

Kendra Stepputat

Interrelations in tango Music and Dance - Exploring Structural and Social Dimensions of a Cosmopolitan Genre

Abstract of the talk presented at the research group *Modern Moves: Kinetic Transnationalism and Afro-Diasporic Rhythm Cultures* (Department of English, King's College London, February 2016)

Tango argentino is known for three things: music, dance, and lyrics. The three elements form and shape the genre, yet for tango practitioners on an international level, dance and music are the most important factors. The relation between music and dance is what has shaped the genre over the last century - music influencing the movement repertoire and dance influencing the sounds. Of course, music and dance are also both constrained and fostered by social conventions. At the current state of development, tango argentino must be considered an internationally practiced, mostly cosmopolitan genre, formed by the close dependence and intermingling of social, musical and choreological factors. In order to understand the historical development as well as the current state of the genre, it is inevitable to look at the three factors combined.