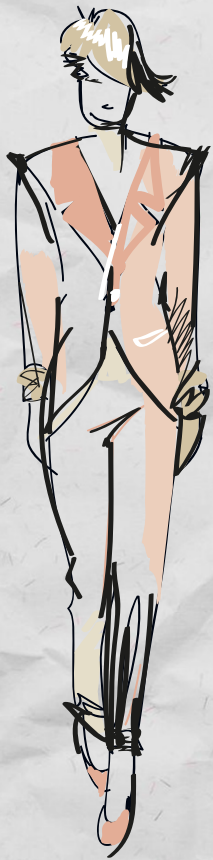


Fashion's Liberation of Women's Body



Gillian Hsueh & Lucy Liu

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01

The Controversy over
Women's Wearing Pants

➤ “Pants are one of the most gendered garments in history”

Convenience

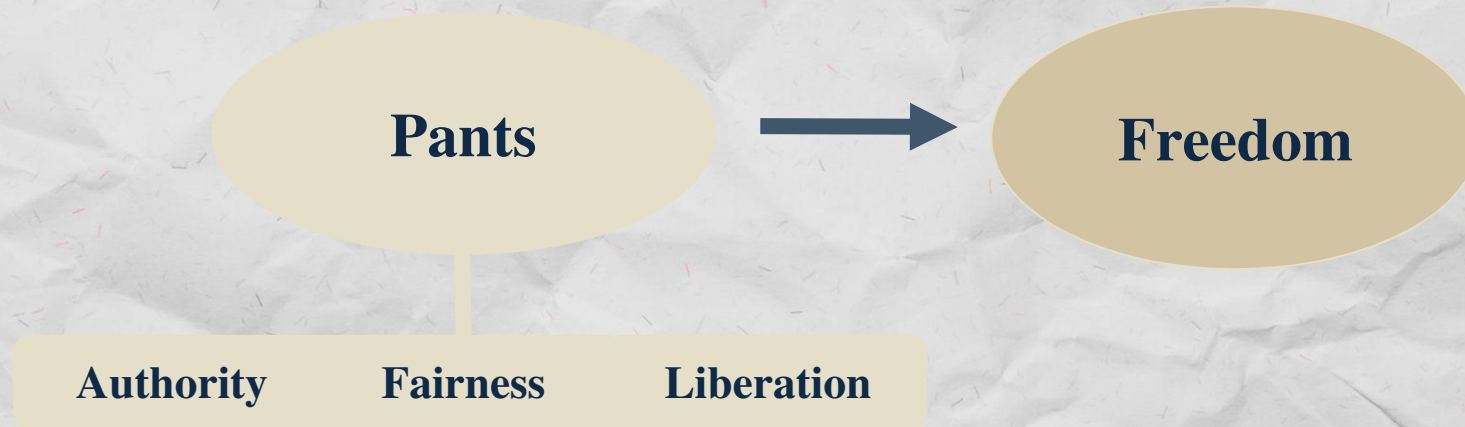
**Seeking
liberation**

Comfort

02
—

The Symbolic Meanings of Pants for Women

➤ **Pants** — especially pantsuits, remain deeply connected to masculinity



➤ **Two normative facets influence contemporary feminine appearance :**

- **Aesthetic power**
- **Injunctions about restricting visibility**



03

The History of Pants

14th&15th Centuries

- Womenswear emphasized **the curves of the body** more than function and comfort



<https://reurl.cc/Oj3mNR>

19th Century

BLOOMER

- A metaphorical **freedom**
- A symbol of women's rights

Early 20th Century

- Pants become women's casual clothing



Harem Pants

Baggy, long pants caught in at the ankle

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/531917405981569365/>

Flapper Style

Baggy high-waisted draped trousers



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/266064290458418434/>

In 1915



<https://reurl.cc/jvZrE1>



<https://reurl.cc/m05YbY>

NEW LOOK

Cinched waisted and full-skirt silhouette, designed by Christian Dior

- Weakening the subversive power of wearing pants
- Representing a **return to restrictive dressing** for women

In 1966



<https://reurl.cc/QZAaA2>



<https://reurl.cc/5OWRW7>

Le Smoking

- **A Power suit**
- An improvement in women's standing in the workplace and society



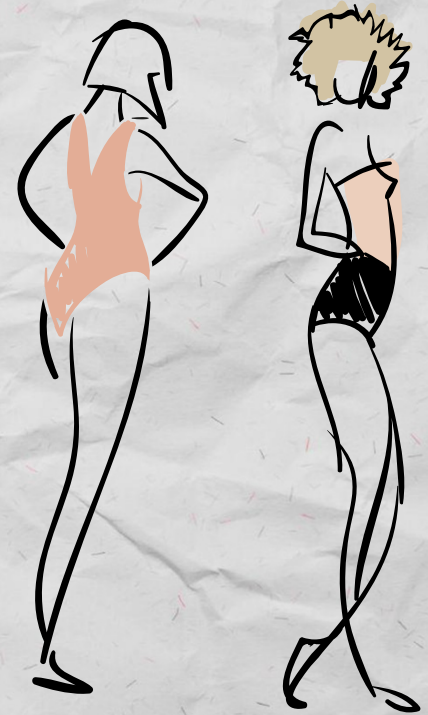
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- A symbol of empowerment and support for women's rights.



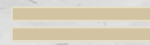
04

Body Image,
Fashion & Gender
Performativity



- Women have had a rising awareness of the autonomy of their own bodies.

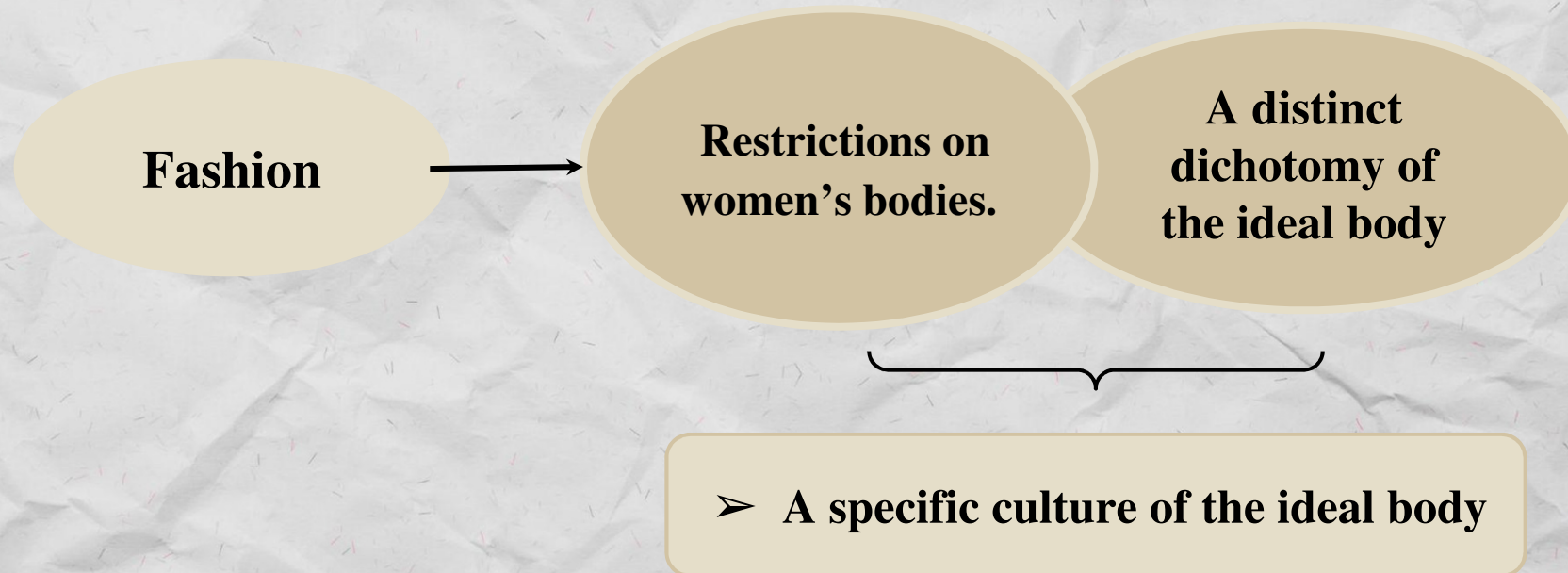
**Wearing
pants**



**The self-control of
one's body**

- As Cassidy Zachary mentions **“Women...maintain this idea of power, of independence, control over [their] body”** (qtd. in Brucculieri “Pants and Women”).

- Fashion industries have regarded women's bodies as malleable and they can be molded and changed by many methods.



- ★ **Issues of body and self-esteem have had a significant impact on women and reflect the influence of society on the ideal body shape.**

- Gender performance is **a way of expressing self-perception and recognition by one and others.**
- Merleau-Ponty argues that the **body** is a meaningful materiality which **“gains its meaning through a concrete and historically mediated expression in the world”** (qtd. in Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” 521).
- **How to describe gendered bodies:**
Expanding the traditional view of acts & considering **acts as elements that simultaneously construct meaning and performativity.**

06

Conclusion

**Women's
liberation
movement**

Fashion culture

**The freedom of
choosing attire**

- **While women are expected to conform to specific fashion dress codes that make their control over their own bodies compromised, fashion also gives women the right of freedom to choose their clothing.**



**Thank You
for
Your Attention**