Fashion and The Devil's Railroad: Dress, Temporality, and Modernities in the Brazilian Amazon
(Bloomsbury, forthcoming)

Fashion and The Devil's Railroad: Dress, Temporality, and Modernities in the Brazilian Amazon
presents new insights into the dynamic relationship between fashion, time, the global experience of
modernity, and the complexity of transnational relations within the context of early twentieth-century
United States-Brazilian visual culture. It is the first publication to examine – through the specific lens
of fashion and temporality – New York photographer Dana B. Merrill's photographic travel albums
documenting the construction (1907-12) of the 366-kilometer Madeira-Mamoré railroad deep in the
Amazon rainforest. Merrill's roving photographic gaze captures in intricate detail the changing modes
of dress sported by US and Brazilian administrators and medical personnel, anonymous construction
workers from across the globe, Brazilian rubber tappers, local indigenous groups such as the
Caripuna, and Caribbean laundry staff. Providing detailed insight into the ways clothing was worn,
used, and exchanged to articulate national and international identities, *Fashion and The Devil's
Railroad* uses these photographs to examine how fashion facilitates our experience of the passing of
time – as individuals yet equally, in relation to the social and cultural environments in which we
become acclimatized. The book uses Merrill's rich archive as a historically and geographically
specific case study to reflect on the lived experience of dress, and on fashion as a concept that travels
– spatially and temporally – between national and transnational subjectivities, and between people's
perception of themselves and so-called "Others". The author exploits the richness of studying the
macro through the micro, using fashion as a detailed lens through which to understand the complexity
of modernity operating on a global scale, and examine how temporality is materialized in different
forms of fashion and photographic representation.