

**“Normalization” of Gender Expression in Greek Traditional Dance.
Perceptions of Adult Dancers.**

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Abstract

The position of the female gender in the Greek traditional dance has been degraded in relation to that of the male. The woman has not been able to improvise; instead, she has been giving more weight to her dance expression in contrast with the man who has been enjoying greater freedom of movement. Stereotypical representations of, discrimination and prejudices against both sexes continue to be unconsciously reproduced by individuals themselves many times. Situations, practices are biologicalized based on the individual's biological sex. The present paper examines adult dancers' perceptions of gender choices and practices followed in Greek traditional dance. Questionnaires and vignettes were used as a means of data collection, which were given to 100 adults. The results of the research show that the individuals of the sample choose this preoccupation - that is, traditional dance - which contains gender characteristics thus contributing to forming and enhancing their gender identity during its implementation. According to the sample, women and men are represented in a way that refers to traditional models that consider such representation as part of “normality”.

Keywords: gender, traditional dance, stereotypes, gender representations