

Einladung zu einem Gastvortrag:  
**Dr. Anna Leon**  
(Akademie der Bildenden Künste Wien)

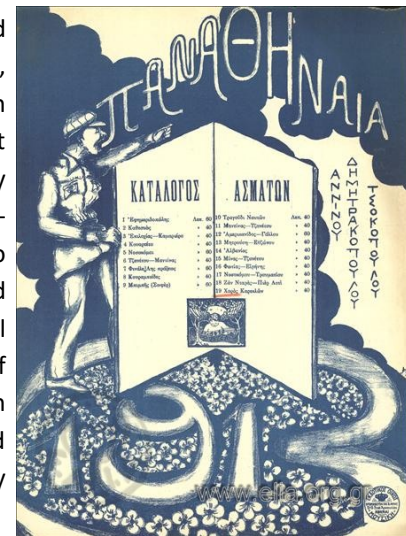
**‘Roving almost naked like street dogs’  
A history of ballet and stigma**

**Ort:** Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik der Universität Wien  
Postgasse 9, 2. Stock, Hörsaal (barrierefreier Zugang über Schönlaterngasse 12 - Lift)

**Zeit:** Dienstag, 05. Dezember 2023, 18:30

Ballet is a prominent part of the contemporary dance landscape in Greece: taught in both public and private certified institutions, showcased by the ballet of the *Lyriki Skini* (National Opera), represented through foreign companies' repertory, key in dance-historical narratives taught in professionalising dance schools. But Greek ballet only became an institutionalised, legitimised art form in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century: before the 1930s, it had no centralised institutional presence and only sporadic funding; its repertory and technique were largely absent from 'high' art stages, with ballet-based numbers mainly to be seen in light musical theatre productions; its dancers were held to widespread contempt. The history of early ballet in Greece is correspondingly severely understudied and virtually never taught, with impacts for parts of the contemporary dance scene. This talk will identify the reasons for early Greek ballet's historical exclusion, explaining how dominant ideas of national identity, gender and class were translated into choreography, excluding certain bodies from artistic and historiographic recognition; and will trace the top-down ways in which ballet gained legitimation over the course of the twentieth century, invisibilising along the way the emancipatory potential of a stigmatised genre.

**Anna Leon** is a dance historian. She is theory curator at Tanzquartier Wien and postdoctoral fellow at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.



Im Anschluss wird zu einem kleinen Empfang eingeladen.  
Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!