

Annotated Bibliography- Marly Leventon

Aus, Reet, Moora, Harri, Vihma, Markus *et al.* Designing for circular fashion: integrating upcycling into conventional garment manufacturing processes. *Fash Text* 8, 34 (2021).

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40691-021-00262-9>

Understanding the role of upcycling on a larger scale is helpful for me to know. Although I will be upcycling at home using my sewing machine, seeing it from a worldview will put my own work in perspective. This research paper is mainly focused on the production of clothing on an industrial level. In the fashion and textile industry, the mass production of clothes using reclaimed materials is referred to as industrial upcycling. Garment making factories produce a lot of textile waste and don't reuse it due to unreliable recycling and waste management systems. Having the ability to do something that big factories often can't do given their circumstances is a privilege.

Dares, Jennifer L. "Fashion Upcycling: The Fashion Upcycling: The Challenges, Successes, and Solutions From A Designers Perspective." *Toronto Metropolitan University*, 2019,

https://rshare.library.torontomu.ca/articles/thesis/Fashion_Upcycling_The_Fashion_Upcycling_The_Challenges_Successes_and_Solutions_From_A_Designers_Perspective/14649336.

This thesis outlines the author's research study, which aimed to understand fashion upcycling through all stages of production. Being a Canadian fashion designer with a passion for climate change prevention, the author has an interest in the environmental impacts of upcycling. This

body of work analyzes the products of sustainable brands, discusses the impact of upcycling, and the danger of textile waste. There are sources embedded throughout the text, which confirms that the content from this thesis has been well researched. The author embraces her background, and is clear in stating her own personal biases toward the beginning of her writing. It is especially helpful getting to see a breakdown of sustainable fashion and what that looks like for different clothing brands. I will apply some of the techniques discussed in the thesis to my own upcycling projects.

Lehtinen, Axel. "Upcycling – An analysis of opinions within the fashion industry." *Theseus*, 2021,

<https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/501182/Upcycling%20-%20An%20analysis%20of%20opinions%20within%20the%20fashion%20industry.pdf?sequence=2>.

Consumption is an all-important pillar in a modern society. It allows us to have access to what seems like an endless supply of products, and gives us a feeling of satisfaction, at least temporarily. What this thesis discusses is the side of consumerism we often choose to ignore. The introduction lays out, in simple terms, the dangers of industrialization, and its role in the climate crisis. The author offers upcycling as a tactic for slowing climate change, while also recognizing that not everyone recognizes its value. I learned more about the history of upcycling through this piece of writing, and now know that its main goal is to give old materials new life and make them better than they were before instead of worse. I will keep this in mind while I upcycle, and ensure that I see the potential in materials rather than their faults.

Lohikoski, Anna. "Revitalizing Fashion: Integration of upcycling in the fashion industry." *CBS Research Portal*, 2023,

https://research-api.cbs.dk/ws/portalfiles/portal/98734216/1649420_Annas_Thesis_Upcycling.pdf

This thesis paper analyzes the impact of upcycling on both the environment and the fashion industry. Evidence was collected through a series of interviews and with the use of secondary sources. This write-up emphasizes that the fashion industry is notoriously one of the top contributors to global warming. This fact ties in with the idea of over-consumption, and consumer demand, which all fall under the umbrella of capitalism. With that being said, upcycling can shed a positive light on the fashion industry and reconstruct our idea of what it means to care for our planet, and shop more consciously. Knowing this makes me appreciate the work I am putting into all of my upcycling projects.

Martín Martín, J.M., Calvo Martínez, S., Guaita Martínez, J.M. *et al.* Qualitative analysis on the driving force behind upcycling practices associated with mobile applications: Circular economy perspective. *Oper Manag Res* 15, 647–661 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12063-022-00269-5>

The circular economy is an unknown quantity for many people. This article deconstructs the role of upcycling within the circular economy, and analyzes its successes and failures. According to this source, the concepts of upcycling and reusing are still fairly underdeveloped. The authors present this article as a contribution to the research field of upcycling. More specifically, they focus on the influence of tourism and technology on sustainability. Smart phones have paved the way for an online market and exchange of goods. Tourism and travel in general allow further

exchange of materials and information. I will be able to use this source as a tool in proving the worth and overall importance of upcycling.

Petro, Greg. "Upcycling Your Way to Sustainability." *Forbes*, 2019,

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gregpetro/2019/02/08/upcycling-your-way-to-sustainability/?sh=3db1132858e2>.

This article puts an emphasis on the importance of maintaining relevance in the fashion industry. It is a constant struggle for brands to keep up with new fashion trends and consumer demand. Part of being relevant is appealing to the emotional wants and needs of customers, meaning retailers must market their products as being sustainable. Customers are more likely to purchase products that make them feel like they are positively impacting the planet. This report uses a variety of sources and figures to back up their claims about the impact of sustainability on the fashion industry. With the help of this source, I better understand the psychological elements of consumerism. I know that the pieces I make have the potential to impact their recipients on an emotional level.

Singh, Jagdeep. "Sustainability | Free Full-Text | The Sustainability Potential of Upcycling."

MDPI, 2022, <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/10/5989>.

Much of what we know about upcycling and its sustainability is through programs and initiatives that already exist. This research paper aims to understand the impact of upcycling, which as of now, is backed by insufficient research. To accomplish this goal, the author studied three

different bike repair studios in Sweden and Switzerland. The overall sustainability, upcycling process and success of these studios were analyzed in this report. This article deduces that upcycling aims to combat the linear economy of production. I like that way of framing it, as it reminds me that my capstone has the potential to benefit others.

Sung, Kyungeun. “A Review on Upcycling: Current Body of Literature, Knowledge Gaps and a Way Forward.” *CORE*, 2015, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/228200932.pdf>.

This research paper defines upcycling, and is mainly focused on the rise of upcycling in publications. Although this paper was written in 2015, I think it still speaks to the influence upcycling and other sustainability practices have had on today’s world. Using reclaimed materials is more than just a trend – it can aid impoverished communities, and help broaden one’s understanding of textile use. In researching different kinds of upcycling publications, this source goes over the many reasons people value upcycling. Some upcycle because it is cost-effective, others appreciate its environmental benefits, and some like the unique style it offers. Whatever the reason, this source proves the growing appeal of circular fashion.

Wegener, Charlotte. “Upcycling.” *ResearchGate*, 2016, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303466628_Upcycling.

This research paper talks about upcycling through a broader lens. It doesn’t exclusively discuss upcycling clothes, instead referring to upcycling as a mindset. This piece of writing did a good job of reframing my mindset around upcycling. The process is a way to give something greater

value, and repurpose it while still maintaining its foundational elements. This comes in many forms; not just fashion. The author recalled a personal story of going to an old garage in Amsterdam that was turned into a restaurant. Every part of the restaurant utilized reclaimed materials from the garage in some way. To me, this story embodies the spirit of upcycling, and inspired me to approach my capstone in the same way.

Zhi, Yuan. "The Upcycling and Reconstruction of Garments and Fabrics." *Scientific Research Publishing*, 2022, <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=114931>.

This source is a helpful way for me to interpret my role as a designer. I am the creator of the pieces I make, and with that comes the ability to interpret and manipulate materials as I see fit. I will keep this in mind during the creation process, and use it as an opportunity to express myself artistically through the clothes I upcycle. This research paper also touches on the environmental impact of upcycling, and recognizes that capitalism has conditioned us to value constant production of new clothes. This reliance on fast fashion is harmful for many reasons, but also makes the idea of upcycled clothing that much more appealing, as it offers an alternative to the fashion norm. Knowing this, I can advertise my capstone as a unique spin on fast fashion to pique interest.