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Configuration and Negotiation of the Dancing Identity of the Greeks of Pontos

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Abstract

The aim of this study is the investigation of the way of configuring the common dancing identity of Pontians and its presence during the performances of their dancing groups in official events of Pontic associations. The data was collected with the method of participative observation mainly from the follow-up and recording of three annual events of Pontians with Pan-Hellenic scope for two possessed years, 2000 and 2001. As a result, the dancing repertoire of Pontic groups is extended, in comparison to the past, and constitutes by dances from the whole region of Pontos. This fact is illustrated on the performances too, where there is not given emphasis to a specific region. The repertoire functions as “conceivable topography” that contributes in the incorporation of members in the team and in the acquaintance with the homeland. Moreover, the preference in dances with great symbolic value, specifically in Serra, in combination with the accompanying words that frame the performances, and the relative with the Pontic dances bibliographic sources; help us comprehend the events as places of negotiation of the common dancing identity of the team and its’ claims presence at and throughout the dance.

Key-words: folklorism, revival, homogenization, “dancing identity”, Pontic groups, rhetoric, negotiation