

Clothing and the Embodiment of Age Identities

Julia Twigg. University of Kent

Clothes lie on the interface between the body and its social presentation. They are one of the ways whereby bodies are made social, given identity and meaning, so that dress needs to be understood in Entwistle's (2000) words as 'situated body practice'. Getting up and dressed is a process of preparing the body for the social world, both an intimate experience of the body and a public presentation of it. When we get dressed, however, we do so within the bounds of a culture and its particular norms. These norms include ones in relation to age. The presentation, which draws on an ESRC project *Clothing, Age and the Body*, explores the role of dress in the constitution of aged identities today and in the past.

Julia Twigg is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Kent