



organizes the

First International Conference in Italy on Tango Studies

***The Tango “un cacho de vida que se baila” (El Chino Perico)
Histories, cultures, socialities, ethnographies, perspectives***

Rome, November 20-22, 2025



Artwork by Argentine artist and milonguero Julián Althabe (1947-2024), courtesy of the family

Conception and organization

Ornella Di Tondo, Francesca Falcone, Natalia Gozzano, Noretta Nori

Official languages

Italian, Spanish, French, English

We like to summarise the essence of tango in the words of Osvaldo Natucci, the great scholar, historian, teacher and dancer from Buenos Aires whom all tango enthusiasts know:

It contains a factor that has contributed to the cultural cohesion of the various ethnic groups of migrants who arrived in Buenos Aires [...]. It is the most intimate of dances between a man and a woman. Tango is the first dance that brings the torsos of a man and a woman into contact, in the sense that it makes public an ancestral gesture of affection and love, previously visible only in the private sphere [...]. Tango is a very simple body language, but it is very intimate; from the union between the affectionate embrace and the erotic embrace [...] the artistic embrace of tango becomes a loving embrace. Like those two, dancing a tango [...], you can have a three-minute love affair! An extraordinary invention; if it hadn't been invented here, it would have had to be invented somewhere else¹.

Echoing the words of the historian, tango reveals itself to be an extraordinary dance, a rich popular art characterised by great variability, which includes dance, music, song, narration, gestures and theatrical performances. While it was originally a factor of cultural cohesion among the immigrant ethnic groups arriving in Buenos Aires, it subsequently underwent a development, a heyday (*decade de oro*) and a “decline”.

From this massive expansion of tango worldwide, the conference organized by AIRDanza (Nov. 20-22, 2025) therefore aims to:

- promote and disseminate the original socio-cultural aspects of tango, closely related to its Rioplatense origins and often unknown to the general audience;
- explore its links with local Argentine cultures of the 19th century and with other dance cultures, both of the repertoires belonging to the so-called Western Euro-cultured social dances and those belonging to the popular strata, which arose from the intense migratory flows between Argentina and Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries;
- Investigate the current processes of cultural circulation, globally between different geographical areas, and the typical movements of rise and decline between different social spheres.

The scientific and organizational committee of this initiative wants to give voice to direct witnesses of the tradition, in line with ethnographic practices, involving Argentine cultural institutions such as the Ministry of Culture and the Commission for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage, as well as independent researchers who have worked in the field. This work will make it possible to document the wonderful social, cultural and stylistic variability of Tango, right down to the creative and improvisational particularities of individual dancers.

As the main objective of the event AIRDanza aims to explore the results of scientific studies related to the different aspects in which tango culture manifests itself, addressing its enjoyment, knowledge, sharing and transmission. All this taking into account the current social reality, but above all respecting and valuing the traditional values of tango and the codes of the “milongueros,” so that the social space of the milonga is a place of well-being and personal care.

¹ *El tango es un arte popular muy rico y diverso, internamente fue un factor que ayudó a la cohesión cultural de las etnia de migrantes diversos que llegaban a Buenos Aires [...] es el mas íntimo de los bailes entre l'hombre y la mujer. El Tango es el primero baile que produce el contacto de torsos entre l'hombre y la mujer, óseas ace público un gesto ancestral de afecto y de amor que estaba escondido en el ámbito privado [...] El Tango es un lenguaje, corporal, más simple, pero que tiene alta intimidad y... junto con el abrazo afectivo y el abrazo erótico el abrazo artístico del tango es un abrazo amoroso, como los otros dos ... bailando un tango ... ¿se puede tener una historia de amor de tres minutos! Un invento extraordinario si no se hubiera becho aquí ... en algún lugar se tendrá que haberlo inventado (Entervista Osvaldo Natucci, s.d., Cientificos, Ind. Arg. El Oso Producciones).*

Another additional goal is to strengthen cultural ties between the Argentine nation and the protagonists of the Argentine diasporas, respecting the dynamics inherent in the cultural processes of tradition and innovation, both in

AIRDanza (Italian Association for Dance Research), active for many years with a prestigious curriculum of national and international conferences, workshops and publications, proposes to organize the FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ITALY ON TANGO STUDIES, which will include scientific presentations, workshops, panels, round tables and social milongas. The conference, the first of its kind in Italy, also aims to be an initial exploration of tango as a form of social entertainment, a phenomenon that for many people has become an essential part of their lives. Given the breadth and complexity of the topic, the conference aims to be a first opportunity for reflection.

TOPICS AND AIMS

- preserve cultural heritage
- take stock of the dynamics of dissemination, tradition and innovation
- trace the evolution of forms in modernity
- produce an updated bibliography on tango
- publish the proceedings

GUEST SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS

Alessandro Aronica (scholar and essayist on tango, Rome), **Furio Biagini** (historian and lecturer at the University of Lecce), **Omar Garcia Brunelli** (professor emeritus Instituto Nacional de Musicología “Carlos Vega” Universidad Nacional de las Artes, Buenos Aires), **Lamberto Calvieri** (scholar of tango, Assisi 33 Salón Cascabelito, Rome), **Enrique Cámara de Landa** (professor emeritus, University of Valladolid), **Simonetta Centi** (tango scholar, Corazón Milonguero, Rome), **Salvatore Di Russo** (musician, doctoral student at the University of Valladolid), **Ornella Di Tondo** (ethnomusicologist, ethnocoreologist and dance historian, Rome), **Francesca Falcone** (dance theorist and historian, Accademia Nazionale Danza-Scuola di ballo del Teatro Opera di Roma), **Roberto Finelli** (researcher and musicologist, Turin), **Natalia Gozzano** (art historian, Accademia Nazionale di Danza, Rome), **Rosa Maria Grillo** (professor emeritus University of Salerno), **Charlotte Hess** (researcher, dancer and tango teacher, Paris), **Rémi Hess** (tango historian and essayist, Université Paris VIII), **Patricia Beatriz Lamberti** (researcher, dancer and tango teacher, Buenos Aires), **Teresita Lencina** (Centro FECA, University of Buenos Aires), **Fabio Michelini** (music and tango teacher, Trento), **Noretta Nori** (anthropologist, ethnocoreologist, tango and folk dance teacher, Rome), **Osvaldo Natucci** (senior scholar and tango master, Buenos Aires), **Monica Nelida Paz** (lecturer, historian and researcher of Tango at the Centro Educativo del Tango, Buenos Aires), **Davide Sparti** (professor, University of Siena), **Elisa Guzzo Vaccarino** (dance critic and historian, Turin), **Alberto Valente** (scholar of tango, Musicalizador Milonga Alpheus, Rome), **Walter Venturini** (professional dancer, teacher and choreographer, Rome)

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE VENUES

- Friday, November 21: at the Discoteca di Stato (currently Istituto Centrale per i Beni Sonori e Audiovisivi /ICBSA, via Michelangelo Caetani 32)
- Saturday, November 22: at the Sala del Carroccio, Piazza del Campidoglio

MILONGAS AND WORKSHOPS VENUES

- Thursday, November 20: milonga at La Cripta (via Pompeo Magno 29)
- Friday, November 21: workshops at La Cripta (via Pompeo Magno 29)
- Saturday, November 22: workshops and milonga at Tango Loft (via del Mandrione 109a)

SCHEDULES

Thursday, November 20 (La Cripta, via Pompeo Magno 29)

- 18:15 Press Conference and welcoming participants
- 20:00-24:00 milonga with dinner

Friday, November 21 (ICBSA, via Michelangelo Caetani 32)

- 9:30-17:00 Conference
- 18:00-20:30 Workshops (at La Cripta, via Pompeo Magno 29)

Saturday, November 22 (Sala del Carroccio, Piazza del Campidoglio)

- 9:30-17:15 Conference
- 19:30-2:00 workshops and milonga at Tango Loft (via del Mandrione 109a)

Conference Sessions

- First session: Historical and cultural contexts.
- Second session: Phenomenologies and social practices
- Third session: Identity, ethnographies, perspectives
- Fourth session: Practices
- Fifth session: Choreographic and musical forms
- Sixth session: Interviews

Round table discussion

Tango in Italy today. Policies, strategies, teaching

Workshop and final milonga

- Tango Loft (via del Mandrione 109a)

Closing of the Conference

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: In person and remotely: (see the link posted on Facebook); free admission for the conference, the workshops are fee-based

For more informations: AIRDanza (<http://www.airdanza.it>)
email: tango.airdanza2025@gmail.com, tel. +39 3394686769