

Music, dance, and social structures in the tango argentino scene between North-Eastern Italy and Buenos Aires

After sinking into oblivion for two decades, at the turn of the 1990s tango argentino experienced a new revival. This was promoted internationally by a growing number of learning and dancing facilities. From that point onwards, tango argentino developed as a transnational scene, and soon it became a consolidated and professionalized phenomenon with its own dynamics. Many Argentinian dancers and teachers seized the opportunity offered by this new market and decided to work abroad. In Europe, Italy rapidly established a strong working relationship with Buenos Aires. Reasons for that were among others privileging diplomatic ties between the two countries, united by a significant period of shared history at the turn of the twentieth century.

Today, the consolidated tango argentino relationship between Italy and Buenos Aires allows a continuous exchange in terms of music, dance, and social structures that ultimately shape the whole genre. How this phenomenon actuates and functions will be the topic of my Ph.D. project exposed in this presentation. My aim is to shed light on tango argentino as a whole (music, dance, social aspects), and how it is handled between the big urban center of Buenos Aires and small centers concentrated in one area in North-Eastern Italy. On a more general level, my goal is to present tango argentino as a transnational phenomenon on the example of the strong relationship between Buenos Aires and Italy. Ultimately, this research can give insights on how a music and dance genre lives in exchange, what is the social interaction and its consequences.