



Memoria Saltationis: The Memory of Dance - 5 June 2020

Memorising social changes through the body: dance in China over the past 20 years

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This paper will explore how dance knowledge in China has changed over the past 20 years. From preferred dance costumes to modes of learning, these developments reflect social changes in China resulting from globalisation and rapid economic development. A range of cases will be examined, including the popularity of jazz, cosplay and K-pop, hiphop dance in China, how academy-trained professional dancers have pursued more modern dance expression in dance competitions, the growing popularity of dance video production and the consumption of such videos on mobile phones, the acceptance by younger audiences of more feminised performances by male dancers, and how generational differences in aesthetic tastes regarding dance have been widened by the rapid pace of change. These trends will be discussed in relation to the body; sexuality; gender; dance and media; and dance and intergeneration memories.