



OUTWARD APPEARANCE VS. INWARD SIGNIFICANCE

ADDRESSING IDENTITIES THROUGH
ATTIRE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

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The meaning of a piece of clothing changes the moment it is worn, as it becomes associated with its wearer. Attire can demonstrate affiliation to a particular group, be it religious, political, ethnic, or social, serving as an important means to construct self-identity, often including or excluding an individual from a group. In order to understand what clothes can reveal about the wearer, it is necessary to reconstruct socio-cultural context and understand the non-verbal language the dress conveys. This conference creates a venue for a multidisciplinary and comparative approach to dress studies in the ancient world, searching for cross-cultural patterns in dress behavior. The goal of this conference is to construct (a) definition(s) of the clothed self and investigate multiple trajectories of the dress' role in the construction of various identities in the ancient world.