

Abstract

Dabke as a cultural tool within the Palestinian Latin-America diaspora

My proposal kernels around the importance of the Dabke dance in the construction of the Palestinian identity within the context of Latin American diaspora, paying special attention to the particular cases of Argentina, Chile and Colombia. Deploying an ethnographic methodology, I analyse the development of the notion of "Palestinity" among the new generations of the Palestinian diaspora explaining their re-connection with their Palestinian roots using the body as a collective project. I rely on a hybrid methodology grounded in the works of Maurice Merleau-Ponty and his notion of "intertwining", Donna Haraway's idea of "situated knowledge", the notion of "incarnation" developed by Rodrigo Karmy and in the thought of Lina Meruane toward the idea of "becoming Palestinian". I will debate how the new generations of Palestinians born in Latin America use the Dabke as a central element in the cultural processes that help them to re-connect with their Palestinian roots. I will focus on the use of bodily parts such as the hands and the feet as elements of both unity and complementarity between the dancers and their contexts.

Keywords: Palestinian diaspora, dabke, Latin-America