

Southwest Fashion Forum

Tariffs and ESG compliance squeeze independent retail

Unravelling the Cost of EU Compliance
for fashion brands and retailers

— SUPPORTED BY —

UKRI | Economic and Social Research Council | Festival of Social Science | Growth Hub SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE

5th November 2026 • 9:30am - 1:00pm
PSP Innovation Centre, Porton Down, Salisbury
Free to attend

SOUTHWEST FASHION FORUM

Lavinia Fernandes, MBA | Dr. V. Sharma PhD

symolem AND University of Exeter

www.symolem.com

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026 • 9:30am–1:00pm • FREE TO ATTEND

PSP Innovation Centre, Porton Science Park, Porton Down, Salisbury SP4 0BF

Independent retailers, fashion brands and packaging companies across Dorset, Wiltshire, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Hampshire are invited to a free morning conference on the cost of importing, exporting and sourcing fashion. Lawyers and product compliance specialists from leading UK brands will explain trade obligations and evidence requirements, alongside a panel discussion, a Digital Product Passport demonstration and University of Exeter One Planet MBA case-study responses.

"Independent retailers are being hit by tariffs on one side and compliance evidence on the other, and where you source your brands decides how much of each you carry. The conference is a chance to hear from the lawyers and brand compliance teams who are already dealing with it, and to understand the real cost before it lands."

Lavinia Fernandes · Founder and CEO, Symolem

"This event shows how university research can help regional businesses with a practical problem. We want attendees to leave with a clearer view of what compliance will cost them and what to do next."

Dr Vinayak Sharma · University of Exeter

Part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2026. Hosted by University of Exeter, Symolem and Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub.

MEDIA CONTACT

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Free places are limited. Scan to register →



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