

Titel des Forschungsprojekts

(E) Dancing Together: An analysis of entrainment and subjectivity in William Forsythe's choreography *Duo*

(D) Mit-(einander) Tanzen: 'Entrainment' und Subjektivität in William Forsythes Choreographie *Duo*

(F) Danser ensemble: Une analyse d' 'entrainement' et de subjectivité dans la chorégraphie *Duo* de William Forsythe

Lead

What is at-stake in dancing together? The challenge to articulate what has been unspoken, invisible and disregarded between dancing partners brings together Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner, University of Bern, Prof. Dr. Priska Gisler, University of the Arts Bern, with dancer Elizabeth Waterhouse, a former member of The Forsythe Company and current Doctoral student at the Graduate School of the Arts in Bern. Taking the rhythmical coordination within and between *Duos* as its research material, this project views the interaction of dancers as a valuable microcosm.

Inhalt und Ziel des Forschungsprojekts

The proposed research project takes as its focus the work of choreographer William Forsythe, an important and controversial choreographer in the field of European contemporary dance. The project centers on the example of W. Forsythe's choreography *Duo*. This duet was created in 1996 for the Ballet Frankfurt and was revised in 2015 for the *Life In Progress Tour* of Sylvie Guillem. Performed by either two female or two male partners, the duet involves virtuosic shifts between synchronous and asynchronous movements, without touch or narrative. The dancers time their actions by breathing audibly, performing what they have described as a shared conversation or song. These sounds are enfolded by a sparse sound score for piano and electro-acoustics by composer Thom Willems. The research team seeks to understand *Duo* from the perspective of the performers: how synchronization is produced and shared between dancers, and ultimately how Forsythe's choreographic process of *Duo* shapes the dancers' subjectivity. To determine this, E. Waterhouse will study live performances and rehearsals of *Duo*, archival videos of *Duo* performances, archival videos of rehearsals, and interviews made during the project with the performers, composer and the choreographer.

Wissenschaftlicher und gesellschaftlicher Kontext

The research design combines methods from dance studies and sociology, with entrainment, the study of synchronization in the natural and biological sciences. The concept of entrainment is still new within the humanities. Reflecting this, this project aims to contextualize the concept of entrainment within the humanities and to ascertain how a case study based research of virtuosic entrainment, such as the choreography of *Duo*, may be fruitful both for the advancement of entrainment and dance studies.

Keywords: contemporary dance, choreography, William Forsythe, performance, duet, Duo, entrainment, subjectivity

07 June 2016