

Dissertation **The Movement of Mexicanidad in Central Mexico** focuses on the movement of Mexicanidad and its widespread ritual praxis of Aztec dance (Danza Azteca-Mexica). The aim of this study is to present the movement of Mexicanidad from the point of view of its participants –danzantes Mexicas. Describing the movement of Mexicanidad from their perspective, sketching their motives and understanding what lays behind the identity of being Mexica are key factors to the understanding of the whole movement and its role and increasing popularity in present Mexican society. This dissertation also outlines the early days of the ritual Danza Azteca-Mexica and the origins of today's *calpultin*, primarily primordial cultural/ritual activities developed or followed by contemporary Mexicas. It examines the role of ritual in the process of creating the identity of urban people in present Mexico, the way it helps them to face their problems and challenges of current society, economic uncertainty and their everyday reality.

This dissertation stems from author's field research in 2009-2017, participant observation, as well as personal and telephone ethnographic interviews from 2010 till 2021 and academic literature.

Key words: Mexicanidad; Aztec dance; Danza Azteca; Danza Azteca-Mexica; Mexicas; Concheros; danzantes; dance rituals; Cuauhtemoc; ritual practice; temazcal; contemporary rituals; identity; oral tradition; idealization.