

Answer the questions by referring to the checklist

Art & Design, Phd
Jiachen Lu
2308038

1 Have you identified a sub-question, theme, keyword, or concept to develop through practice?

✓ Yes.

My project explores **how wearing a suit shapes identity performance** in the UK, particularly among Chinese international students.

The key **sub-question** is:

Does wearing a suit construct empowerment, or does it reinforce aesthetic oppression through symbolic assimilation?

This theme is unpacked through the keywords:

- **Sartorial identity**
- **Cultural capital**
- **Western dress codes**
- **Aesthetic demystification**
- **AI-mediated representation**

The concept evolves through immersive installation and comparative visual storytelling.

2 Does your practice test variables, how many?

✓ Yes. I test five interrelated variables:

Variable	Description
Fabric	From synthetic blends to pure wool (durability vs breathability vs symbolic value)
Price	Ranges from fast fashion to high-end tailoring – what does “cost” imply in identity construction?
Size and Cut	Comfort, bodily confidence, conformity – how tailoring affects self-perception
Brand Storytelling	From commercial appeal to heritage (e.g. Moss vs. Vitale Barberis Canonico)
AI vs Human Gaze	Comparison between AI-generated outfits and human feedback – who defines the “correct” look?

These variables are documented through video, photo journals, AI-generated media, and shopping logs.

3 Can you link a variable to other research, practices, influences, experiences, or something you've read?

✓ Yes. The variables are linked to multiple theoretical and cultural frameworks:

- **Goffman:** "Front stage" identity performance → the suit as social costume
- **Bourdieu:** Cultural capital → suit as a tool to access legitimacy and power
- **Barthes:** The suit as a *myth*, not just a garment
- **Foucault:** Discipline and uniformity → suit as a visual extension of power structures
- **Homi Bhabha:** Mimicry and hybridity in postcolonial identity → wearing "their clothes" creates both access and alienation
- **Consumer society (Baudrillard):** Branding over function, aura over substance

4 Have you documented how these influences, experiences, or readings have shaped your thinking and evolved your practice?

✓ Yes. I have documented my reflections and design shifts through:

- A 6-month **shopping log**: from Amazon to outlet to Savile Row
- A growing **visual archive**: mirrors, selfies, videos, AI renderings
- **AI dialogues** (ChatGPT and DeepSeek): exploring how AI co-constructs aesthetic choices
- Weekly **self-reflection journal entries** tracking emotional and perceptual shifts
- Video footage across different suit types, lighting, body postures – showing the psychological tension and liberation

These elements evolved my thinking from “wanting to wear like them” to “questioning who defines what is ‘proper’ to wear.”

5 Have you experimented with design, for example, by creating visuals, sounds, or concept art?

✓ Yes. My immersive installation integrates multi-modal design:

- **Visuals:** Three-screen structure (film montage – theory slides – personal journey)
- **AI-generated visuals:** Outfit renderings that represent Western mainstream male aesthetics
- **Sound design:** Chinese inner monologue + AI-generated English ambient voiceovers
- **Editing style:** High contrast between mainstream film aesthetics and fragmented self-documentation
- **Materials:** Real suit fabrics for audience touch (synthetic vs wool vs blend)
- **Conceptual fashion lookbook:** Anti-dress-code, patchwork, performative misfits

6 Have you identified what information you are gathering from the audience, how you will gather it, and what you hope to discover?

✓ Yes. Audience engagement is a core part of the project. I collect feedback through:

Method	Purpose
Bilingual response cards	Prompts: <i>"What does wearing a suit mean to you?"</i> , <i>"What do you wear when you want to be taken seriously?"</i>
Sticker-tag wall	Audience selects keywords (e.g. Belonging, Discomfort, Control, Performance, Liberation) and tags where they felt it
Observation notes	During the immersive screening: facial expressions, movement, emotional response
Post-screening discussion (optional)	Unstructured, invites spontaneous reflections about identity, culture, and clothing

Through this, I hope to understand how differently positioned viewers perceive **suit culture**, and whether visual-aesthetic resistance can generate **identity re-negotiation**.

Immersive room, Triple screen details
Related practice content

Upgraded Three-Screen Structure Overview (Based on your PPT)

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[Film Montage]

[PPT Theoretical Narrative]

[Personal Practice]

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Screen Position	Content Type	Keywords	Purpose
 Left	British film montage	Power, Uniform, White Masculinity, Aesthetic Control	To portray the suit as a symbolic system of Western mainstream order
 Center	PPT/Research Frame	Performativity, Cultural Capital, AI Dialogue, Demystification	To articulate the research question, theoretical framework, and methods
 Right	Personal documentation	Shopping trajectory, material contrast, AI aesthetics, identity shift	To show how personal practice deconstructs suit culture and identity in real-time

Center Screen Content (Narrative from PPT)

Derived from your own slides:

Section	Content Summary
 Research Question	Can wearing suits help construct identity in a British context, or are they tools of assimilation and symbolic control?
 Theoretical Framework	- Goffman: <i>Performance of the Self</i> - Bourdieu: <i>Habitus and Cultural Capital</i> - Barthes: <i>The Suit as Myth</i> - Foucault: <i>Discipline and Uniformity</i> - AI as an extension of capitalist aesthetics (Human–Machine Symbiosis)
 Method	- Self-reflection logs + AI dialogue (ChatGPT vs DeepSeek) - 6-month online/offline shopping research - AI-generated lookbook and outfit comparisons
 Process Logic	Material Shift: Synthetic → Performance → Wool blend → Pure wool (Moss Bros → Ted Baker → Vitale Barberis Canonico)
 Practice-as-Hypothesis	Testing how clothing material, brand story, tailoring, and price perception shape identity and alienation
 Decolonial Aesthetic	Patchwork, loose silhouettes, non-matching pieces—resisting brand narratives and dress code ideology

Left Screen: British Cinema Clips (Symbolic Montage of the Suit)

Film	Symbolic Value	Clip Suggestions
<i>Kingsman</i>	Suit + Training = Cultural indoctrination	Tailoring scene, etiquette teaching, whisky on table
<i>The King's Speech</i>	Suit = Royal anxiety & performance	Slow close-up of tie-adjusting before speech
<i>007 James Bond</i>	Suit-body fusion = Aestheticized control	Gunfights in suits, poker table, posture
<i>BBC Sherlock</i>	Smart styling = British intellect & class	Fast walking, urban wide-angle sequences

These clips represent the Western elite masculine suit mythos. They contrast with your personal struggle shown on the right screen.



Right Screen: Personal Visual Story + AI Interventions

Based on your PPT narrative flow:

Stage	Suggested Content	Visual Design
① Entry	Trying suits in M&S / Moss Bros; AI outfit prompts	You in fitting rooms, overlay AI-generated looks
② Fascination	Wearing suits at events, feeling confident	Fast-paced city walk edits, voiceover: <i>"I think I'm one of them."</i>
③ Discomfort	Synthetic fabric, poor fit, social awkwardness	Close-ups of sweat, collar pulling, stiff gestures
④ Demystification	Rejecting brand stories, favoring comfort	You removing the suit, painting, dancing, casual clothes
⑤ Reflection	AI as tool of aesthetic control	ChatGPT dialogue, AI outfit generation clips, overlays

Upgraded Timeline for 6-Minute Three-Screen Display (with AI)

Time	Left (Film)	Center (Theory/PPT)	Right (You + AI)
0:00–1:00	<i>Kingsman</i> opening scene	Research Question: Why explore suit culture?	First fitting sessions, entering shops
1:00–2:30	<i>The King’s Speech</i>	Goffman + Bourdieu	Wearing suits at formal events
2:30–4:00	<i>Bond</i> montage (power/control)	Barthes + Foucault	Social discomfort, material critique
4:00–5:30	Blackout + layered English narration	Identity = Power vs Resistance	Removing the suit, AI-generated “anti-suits”
5:30–6:00	Fade to grey + overlay	Audience prompt: “ <i>What do you wear?</i> ”	Facing camera, Chinese monologue: “This is not me.”

Audio & Lighting Suggestions

Element	Design Approach
 Narration	Mandarin voiceover (you) + English ambient AI/film lines
 Background Sound	AI-generated ambient tracks + city/street/retail audio transitions
 Lighting Logic	Cold tone in Center gradually warms; Left = contrast-heavy; Right = soft light transitions
 Tactile Layer	Place physical fabric samples (synthetic, blend, wool) in front of viewers to touch

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