

**Jérémie BUCKER, "Dressing the part. Professional clothing in France from 1880 to the present day", Ph. D. Thesis of contemporary history, directed by Christine Bard, university of Angers, 2019, 666 p. + iconographic volume, 260 p.**

In the world of work, clothes depend on laws, rules, norms, codes and habits. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century clothing worn at work was increasingly identifiable whilst taking various styles. Working clothes are a mixture of what is acceptable to the employer and also to the taste of the employee. The outfit, worn as a uniform, or in a professional or working environment, takes on many functions and symbols. It hides, displays or highlights the human form in order to reflect the company's values to the outside world as well as within the organisation.

The deep changes in workwear since the 19<sup>th</sup> century are the subject of important historical study. Simplified, normalised, or even eliminated, working dress involves the intervention, manipulation and eye of a number of participants including company managers, clothing manufacturers, both male and female workers and even clients and customers. At the crossroads of economic, social and cultural history as well as gender studies, the issue is to consider workwear from all angles - colour, shape, material - and to analyse its place in the company organisation especially in companies such as La Poste and the SNCF. This thesis also endeavours to appraise the role of workwear in building gender and professional identity in order to analyse the power of appearances in the French professional sphere from 1880 to our present day.