The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
WHAT IT IS

My social action project focuses on the intersection of queer identity, feminist practices, and the system of fashion. As a fashion writer, feminist and queer person I have never seen a magazine that encompasses all of these identities. I decided to fill the void in my own way, and using a new approach to the feminist/fashion conversation.

Why it’s different:

• The viewpoint of this zine is decidedly pro-fashion in a feminist discussion. None of the contributors find fashion or style to be oppressive and interpret it as a mode of expression of their identity.

• The contributors are all queer identified artists, photographers, writers spanning the ages of 14-35 and come from everywhere in the world and are from different classes, races, and genders.
I read about 13 academic articles and different medias relating to the fields of fashion, feminism, and queerness. Some of these were:

- “Design for (Queer) Living: Sexual Identity, Performance, Décor in British Vogue, 1922 – 1926” by Christopher Reed
- “Clothes Maketh the Queer? Dress, Appearance, and the Construction of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities” by Victoria Clarke and Kevin Turner
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• What are the functions of fashion as a complex determinant of identity?
• What is the political force behind our relationships in regards to fashion and queerness and feminism?
• What is the economy of identity?
• How can fashion be feminist? How can you approach fashion ‘queerly’?
• What is queer fashion? What is feminist fashion?
• How can we subvert assumptions of identity?
These articles taught me:

- Queerness as identity anarchy. (“an attitude that delights in destabilizing institutionally sanctioned hierarchies” – British Vogue article)
- Style can be a neutral ground for people to build solidarity. (DapperQ)
- Fashion can help queer and non-normative people live a more authentic life.

By changing representations in the media we can change perspective to a positive view of fashion for queer people.

I learned that activism can be fun and a collaboration through art and culture as much as anything else.
SUBMISSIONS

HOW TO SUBJUGATE A BODY

CONTROL ITS MANE
CODIFY IT AS TABOO
DEFINE IT ONLY IN RELATION TO ANOTHER, NEVER AS A PRIMARY SUBJECT
FRAME ITS UNIQUENESS AS EVIDENCE OF ITS INFERIORITY
EXPLOIT IT VISUALLY AS A METAPHOR FOR SUBSERVIENCE
CLASSIFY IT AS INHERENTLY DISEASED
PREACH THAT IT IS THE SOURCE OF ORIGINAL SIN
VILE IT NATURAL STATE
INVENT THE MYTH OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH
WORSHIP THE MYTH AND CONDEMN THOSE WHO FAIL TO ACHIEVE IT
DIAGNOSE ITS PLEASURE AS UNNATURAL
TREAT IT FIRST AND FOREMOST AS A SEXUAL OBJECT
RAPE IT, THEN HOLD IT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE AGAINST IT
SOLICIT IT FOR SEX; CONDEMN IT FOR SELLING SEX
CELEBRATE ITS STARVATION AND MUTILATION
USE PHYSICAL FORCE IF IT DOES NOT OBEY
CONTROL ITS REPRODUCTION
ABORT IT JUST FOR EXISTING
DEVALUE ITS LABOR
DEPRECIATE ITS INTELLECT
TREAT IT AS SUBHUMAN, THAT IS, (FEMALE OR) (W)MAN

It's gotten to the point where I can't tell (you) how I really feel without embroidery.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Groeneveld, Elizabeth. "'Be a feminist or just dress like one': BUST, fashion and feminism as lifestyle." JOURNAL OF GENDER STUDIES, Jan 1, 2009, Vol. 18, Issue 2, p179-190, 12p


