

The main scientific goal of this project is to examine the phenomenon developing in years 1904-1930 in Russia called “the art of movement” (or “new dance”, “unconstrained dance”, “free movement”, “rhythmic-plasticity experiments”) in the context of mutual influences and connections to psychoanalysis, which was an important aspect of intellectual life of contemporary Russian society and the culture of the Silver Age and the avant-garde. Even though there was a constant curiosity in the Russian avant-garde, as well as growing interest in the study of dance, in Poland there are no monographs about the Russian dance, which could be included to the dance avant-garde of the early 20th century.

The early twentieth century in Russia, as well as in Central and Eastern Europe, was a period of intellectual and cultural revolution in which the sources of human agency were relocated to the body and the unconscious. In my assessment, dance and psychoanalysis played a major role. The project sets out to examine common sources for both new dance and the psychoanalytic movement in the culture of the Silver Age and the avant-garde. The art of movement is a forgotten and therefore undervalued today area of Russian culture and the avant-garde of the 20th century. Based on the latest scientific discoveries Russian artists of the new dance have made pioneering experiments with the movement of the human body at the beginning of the twentieth century, as well as examined his psychosomatic influence both to spectators, as well as performers. The project aims to complement knowledge about this phenomenon and to identify areas in the art of the avant-garde of the twentieth century, to which it is an influence both a psychoanalysis, and the art of movement.

Due to the fact that in the fields of dance, historical and cultural study the this subject is not elaborated on, my research requires gathering of archival information and materials concerning this subject. I intend to conduct a query in The Russian State Archive of Literature and Arts in Moscow, Central Archive-Museum of Private Collections, Museum of Medical History of I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, in the archives of A.A. Bakhrushin State Central Theatre Museum in Moscow and in Russian State Art Library. Gathered information will be correlated and compared with existing literature on the subject of the history of psychoanalysis in Russia, the compilations concerning the Russian contemporary dance and literature on the fields of theory and history of dance, as well as the culture of the Silver Age and the avant-garde.

The main paradigm I will be employing in my study is ethnoscenology; the auxiliary ones – New Historicism, psychoanalysis and the structural analysis of dance. The innovative nature of my project arises not only from the relatively small amount of publications concerning the development of modern dance and, broader, the art of movement in Russia of the early 20th century. What is innovative, is the act of studying this phenomenon in the context of mutual influences between it and psychoanalysis. I am certain that the placement of the art of movement in proposed scientific-historical context will allow us for more thorough understanding and description of the topic of the Russian contemporary dance, as well as deepening the knowledge of the history of psychoanalysis in Russia. This material can also supply us with the additional, unique knowledge on the subject of the culture of the Silver Age and the avant-garde.