidential**. Your personal details will be anonymized and only the researchers involved in the study will have access to the data. The identifiable data will be stored on computer and kept in file, in case of possible use for future research, once the experimental program has been completed. The data will be shared only with the researcher's Academic Supervisors and may be monitored by the researcher's College Research Committee (CRC) and the 'University of the Arts London' Ethics Sub-Committee.

Thank you for your participation and understanding,

Maria D. Tsakalidou

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QUESTIONNAIRE

- What kind of colors do you like to wear? Please give examples:
- What kind of fabrics do you like to wear? Please give examples:
- What kind of shapes of clothing do you like to wear? Please give examples:
- Where do you like to go shopping, and why? Please give examples:
- What kind of clothes do you prefer to buy? Please give examples:
- Do you prefer buying branded clothing, or you don't care about brands? If you do care, why is that?
- Do you believe that branded clothing provide a better fit than other (non-branded) retail clothing?
- Please give examples of your favorite brands or your favorite clothing stores:
- What do you think of retail shops, in general?
- What do you think of retail clothing, in general?
- Are you happy about the way you look when wearing them? If not, how would you change them?
- Do you think that your scoliosis affects the way you look, and how?
- Do people make any comments on your scoliosis?

- Do you care about what other people think of your scoliosis?
- Have you ever needed to alter a retail garment due to your scoliosis? In what way? Did you find it difficult to make such alterations, if any?
- Have you ever worn any clothes made especially for you? How did you feel?
- How important is fashion to you?
- How do you keep updated on the latest fashion trends? Please give examples (i.e. magazines, TV shows, catalogues, internet, etc):
- Is there any particular magazine that you buy regularly?
- Is there any particular website that you visit regularly?
- Do you find that your scoliosis prevents you from following fashion trends as you wish? If yes, in what way?
- Have you ever worn any asymmetric designs, such as a top, skirt or a dress (i.e. with uneven hem, one-shoulder off, etc)?
- Do you think that other people like wearing asymmetric designs?
- Would you wear clothes designed conforming to your scoliosis, or would you rather wear (customized) retail clothing?
- Do you think that there is a need for pattern design for clothing or fashion products to comply with non-standard body sizes due to distinctive spinal features, as your scoliosis?

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

- **I understand** that I have given my consent for my body measurements - especially my upper torso and spine measurements - to be taken by the researcher and her assistant, by body touch or by electronic tape-measure, in the presence of a gatekeeper (parent or guardian), a witness (chaperon or nursing staff) and, possibly, an orthopaedist doctor.
- **I understand** that I have given my consent for being interviewed by the researcher and for answering a questionnaire on how do I feel about my body image in relation to conventional retail clothing and what part of them do I think could be altered in order to make me feel more comfortable.
- **I understand** that I have given my consent for being asked to complete an evaluation form, and possibly, for being invited in a wearer trial, at the end of this research project.
- **I understand** that I have given approval for my opinion and body measurements to be included / published in the final outcome of this research project and to be used in future research.
- **I understand** that my involvement in this study, and particular data from this research (name and contact telephone number), will remain strictly confidential. My personal details will be anonymised and only the researchers involved in the study will have access to the data. It has been explained to me that the data will be kept in file, in case of possible use for future research, once the experimental program has been completed.
- **I understand** that the identifiable data will be shared with the researcher's Academic Supervisors and may be monitored by the researcher's College Research Committee (CRC) and the 'University of the Arts London' Ethics Sub-Committee.
- **I have read the information sheet** about the research project in which I have been asked to take part and have been given a copy of this information sheet to keep.
- **What is going to happen and why it is being done has been explained to me**, and I have had the opportunity to discuss the details and ask questions.
- **Having given this consent I understand** that I have the right to withdraw from the programme at any time without disadvantage to myself and without having to give any reason.
- **I hereby fully and freely consent** to participation in the study which has been fully explained to me.

SIGNATURES

- **Participant's name** (BLOCK CAPITALS):
Participant's signature:
- **Gatekeepers' name** (BLOCK CAPITALS):
Gatekeepers' signature:
- **Student investigator's name** (BLOCK CAPITALS): Maria D. Tsakalidou
Student investigator's signature:
- **Witness' name** (BLOCK CAPITALS):
Witness' signature:

CONTACTS

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