



Clothing as Evidence

Lab 8: FIVS 210

Grab your Camera! Make sure to charge your battery!

Aritra Bhattacharya
Ecoevoaritra23@tamu.edu



Shaifer Goalen
Shaif_goal_7@tamu.edu



Background

A clothing examination generally has three stages:

1. Observation of stains, deposits, and damage, including patterns and the general condition of the clothing. The data of the observations includes written and pictorial descriptions and measurements, where relevant.
2. Microscopic examination of stains, deposits, and damage, evaluation and comparison of patterns,
and preliminary chemical testing.
3. Sampling of selected stains and deposits for further testing



Photographing clothing evidence



Photographs are an especially useful tool for an examiner's notes and are quick and easy to take now using current digital cameras.

- Overall shots of the front and back of the garment should be taken.
- Close -ups can be taken of various pertinent areas once recognized.
- Again, scales should be included in any photograph.
- Such photographs do not substitute for a good diagram and vice versa, as both emphasize different information



Notes to Take

General description of items:

- Type of garment and where worn on the body (if worn)
- Color, size, brand, style, etc.
- Clothing received inside out, buttoned up, etc.
- General description of fabric or other material (e.g., knit, blue jean denim)
- Types of closures (buttons, zippers, Velcro, etc.—open or closed?)
- General condition (e.g., “clothing fairly clean with few deposits, minor body odor”), whether well-worn, or apparently new, dry, damp, or wet)



Today's Lab

1. Be sure to wear the proper PPE (wear gloves).

2. Place an article of clothing, provided to you, on a table (or the floor if easier), laying a piece of Kraft paper down first.

3. Document its appearance by photographing both the front and back of the garment.

4. If the garment fits into a lighting tent (Studio in a Box), then that can be used as well, or any other type of accessory lighting, if available.

5. Be sure to document any defects (cuts, tears, bullet holes, etc.) with a close-up photograph, containing an appropriate scale.

6. Document any labels attached to the garment, which may include the size, make, and fabric composition

7. Take notes, photographs, and make sketches (if necessary)



- no matter how many pages it takes label it!!

Now
Specify
What
Kind of
Flash