

**34th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Ethnochoreology
Trikala, Greece – 20-27 July 2026**

Programme (provisional)

NB. The program is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the organisers' control. Thank you for your understanding

Monday 20th July

9.00 Registration

10.30 - 11.00 **Welcome**

11.00 - 11.30 **Introduction Theme “Dance, Humour and play”**

11.30 - 12.40 **Panel “The cultural politics of humour in european calendrical dance traditions: Changes in scopic frameworks and audience dynamics”:** **Theresa Buckland, Corina Iosif & Csilla Kőnczei**

Lunch Break

13.45 - 15.30 **Carnival practices**

Zoi Margari - Playfulness, humour, laughter, and embodied transgressions: The performative dynamics of carnival dance *dromena* in Kozani, Greece

Tomaž Simetinger - When death knocks at the dance floor: Ritual conflict and comic play in a Carso carnival

Eleni Filippidou - Dance, humour and identity in the *Bey* ritual of Thrace

Apostolos Samaras - Revisiting a discontinued dance ritual: The *roimana* dance and the performative memory of community in Stavros (Karditsa)

Anastasia Fylaktakidou - Humour, play, and dance as embodied practices: The example of the *kamouzelēs* and *syrmata* customs in Spoa, Karpathos

Break

16.00 - 17.05 **Humour, resistance, subversiveness and play: Examining power relations in dance in three continents**

Ann David - ‘You old fool!’ Humour, entertainment and anarchy in British folk dance

Pratibha - Aesthetic, agency and defiance: Women and humour in *haryanvi* dance

Pangiota Nikolopoulou & Maria Koutsouba - The playful body: Contact improvisation as embodied resistance

17.05 - 17.30 **General discussion**

Evening: Opening ceremony

Tuesday 21st July

9.30 - 11.00 **Panel “Divergencies and contrasts: Intersections of play, movement patterns and gender”**: Siri Mæland, Karin Eriksson, Sigurd Johan Heide & Stian Roland

Break

11.30 - 12.35 **Joys and playfulness of collective dance**

Marie-Pierre Gibert - Playing in the dance, playing with the dance

Berna Kurt - “New” *halays*: Improvisation and playfulness in a collective body

Aso Naderi - Experiencing collective joy in *halparki*: A video-based micro-ethnographic perspective

Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.35 **Teaching, humour and play**

Daniela Ivanova-Nyberg - Where is the humour? Observations on Folk Dance practices of Bulgarian diasporic communities in the United States and Canada

Vasiliki Bekou - The role of humour and play as teaching tools in dance: the case of a Greek traditional dance lesson

Judy Olson - “You Can’t Dance if You’re Sitting Down.” Manny Halper’s career as dance teacher at Catskill Resorts in the mid-20th century

14.35 - 15.00 **General discussion**

Break

15.30 - 16.30 **Business Meeting – Introducing our history - a panel**

16.45 - 18.45 **Business Meeting – Part I**

Evening – Greek dance

Wednesday 22nd July

9.30 - 10.40 **Panel “From field to stage. Humour as a performance and/or a tool for participation”**: Daniela Stavělová, Kateřina Drtinová & Dorota Gremlicová

10.40 - 11.45 **Field and stage**

Rebeka Kunej - From spontaneous laughter to staged satire: Humour as a performative tool in folklore ensemble performances

Vesna Bajić Stojiljković - Planning humour through music, dance and play in the structure of the Folk Dance Choreography (FDC)

Kendra Stepputat & Beatriz Herrera Corrado - Are we here to be serious? Transgressions and humour in dance (research)

Break

12.15 - 13.20 **Media Mirth: Intra- and cross-cultural interpretations of humour in screen dance**

Jeanette Mollenhauer - Irish dance made sexy? Choreographic parody in Australian TV's Kath & Kim

Lucie Hayashi - Viral Moves: Cross-Cultural Perceptions on Humour in Social Media Dance

Mehmet Öcal Özbilgin - Elements of humour for gender in traditional dance environment and their reconstruction in electronic culture

Lunch Break

14.15 - 15.00 **Dance, humour and gender**

Elina Seye - Male dancers playing with gender and sexuality in Senegal

Şafak Hasan Kahraman - Dancing with gender: Offensive humour from Anatolian local to urban Drag culture

15.00 - 15.20 **General discussion**

Break

15.50 -18.00 **Sub-study groups' meetings**

Evening – Greek traditional dance

Thursday 23rd July

9.30 - 10.55 **Dancers' challenge, irony and self-mockery**

Simona D'Agostino - Rhythms of play: Humour and competition in Sicilian dances

Placida Staro - Loving * through dancing: laughing at oneself and the world. "Have you ever seen a goat builder working alongside a wolf as his labourer?" (Monghidoro – line from the dance *Manfrina*)

Anastasija Živković - Expressing humour in dance: The case of *gajde oro* in southern Serbia

Konstantinos Dimopoulos - Self-mockery, acting and humour in dance: The case of the dance *arapikos* in the island of Leros, Greece

Break

11.25 - 12.30 **Humour and material culture**

Tanya Merchant - Contemplating 'The Favor of the Rubber Chicken': Humour and playfulness at North American barn dances

Stephanie Marbach - The dancefloor as a communal playground and sanctuary at psychedelic trance tribal gatherings

Anja Verderber - Dancing around the wooden prison: Play, humour, and social release at Slovenian *Veselice*

Excursion to Meteora and Lake Plastiras.

Friday 24th July

9.30 - 10.40 **Panel “Games, dance, and meaning across contexts”**: Egil Bakka, Maj Vester Larsen & Gediminas Karoblis

Break

11.10 - 11.40 **Introduction Theme “Dance, Migration and Memory”**

11.40 - 12.50 = **Panel “Dealing with dislocation through dance: confronting uprootness in diasporic communities”**: Georgiana Gore, Krystel Khoury & Natasa Chanta Martin

Lunch Break

13.45 - 14.50 **Historic migration and (imagined) nostalgia**

Miloš Rašić & Katarina Nikolić - Intersections of embodied remembering and imagined Nostalgia: Case Studies of Serbian Diasporic Communities in Austria and Hungary

Spyros Pratilas & Nick Poulakis - Choreographing the opposite shore: Embodied and reimagined memories through collective dance performances of contemporary Asia Minor refugee associations

Shibinu S. & Anees Ahamed EK - Echoes of Absence Beyond Borders: *Kolkkali, kathu pattu*, and the Memory of Kerala Migration

14.50 - 15.55 **Dancing to resist**

Rebecca Armstrong - Ballet beyond barricades: Dance and identity politics during wartime at the United Ukrainian Ballet

Maria Sivkova - Dancing resistance: The politics of improvisation and group unison in folk dance (Exemplified by Folk Movements in Russia and Ukraine)

Nikola Petrović - “But, didn’t we swear to you, Comrade Tito?”: Living, carrying, and rejecting ‘Jugoslavija’ through dance and memory in Heilbronn’s (Post-)Yugoslav traditional folk dance ensemble(s)

Break

16.25 - 17.00 **General discussion**

17.00 - 18.30 **Ethnochoreology Matters**

Evening – Greek rebetiko dance

Saturday 25th July

9.30 - 10.55 **Researcher-practitioners of migrant dance repertoire**

Kristina Luna Dolinina - Embodied departures in *kathak*: Diaspora, identity, and the performative body

Allison Singer - Carrying my mothers' dances and songs

Giorgos Fountzoulas - Re-vitalizing a migrant dance repertoire: Greek-Assyrian cultural memory and transmission in contemporary Athens

Chariton Charitonidis - "Translating" a migrant dance repertoire: the case of staging Albanian dances by Greek performers in Athens (Greece)

Break

11.25 - 12.50 **Communities of practice in diasporic and translocal settings**

Catherine Foley - Embodying home: Popular dancing, cultural memory and identity within an Irish diasporic community in London

Orfhlaith NÍ Bhriain - From the Hill of Tara to the shadows of Schloss Nanstein, a case study of the Sweeney Irish Dance Academy teaching reels in the Rhineland Palatinate

Pat Ballantyne - Translocal dance: a one-way (em)migration?

Magdalena Maria Wolf - Negotiating transmission: The migration of movement, sound, and (embodied) knowledge in international folk dance

Lunch Break

14.00 - 15.25 **Negotiating identities through embodied practices**

Fahriye Dinçer - Dancing between continents: Embodiment and dual heritage in Afro-Turk identity

Anna Varausová - Embodied Tradition: Negotiation of identity through Dance in the Brno Region

Liz Mellish & Nick Green - Dancing, memory, and identity: a case study of dances in two Romanian/Bulgarian villages and their people who moved through empires, immigration, and expulsion

Mridupankhi Rajkumari - When the sacred moves: Journey of *sattriya* dance across spaces

15.25 -15.45 **Poster presentation: Christina Karapanou** - Memory dance and intelligible heritage: the case of Syrrako, Ioannina; **Özlem Bozdemir** - Cultural dance memory carried by migration: The example of Ceyda Tanc

Break

16.15 - 17.45 **Panel "Moving Beyond Borders: Dance, Dis/Placement and Cultural Memories in the Global Chinese Communities": Chi-Fang Chao, Yanru Liu, LiLi Wen, Shan Cao & Canling Huang**

17.45 -18.15 **General discussion**

Evening – World dance

Sunday 26th July

9.30 - 11.00 **Panel “Dancing Diasporas: (Re)Constructing social and mnemonic cultural Spaces through folk dance in migrant settings”**: Christos Papakostas, Andriy Nahachewsky, Aikaterini Vasilaki & Aristoula Toli

11.00 - 11.20 **Film presentation**: Silas Michalakas, Rena Loutzaki, Nick Poulakis - *Cretan Syrtos. Traditions & Narrations*

Break

11.50 - 12.55 **Networks and dance Festivals in diaspora**

Sharon Adair Benitez - Embodied Belonging and the Encuentro Folklórico Mexicano: Mexican Folk Dance, Comunidad, and Transnational Solidaridad in the UK and Europe

Joško Čaleta & Iva Niemčić - The Lastovo carnival in Australia: Continuity of identity and transformation of tradition in a diasporic context

Alexandra Apostolaki & Zoe Panagi - The role of judges and communities of practice in shaping cultural identity and memory in the diaspora: The case of the Hellenic Dance Festival (HDF)

Lunch Break

14.00 - 15.05 **From projects to action**

Sinibaldo De Rosa - Decolonising memory: Researching and countering Bristol's memory of enslavement through dance

Deborah Williams - On the Move: Migration, Memory, and Dance Stories

Natacha Muriel López Gallucci - From *candombe* to *tango*: Embodied archives of migration and resistance in Afro-Latin America

15.05 - 16.10 **Archives and historical sources on dance and mobilities**

Debanjali Biswas - An interrogation of archives: remapping itinerant performers on transnational journeys

Sevi Bayraktar - Embodied archives of migration: Folk dance, memory, and resistance in Turkish diasporic stage in Germany (1960s–1980s)

Steriani Tsintziloni & Katerina Diakomopoulou - Dancing Greek identities in the diaspora: Greek american dance events as performances of kinesthetic memory and communal identity

Break

16.40 - 17.00 **General discussion**

17.00 - 19.00 **Business Meeting - Part II**

Evening – Film: Silas Michalakas, Loukas Koubouris, Andreas Anastasiades, *Cretan Syrtos. Traditions & Narrations* (2025, 54 min)

Monday 27th July

9.30 - 10.55 **Embodied migration**

Urmimala Sarkar - Migrant corporealities: Embodied regional representations in the Delhi dance ecology

Sándor Varga - Migration of movements: case studies from the Alpine-Carpathian Region.

Şahin Yıldız - Digital migration and artificial recreation of traditional dance memory

Srijaa Kundu - The dancing body need not always to be dancing: Autoethnographic notes on embodiment, migration and integration

Break

11.25 – 12.35 **Panel “The migration of the motion. An experimental comparative research among Greek and Hungarian ethnic Groups”**: László Felföldi, Athina Androulidaki & Henrik Kovács

Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.45 **Summary Theme “Dance, Humour and Play”**

14.45 - 16.00 **Summary Theme “Dance, Migration and Memory”**

16.00 - 16.30 **General conclusion**

Evening – Closing ceremony (Music and Dance Feast)