Ellen McKinney

Presentation Title
Wearable Product Design: Body to Product Relationship. What Are We Doing and Why?

Abstract
Patternmaking—both technical and creative—is an important part of wearable product design. The pattern is a key factor in the body-to-garment relationship. Design research can develop theory and further the field. Ellen McKinney will discuss what methods can be used to research patternmaking practices. She will discuss her research of both creative (Pattern Magic) and technical practices. Understanding creative practices can enable designers to apply the principles in new and creative ways. Developing technical pattern drafting practices based on accurate understanding of body-to-pattern relationships that produce good fit can improve online shopping and computer-aided custom garments.

Bio
Ellen McKinney, Ph.D. researches body-to-pattern relationship theory for improvement of wearable product design practice. She also investigates apparel fit from both consumer and retailer perspectives and cultural interchange through creative design processes. She teaches patternmaking and apparel design. At the 2015 ITAA Conference she received the Lectra Innovation Award for Teaching for her presentation "Increasing patternmaking students’ understanding of measurement methods and the relationship between body measurements and sizes" and the Paper of Distinction Research and Teaching Scholarship Award for her paper "Exploration of body-to-pattern shape and measurement relationships for women’s trouser patterns found in USA and UK pattern drafting methods."