

## Abstract

### **Body and World in German Dance. A study of the historical significance of Sigurd Leeder (working title)**

With his international career as a dancer, choreographer, dance researcher, teacher and stagedirector Sigurd Leeder has left a decisive mark on the Ausdruckstanz (German Dance) and is certainly one of its most important agents. His heritage has been bequeathed to the Swiss Dance Archive (*Schweizer Tanzarchiv STA*) by Gerte Müller in 2010. These documents have now been captured and classified and thus they have become accessible to research for the very first time. In my doctoral thesis I will concentrate on the evaluation of this heritage in terms of dance history. The research material is both vast and very diverse as it consists of more than 8000 photographs, correspondences with more than 300 people, dance notations and video recordings. This great diversity calls for an interdisciplinary approach. I will take up this approach by outlining the peculiar understanding of *body* and *world* that is characteristic of the age of modernity. It is thus my aim to find a perspective on the nexus between Ausdruckstanz and a modern understanding of the body and to thereby stress the importance of Ausdruckstanz in the texture of history. This thesis will be a contribution to dance history as it analyses the symptomatic significance of the often neglected Ausdruckstanz- movement for the twentieth century.

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