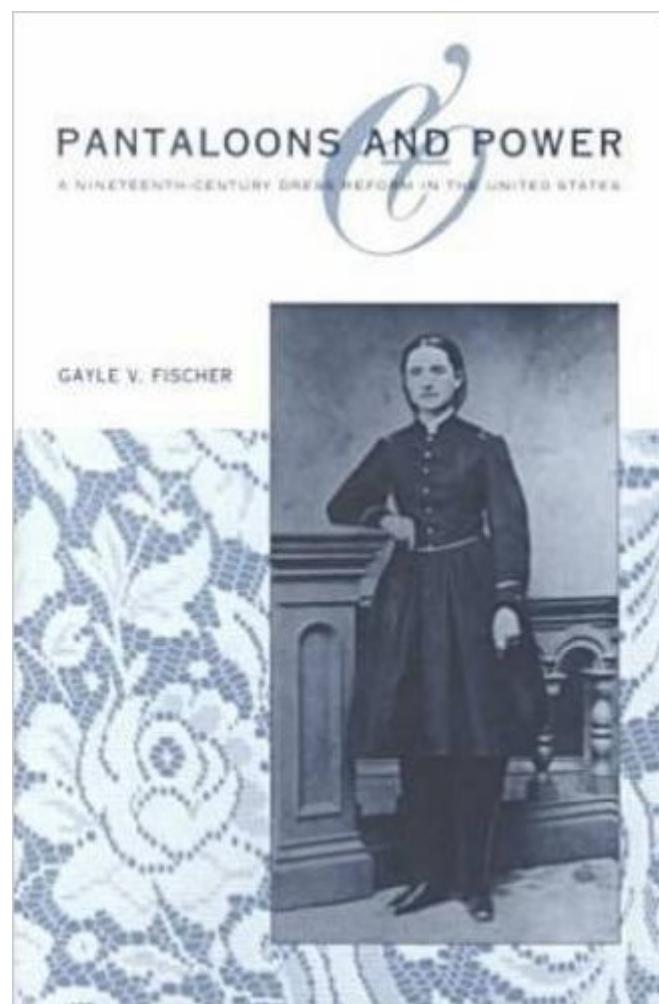


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# Pantaloons And Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform In The United States



## **Synopsis**

Clothing is often an indication of an individual's status, and gender. By the early nineteenth century clear definitions had developed regarding how American women and men were supposed to appear in public and how they were meant to lead their lives. As men's style of dress moved from the ornate to the moderate, women's fashions continued to be decorative and physically restrictive. This visible separation of the sexes was paralleled in other arenas - social, cultural, and religious. Some women defied this convention and cut their skirts short, abandoned their corsets, and put on trousers. In *Pantaloons and Power* Gayle V. Fisher shows how the reformers' denouncement of conventional dress highlighted the role of clothing in the struggle of power relations between the sexes.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Oscar Wilde observed a sign in a saloon as he toured the wild west. "Don't shoot the piano player," the sign admonished. "He is doing the best that he can." Well, this is a book about the same era as that piano player, and someone should have shot whoever made the design choices for how this book looks. A book about fashion does not have to be beautiful, but it should be legible. The typeface chosen for this text is annoyingly light, so light in fact that it does not appear to be 100% black. To add insult to injury, the type size is substandard. That, combined with the academic approach of the author make it sadly, a contender for "book that should have been great." This is a serious subject, with some humor thrown in around the edges, but the design of the book disables the reader from being able to truly appreciate it.

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