

**Report of the Sub-Study Group on Dance, Gender and Power Relations:
August 2018 – July 2020**

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The idea of a *Sub-Study Group on Dance, Gender and Power Relations* was born at the ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology 30th Symposium in Szeged in August 2018 at a meeting of about 15 people. It was agreed upon that Linnea Helmersson and Cornelia Gruber will co-chair the group.

After formally proposing the formation of the S-SG in October 2018 including a list of 22 interested members, the chair, co-chair and the secretary of the SG on Ethnochoreology asked us to reconsider the name of the S-SG. Consequently, in November and December 2018, the discussion via e-mail about the name of the group in general and about the concept of gender in particular became our first activity. The group agreed that the term gender *must* be part of the name. This discussion led to the reformulation of the *Sub-Study Group on Dance, Gender and Power Relations* aim:

"The aim of the Sub-Study Group is to theorize gender and power relations within our various research projects in ethnochoreology and dance anthropology. Gender makes up one of the most significant parameters in differentiating body movements as well as in the construction of society at large. We understand gender as inherently intersectional with other systems of power, and normative differentiating categories such as sexualities, race, class, religion, ability and age. Our intention is to connect scholars who share the passion to critically engage with and conceptualize gender and its implications and construction within the context of dancing and structured movement systems. As we recognize gender to be a historically situated, contextual, relational, inherently interdependent, and fluid issue, we hope to engage in rigorous discussions concerning our respective research projects and suggested readings in our group. We particularly intend to not only participate in our reflections within the circle of the Sub-Study Group, but to bring our concerns to greater attention within the Study Group on Ethnochoreology as a whole."

With the deadline for the call for papers for the ICTM Study Group on Ethnochoreology 31st Symposium in Klaipėda approaching, throughout October 2019 Linnea and Cornelia moderated the online organization of joint panels on gender topics for both themes (Dance and Economy & Dance Transmission) of the symposium. These discussions about various options resulted in three panel proposals with gender themed topics, which were all accepted:

- "Dance as Gendered Labor. Questions of Professionalism, Acknowledgement, and Remuneration" - "Gender Roles and Power Dynamics in American Social Dances" - "Thinking Through Gender in the Transmission of Traditional Dance"

In 2019 we had also been looking for a suitable internet platform to host discussions, upload selected articles and view films together. The search has so far been without satisfactory results, either due to regular costs, or due to issues with privacy policies of for-profit companies. We are currently looking into the option to use a moodle-based platform on a University's server.

Currently the group consists of 27 members.