

Candidate: Mattia Scassellati
Supervisors: Sarah Weiss (KUG), André Doehring (KUG),
Enrique Cámara de Landa (Univ. de Valladolid)
Special supervisor: Kendra Stepputat (KUG)
Doctoral forum, Jan. 2020, 1st presentation

Music, dance, and social structures in the tango argentino
~~network between~~ Eastern Italy ~~and Buenos Aires~~ ~~until today~~

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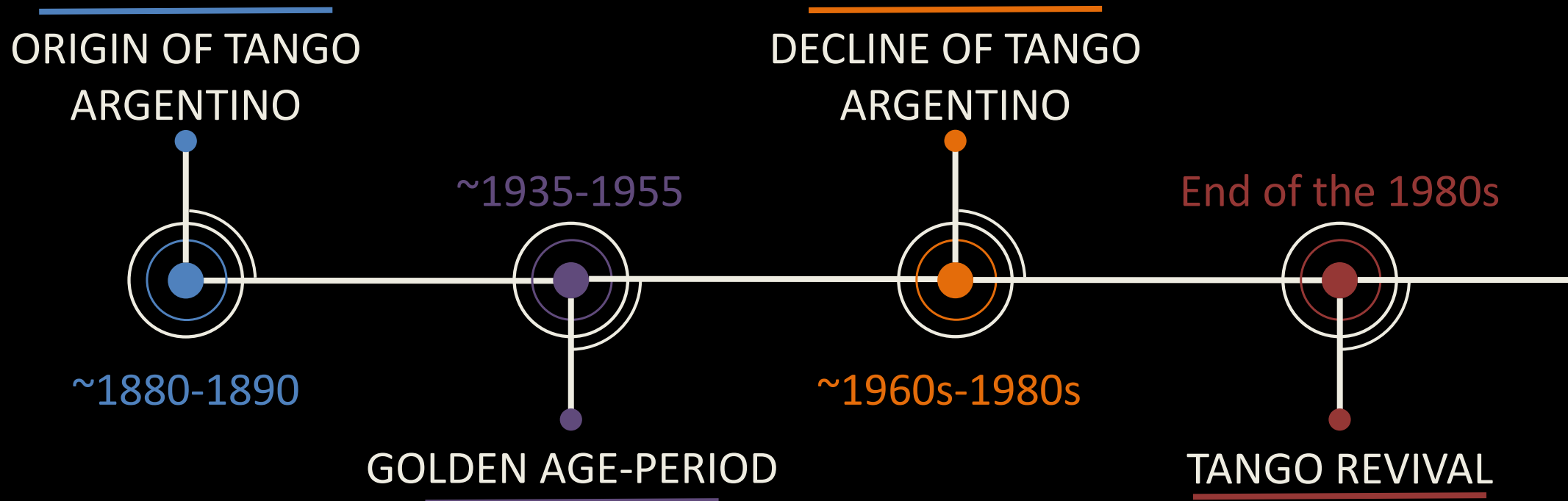
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Content

- Tango argentino:
 - historical overview
 - after the revival vs. now
- PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

Tango argentino: historical overview

Tango argentino during the 20th century:



Tango argentino: historical overview

Tango argentino from the 1990s until today:



Tango argentino: after the revival vs. now

Consequences of the tango revival and actual situation:

- ~~Survival~~ **Survival** of number of local learning and dancing facilities
- ~~Lack of cooperation~~ **Lack of cooperation** among local communities
- ~~Unregulated financial and political~~ **Unregulated financial and political**
- ~~Survival~~ **Survival** of pedagogical and stylistic approaches
- Promotion of ~~live music ensembles~~ **live music ensembles** and key individuals

Tango argentino: after the revival vs. now

Beginning of the exchange between North-Eastern Italy and Buenos Aires:

«In 1994 we went to Buenos Aires for the first time and we met Esteban Moreno. There we understood that until then we had not learned to dance social tango. With him we listened more to the music, got to know the old *milongueros* [...]. We called him every four months. And this Bologna-Buenos Aires exchange was created»

(A. Di Luzio, personal communication, 2019)

Tango argentino: after the revival vs. now

Homologation vs. originality in dance:

«Originality was very important, not to imitate a style. It struck us that many dancers wanted to differentiate themselves, always respecting the codes. Unfortunately, when the [dancing] categories were invented (*milonguero, nuevo* etc.) many have reduced themselves to copying; **a homologated form. Today it is important because you are looking for stylistic perfection, before there was more personality**»

(A. Di Luzio, personal communication, 2019)

PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

Research question:

How does the tango argentino network between North-Eastern Italy and Buenos Aires actuate and function?

Objects of study:

- Social structures (people/institutions, politics, financing, organization)
- Dance (transmission and practice of tango)
- Music (role of live music and new orchestras)

PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

Current state of research:

- Little consideration of present aspects and mechanisms in tango argentino
- Main focus:
 - Social aspects of tango scenes in metropolitan centres
 - National identity
 - Gender dichotomy
- Social aspects of dance and music generally unnoticed

PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

Methodology:

- Participant observation
- Interviewing
- Grounded theory (GT) approach
- Actor-network theory (ANT)

PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

- Temporal frame:
 - Actual tango argentino network (synchronic)
- Research field:
 - Buenos Aires
 - North-Eastern Italy



PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

Academic relevance and goals:

- Consideration of tango as a whole (music, dance, social structures)
- Study of tango in a big urban center and in small centers concentrated in one area
- Illustration of a music and dance phenomenon in translocal exchange (social interaction and consequences)

PhD project: Tango between Italy-Buenos Aires

What I have done so far:

- Literature research
- Improving dancing ability
- Networking
- Preliminary fieldwork in Italy (May 2019)
- Analyzing interview material

Further steps:

- Conceptual (re)defining
- Attendance of a tango music seminar in Buenos Aires (Feb. 2020)
- Fieldwork in Italy (Spring-Summer 2020)
- Fieldwork in Buenos Aires (Fall-Winter 2020)

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