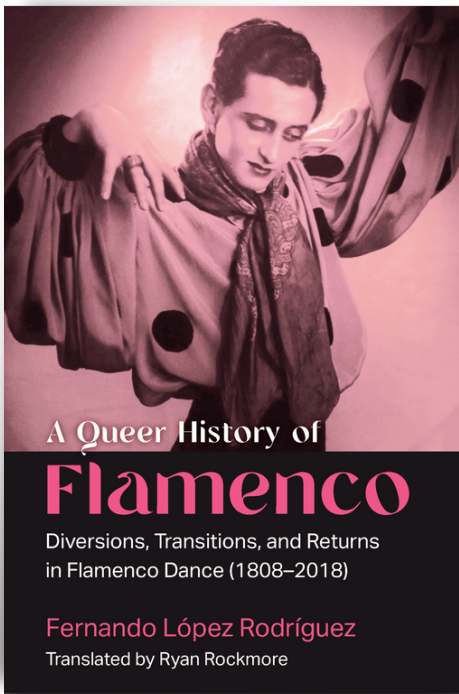




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A QUEER HISTORY OF FLAMENCO

DIVERSIONS, TRANSITIONS, AND RETURNS IN
FLAMENCO DANCE (1808–2018)

By Fernando López Rodríguez

Translated by Ryan Rockmore

A Queer History of Flamenco offers a groundbreaking exploration of flamenco through the lenses of queer theory and cultural studies. Previous histories have provided a largely distorted image about why, where, and how people have done flamenco—as well as who has performed flamenco. Yet feminists, transvestites, butches, femmes, the Spanish Roma, disabled people, guiris, and “incomprehensible” artists have been determined to do things differently without giving up their flamenco status. In this skillful translation of his book *Historia Queer del Flamenco*, Fernando López Rodríguez draws on diverse archival materials as well as his own lived experience and artistic practice, unearthing queer flamenco histories, voices, and perspectives that were previously unknown, avoided, or purposely hidden.

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“Through an approach anchored in a broad understanding of the term ‘queer,’ López Rodríguez offers a new reading of flamenco dance that highlights forgotten marginal voices from the beginning of the nineteenth century, arguing for the invisibilized queerness flamenco embodies . . . [and for the] life-changing potential of flamenco dance.”

—*Dance Research Journal*

Tracing flamenco's development from its birth up to the contemporary era, the book places flamenco within significant historical periods such as the Spanish Civil War, Franco's dictatorship, the transition to democracy, and the economic crisis of 2008, up to contemporary performances of the late 2010s. In taking a queer approach to History, the author abandons antiquated debates about purities and impurities; anecdotes about the lives of artists that are completely detached from their processes of creation; and myths about geniuses who seem to make art alone and completely detached from their collaborators and the historical, social, economic and artistic moment in which they lived. *A Queer History of Flamenco* is not only about the present and the queerness of people living, performing, or creating in it, but also about flamenco's past in which so many queer artists and practices and their lives have remained unearthed and unaddressed.

Fernando López Rodríguez is artist-researcher at Équipe Danse, Université Paris 8-Saint Denis.

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