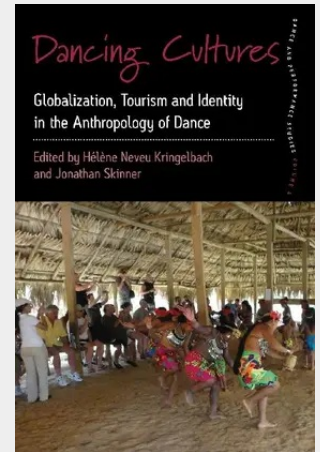


Dancing Cultures

Globalization, Tourism and Identity in the Anthropology of Dance

Dance is more than an aesthetic of life – dance embodies life. This is evident from the social history of jive, the marketing of trans-national ballet, ritual healing dances in Italy or folk dances performed for tourists in Mexico, Panama and Canada. Dance often captures those essential dimensions of social life that cannot be easily put into words. What are the flows and movements of dance carried by migrants and tourists? How is dance used to shape nationalist ideology? What are the connections between dance and ethnicity, gender, health, globalization and nationalism, capitalism and post-colonialism? Through innovative and wide-ranging case studies, the contributors explore the central role dance plays in culture as leisure commodity, cultural heritage, cultural aesthetic or cathartic social movement.

This volume introduces the reader to the anthropology of dance with a comprehensive introduction followed by a set of innovative and wide-ranging case studies. The introduction provides a very comprehensive review of the anthropology of dance since the early 20th century. This is the first volume of its kind since Paul Spencer's 1985 'Society and the Dance' (other edited dance volumes have focused on staged dance, or dance in the city, or methodological issues). The contributors to this volume suggest that dance is more than an aesthetic of life: dance embodies social life. The chapters contain rich ethnographic material, and taken together, they demonstrate that a focus on dance provides insights into cultural transformation not easily accessible through verbal sources alone. This volume features material exploring connections between dance and ethnicity, globalization and nationalism; gender, health, capitalism and post-colonialism. There is a very broad coverage in terms of world regions (America, Europe, Africa, Asia) and dance genres.



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