Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: The Practice of Vegetable Tanned Leather Waste in Fashion: new uses of materials through craft

Creator: Bingbing Bai

Principal Investigator: Bingbing Bai

Data Manager: Bingbing Bai

Project Administrator: Bingbing Bai

Affiliation: Kingston University

Template: DCC Template

ORCID iD: 0009-0002-0666-8397

Project abstract:

Leather tanning and dyeing are ancient practices that transform raw animal hides into durable, versatile materials. Vegetable tanning is a traditional method using natural tannins from plants. Vegetable tanned leather is a biodegradable material that retains the texture and imperfections of the leather. Over time, the material darkens in colour and takes on a glossy patina. It has a number of unique qualities including far greater plasticity and memory properties than mainstream chemically manufactured leather, allowing it retains moulded shapes.

My research is practice-based, driven by a series of creative explorations and experiments that aim to broaden and deepen the use of vegetable tanned leather waste in fashion, through handcraft techniques and waste recycling systems. Handcraft experimentation is used to conduct process exploration on vegetable tanned leather waste. I aim to establish a systematic classification and reuse of vegetable tanned leather waste using handicraft techniques, record the process with the aim of expanding upon existing applications of vegetable tanned leather waste for different applications in fashion. But not limited to accessories or decorations. It could be more interactive, adding sound or video. I will build a material library of hand-crafted techniques specific to utilising vegetable tanned leather waste. Material experimentation is used to explore potential uses and expressions of use for application in artifacts, accessories and other fashion categories, to demonstrate the special role of vegetable tanned leather waste as a material resource and research tool. This research into vegetable tanned leather waste is intended to expand the way through the development of modular systems which can be applied in the fashion and related industries.

This is a qualitative study that uses grounded theory for the analysis of semi-structured interviews with tanneries and leather designers to examine the known process uses in detail. I will summarize and organize practitioners’ experiences with the treatment and classification of vegetable tanned leather waste, to identify new possible applications of vegetable tanned

leather waste in the fashion industry. In addition, field research will be undertaken directly with tanneries in Italy, using semi-structured interviews conducted via video meeting, telephone conferencing or email. These interviews will be recorded and transcribed to identify the similarities and differences between its current uses as well as to identify new opportunities for its use.

Grounded theory requires the continuous acquisition of new data whether through research or practice, with ongoing analysis which is then used to guide the acquisition and analysis of new data. This will be done through semi-structured interviews and the analysis of them.

ID: 194881

Start date: 01-04-2026

End date: 01-03-2027

Last modified: 28-01-2026

The Practice of Vegetable Tanned Leather Waste in Fashion: new uses of materials through craft

Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

The primary data will consist of qualitative interview transcripts capturing the professional experiences, insights, and techniques of experts working with vegetable tanned leather, including tanners, craftspeople, and designers. This may be supplemented by follow-up email responses and voluntarily provided visual documentation, such as images or diagrams illustrating participants' work processes and creative outputs.

How will the data be collected or created?

Data will be created through semi-structured interviews conducted online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, recorded in audio or video format. These recordings will be transcribed and edited for clarity. Participants will have the opportunity to review and amend their transcript. Additional data may be gathered via follow-up email questions and the submission of visual materials by participants. All data will be stored securely and confidentially, and will be password protected.

Documentation and Metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

Documentation: The data will be accompanied by essential administrative documents. These include signed participant information sheet and consent form which specify anonymity preferences, a log of all communications with participants.

Metadata: Each data file will be catalogued with descriptive metadata. This includes a unique participant code, the participant's professional sector such as tanner or designer, the interview date and duration, its format, and a record of its transcription and anonymisation status. This systematic cataloguing ensures the data is organised, traceable and managed responsibly throughout the research.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

How will you manage any ethical issues?

Ethical management will be ensured through rigorous adherence to core principles. Prior informed consent, including specific options for anonymity and the right to withdraw, will be secured from all

participants. All data will be stored securely with password protection and handled with strict confidentiality, with personal identifiers removed during anonymisation to prevent any possibility of recognition. Participants will be given the right to review and amend their interview transcripts, and all original recordings will be securely destroyed at the end of the research, with only the anonymised transcripts retained for the archive.

How will you manage copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

Intellectual property rights will be clearly addressed as part of the consent process. Participants will retain full copyright over any visual documentation they provide, such as images of their work. Their consent will explicitly grant a license for the use of these materials and their interview content solely within the context of this PhD research and related academic dissemination, such as the thesis. This agreement will be documented, ensuring that their creative and professional contributions are respected and not used for commercial purposes.

Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?

All research data will be stored on Kingston University's password protected and secure OneDrive cloud service. This platform provides automatic versioning and backup, ensuring data integrity. A secondary encrypted local backup will also be maintained on a university managed device for added security, with all files clearly organised in dedicated project folders.

How will you manage access and security?

Access to the data will be strictly limited to the lead researcher and the academic supervisors. Security will be enforced through institutional login credentials and password protection of the project folders. All participant identifiers will be removed during anonymisation, and the key linking codes to identities will be stored separately in an encrypted file, maintaining confidentiality through controlled access and secure data handling.

Selection and Preservation

Which data are of long-term value and should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The data of enduring value are the fully anonymised interview transcripts and the systematically organised material library of handcrafted techniques for vegetable tanned leather waste. These anonymised qualitative insights and the derived classification framework hold significant value for future academic researchers in sustainable design, material innovation, and circular fashion, as they document specialised professional knowledge and creative reuse methodologies.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The anonymised transcripts and the non confidential findings, such as the final classification system and technique library, will be prepared for long term preservation. They will be deposited in an appropriate institutional or subject specific digital repository, such as Kingston University's research data archive. The data will be accompanied by comprehensive metadata and documentation to ensure future accessibility and usability, while all original recordings and identifiable data will be securely destroyed upon completion of the PhD, as outlined in the consent agreement.

Data Sharing

How will you share the data?

The primary mode of sharing the research findings will be through publication in the final PhD thesis, which will include anonymised quotations and the systematic classification framework. For wider academic impact, the fully anonymised interview transcripts and the completed material library may be deposited in a secure public digital repository, such as a university research data archive. This will allow other researchers to access and build upon the documented knowledge.

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

Strong restrictions on data sharing are required to comply with ethical consent and confidentiality. All original audio visual recordings, any personal identifiers, and confidential visual documentation will not be shared and will be securely destroyed. Access to the anonymised transcripts will be governed by repository protocols, ensuring they are used only for non commercial scholarly purposes aligned with the original participant consent.

Responsibilities and Resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

Primary responsibility for data management lies with the lead researcher, Bingbing Bai, under the supervision of Dr Sass Brown. Bingbing Bai will handle all core activities: data capture through interviews, transcription, anonymisation, metadata creation, and ensuring data quality via member checking. I will also manage secure storage, backups, and the preparation of anonymised datasets for archiving. Dr Sass Brown provides oversight and holds ultimate responsibility for policy compliance, while long-term preservation and access will be facilitated in conjunction with the university's research office or library. Institutional IT services ensure the security of the underlying storage platform.

What resources will you require to deliver your plan?

The successful delivery of this plan relies primarily on standard institutional resources. Essential hardware and software, including a computer, internet access, and recording and storage platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Kingston University's OneDrive, are already provided. The core required resource is the dedicated time of the lead researcher to conduct interviews, perform thorough anonymisation, create metadata, and prepare data for deposit. For long term preservation and sharing, the project will utilise the university's existing digital repository or research data archive, which provides the necessary technical infrastructure without requiring additional dedicated funding or specialised external tools.