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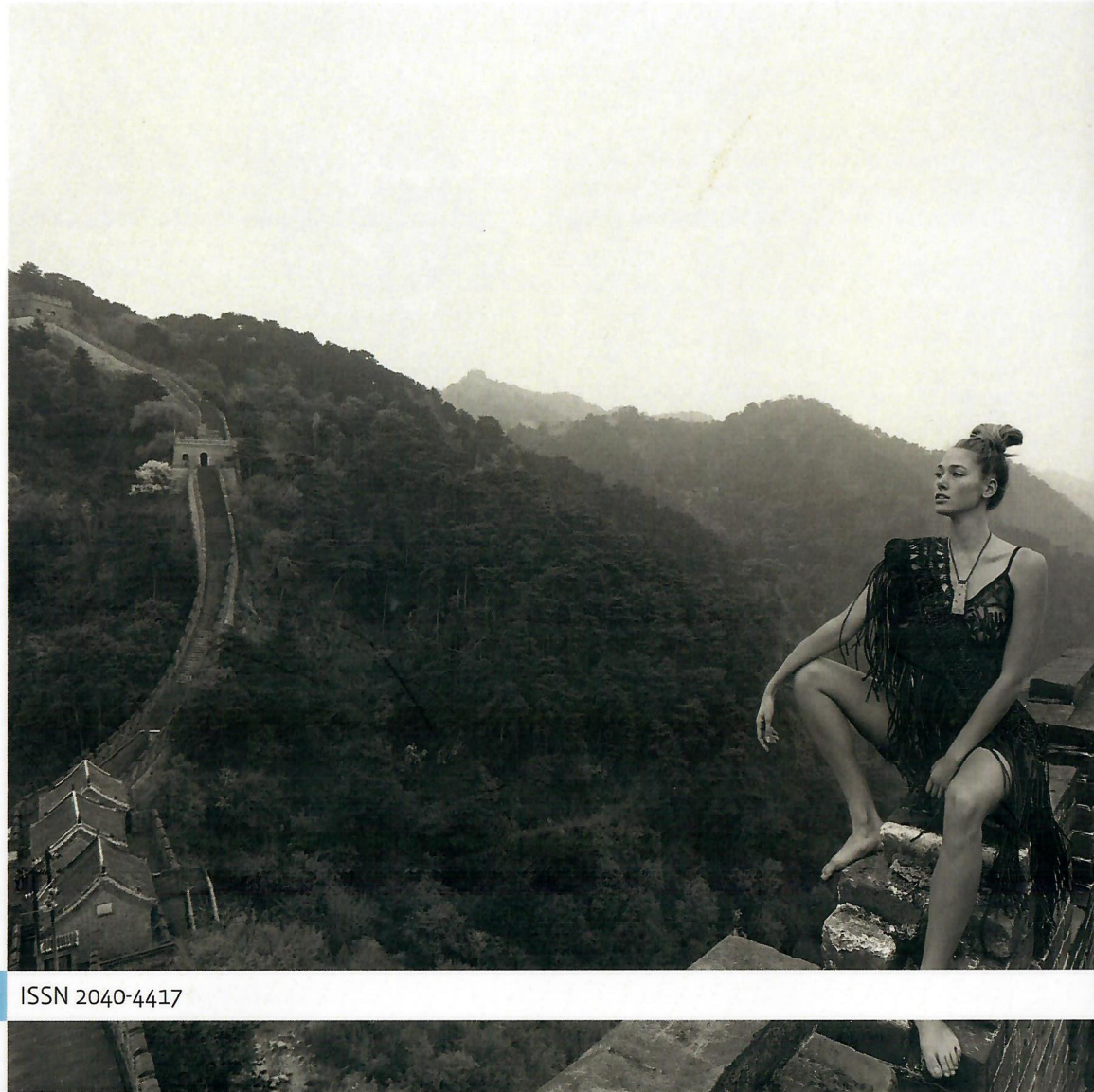
# Critical Studies in Fashion & Beauty

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Special Issue:  
'Fashioning Culture:  
Transforming  
Perspectives from  
Oceania'  
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## EDITORIAL FOREWORD

**NINA COLE**

**SUSAN B. KAISER**

**ANNEKE SMELIK**

This Special Issue on Oceania fashion systems, guest edited by Geir Henning Presterudstuen and Kalissa Alexeyeff, directly addresses the need for fashion studies to expand beyond a western or Eurocentric focus. Delving deeply and in diverse ways into a neglected part of the world's fashion systems, the articles in this issue represent an array of methodologies and demonstrate the importance of 'thick description' (Geertz 1973). The nuanced ethnographic lens employed by the authors sheds new and important light on the embodiment and representation of fashion among diverse individuals and cultures across Oceania, challenging western hegemonic notions of stylistic influence and demonstrating how non-western modernities can be at once incorporative and resistant in everyday life. Understanding complex histories of colonialism also becomes key to interpreting fashions and modernities across Oceania, as revealed throughout the issue. We want to thank Geir Henning Presterudstuen and Kalissa Alexeyeff for their intellectual leadership (as evident in their introduction) and all of the authors who have contributed their work to this issue of *Critical Studies in Fashion & Beauty*, which strives to foster more diverse and inclusive ways of understanding the embodiment of aesthetics and politics by dismantling hegemonic assumptions and propelling fresh theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of fashion and/or beauty.

The CSFB editorial team: Nina Cole, Susan B. Kaiser and Anneke Smelik

## Reference

Geertz, Clifford (1973), 'Thick description: Toward an interpretive theory of culture', in C. Geertz (ed.), *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*, New York: Basic Books, pp. 3–30.

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