

Dance, Age and Politics

Proceedings of the 30th Symposium of the
ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology



Edited by
Vivien Apjok
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nka
Nemzeti Kulturális Alap



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Intézet**



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DANCE, AGE AND POLITICS

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Sándor Varga
Editor

Editorial Introduction

This volume is based on the lectures given at the 30th Symposium of the Study Group on Ethnochoreology in Szeged. Along with the paper contributions, we also publish revised abstracts of colleagues who gave lectures but could not send their full lecture text. In the last section of the book we publish the abstracts of those who participated at the symposium but did not send in a paper or a revised abstract for publication.

During the six days of the symposium, a total of nearly ninety presentations were given in the form of individual paper presentations, panel discussions and student presentations. The symposium also featured an unusual panel discussion: Andrée Grau's 'Soft Politics': Reflections on Grau's 2016 article "Why People Dance – Evolution, Sociality and Dance." The international community of dance researchers paid tribute to the memory of our recently deceased colleague. An essay-like study can be found in this volume.

During the editing, we kept in mind the coherence of the topics, so we present the different types of presentations together, arranged in two thematic blocks. The Program Committee and the ICTM Study Group board members identified the two topics in the announcement of the symposium as follows:

Theme 1 – Dance and Politics

Politics and the political are understood here broadly. Following cultural theorist Stuart Hall we recognise that political forces – emergent or established – may not always "look" political and that the political can be seen as a 'lived, decentred, disorderly domain, composed of myths and passions as much as of rational doctrines'. In this way dance can help us to think about politics in new ways, which may indeed help us redefine politics.

Presentations may be on themes such as:

- Dance and body politics
- Dance/ritual as sites of resistance
- Dance, cultural diversity, and dissidence
- Dance and the politics of knowledge
- The politics of participation in dance
- Dance and the politics of identity
- Dance and the politics of representation
- Constructing hegemonies through dance
- Dance, hegemonies, and minorities

Theme 2 – Dance and Age

The concept of age here is understood both as a social construct, rooted in varied systems of values, as well as a biological "fact." Age is therefore seen as fluid and dynamic, as a state of becoming, often linked to discourses on the body.

Presentations may be on themes such as:

- Dance and the aging body
- Age, dance, and the presentation of the self
- Expectations, standards, limitations, canonisation etc. in dance cultures regarding different age groups
- The relationship between particular age groups in local dance cultures
- The changing of dance skills, dance knowledge, and dance “spirit” throughout a dancer’s life
- The transmission of dance knowledge between generations
- Dance fashions and their associated etiquette across generations
- The relationship between age groups and different dance groups (revival scenes, dance-houses etc.)
- The relationship between the researcher’s age group and the researched age group

Within the two thematic blocks, the conference papers are presented in the order of utterance at the conference.

The sub-topics indicated above or the panels of the conference could not be taken into consideration because not all speakers submitted their texts, and there were panels with only one text in our volume. At the same time, the volume is also a kind of report, so our goal is to give an authentic picture of the conference, so we have included a detailed program as well.

The volume also includes a photo appendix of moments during the 30th Symposium, which can be found at the end of the book along with the short biographies of all conference participants.

The Editors