

Exploring *Connections* and horizons in dance

Explorando *Conexões* e horizontes na dança

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Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present the second issue of *Revista Estú(i)os de Dança!*

In this edition, we are launching the “*Conexões*” section, which focuses on publishing valuable materials for Dance Studies in various formats, such as interview transcriptions, biographical texts, testimonials, and portfolios from and with prominent dancers, choreographers, and other dance professionals.

We extend special thanks to Sílvia Pinto Coelho, who debuts the *Connections* section by sharing with us an interview with the American choreographer Cathy Weis. The interview was conducted during the author’s time in New York in 2022 and allows us, in a way, to connect with the relationship established at the moment of that encounter.

When we think about the word “connection” and its meaning – with the very act of thinking already understood as a process of connection, the establishment of synapses – we feel a desire to broaden our perspective on the act of connecting. This perspective extends beyond human connections with other people, things, ideas, and places over time. It also encompasses the diverse applications of the term across biological, political, biomechanical, technological, psychological, economic, artistic, cultural, and social dimensions.

For instance, in computing, “connections” refers to various forms of linking between systems, devices, networks, data, and even people. These connections function like signal waves traveling through the air or via wires and cables, interlinking equipment and programs, thereby helping to solve problems and improve human life (OpenAI, 2024). From another perspective, Vernyuy (2024) notes that technological advances have a dual nature, which can both enhance and hinder human well-being. As this connectivity can pose risks to mental health and social relationships, Vernyuy (2024) emphasizes the importance of considering socio-cultural, economic, and environmental aspects to understand

the impact of technological advances on human existence.

According to Ledbetter (2017), advancements in communication technology provide opportunities for interpersonal interaction. Technology has become increasingly fast, mobile, and powerful, reshaping our perceptions of time and space. Connecting this to our thinking: If information is transmitted more quickly, theoretically, connections between computers, files, or even people should facilitate our daily lives. Do we now have more time to establish other types of connections? New connections? Or do the connections we establish manifest in different ways? Transformations like existing connections.

Ledbetter (2017) argues that developments in communication technology influence interpersonal processes in at least four ways: 1) they introduce the choice of means as a relevant issue in interpersonal relationships; 2) they offer new opportunities to initiate relationships and shape how these encounters occur through the structural characteristics of the means; 3) they alter the practices people use to maintain interpersonal relationships; and 4) they make interpersonal networks more visible by preserving their continuity over time.

We also find these characteristics in the pursuit of connectivity between people and structured knowledge supported by the sections of articles, themes, and connections in RED. Increasing the size and diversity of the knowledge network contributes, in our view, to transforming the nature of existing connections.

Continuing our commitment to the dissemination of academic articles, this edition features Original Articles by the renowned scholar Susan Leigh Foster, proposing the embrace of multiple and diverse forms of political activism to challenge and correct hegemonic forms of domination through resistance building and relationship development. Additionally, we present an article by Portuguese authors Inês Zinho Pinheiro and Madalena Xavier, who describe and interpret movement exploration experiences to understand the sense of 'group belonging,' and researcher Ana Vitória Freire, who examines the processes of subjectivization in contemporary subjects, discussing the achievements of the female body in the field of performing arts. Montserrat Iranzo-Domingo and Margarida Moura share with us the narrative analysis method, according to Walker and Avant, with an exploratory approach to literature to analyze the concept of Social Dance. Finally, Eva Azevedo's article presents elements that characterize the use of trance state as a source of creative inspiration in Benin.

We extend our gratitude to all authors, reviewers, regular readers, and new readers, and we hope that this connection remains and strengthens in our future editions!

References

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