

34th Symposium of the ICTMD Study Group on Ethnochoreology

Trikala, Greece – 20-27 July 2026

Programme

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

Monday 20th July

9.00-12.00 Registration

14.00 - 14.30 **Welcome**

14.30 - 14.45 **Introduction Theme “Dance, Humour and play”**

14.45 - 15.45 **Panel “The cultural politics of humour in European calendrical dance traditions: Changes in scopic frameworks and audience dynamics”:** Theresa Buckland, Corina Iosif & Csilla Kőnczei

Break

16.15 - 17.20 **Carnival practices** (*Organised session*)

Chair: Georgiana Gore

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

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)

19.30 Opening ceremony

Tuesday 21st July

9.30 - 10.30 **Teaching, humour and play**

Chair: Jeanette Mollenhauer

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

Break

11.00 - 12.05 **Humour, resistance, subversiveness and play: Examining power relations in dance in three continents** (*Organised session*)

Chair: Colin Quigley

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

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

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

12.05 - 11.10 **Joy and playfulness of dance**

Chair: Rebeka Kunej

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

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

Lunch Break

13.45 - 14.45 **Business Meeting – Introducing our history - a panel**

14.45 - 17.00 **Business Meeting – Part I**

20.00 Greek traditional dance workshop

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

Break

11.10 - 12.30 **Field and stage**

Chair: Fahriye Dinçer

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)

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

Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.35 **Media Mirth: Intra- and cross-cultural interpretations of humour in screen dance (Organised session)**

Chair: Kendra Stepputat

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

14.35 – 15.00 **General discussion**

Break

15.30 -17.30 **Sub-study groups’ meetings**

21.00 Greek traditional dance performance and Participatory dance event

Thursday 23rd July

9.30 - 10.30 **Challenges and self-mockery**

Chair: Daniela Stavělová

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

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

10.30 - 11.10 **Building emotions and local relationships through dance**

Chair: Egil Bakka

Asou Naderibagehjan - Experiencing collective joy in *halparki*: A video-based micro-ethnographic perspective

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*)

Break

12.10 - 13.15 **Dance, humor, and material culture: How objects help us get the joke**

Chair: Chi-Fang Chao

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

Stephanie SK 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*

Lunch Break

15.00 **Excursion to Meteora and Lake Plastiras**

Friday 24th July

9.30 - 10.30 **Panel "Games, dance, and meaning across contexts":** Egil Bakka, Maj Vester Larsen & Gediminas Karoblis

Break

11.00 - 11.15 **Introduction Theme "Dance, Migration and Memory"**

11.15 - 12.25 **Panel "Dealing with dislocation through dance: confronting uprootness in diasporic communities":** Georgiana Gore, Krystel Khoury & Natasa Chanta Martin

Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.30 **Historic migration and (imagined) nostalgia**

Chair: Gediminas Karoblis

Miloš Rašić & Katarina Nikolić - Intersections of embodied remembering and imagined Nostalgia: Case studies of Serbian diasporic communities in Austria and Hungary

Spyros Prtilas & 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

Break

15.00 - 15.40 **Dancing to resist**

Chair: Urmimala Sarkar

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 'Jugoslaviya' through dance and memory in Heilbronn's (Post-)Yugoslav traditional folk dance ensemble(s)

15.40 - 16.00 **General discussion**

16.00 - 18.00 **Ethnochoreology Matters**

21.00 Greek rebetiko music concert and dance

Saturday 25th July

9.30 - 10.50 **Researcher-practitioners of migrant dance repertoire**

Chair: Ann R. David

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

11.20 - 12.45 **Communities of practice in diasporic and translocal settings** (*Organised session*)

Chair: Deborah Williams

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

Patricia 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** (*Organised session*)

Chair: Elina Seye

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:**

Chair: Catherine Foley

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**

20.00 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 Syrto. Traditions & Narrations*

Break

11.50 - 12.30 **Networks and dance Festivals in diaspora**

Chair: Daniela Ivanova-Nyberg

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)

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

Lunch Break

13.30 - 14.50 **Projects, archives and historical sources on dance and mobilities**

Chair: Liz Mellish

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

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

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

Break

15.20 - 16.00 **General discussion**

16.00 - 18.30 **Business Meeting - Part II**

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

Monday 27th July

9.30 - 10.30 **Embodied migration**

Chair: Theresa Buckland

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

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

11.00 – 12.10 **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**

21.00 Closing ceremony (Music and Dance Feast)