

VIBRATING TOGETHER:

*Egyptian Belly Dance & Community
in a Socially-Mediated World*

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"Live in-person interaction is a completely different embodied experience than watching a video. As we increasingly live our lives in virtual realms, we need to think carefully about the consequences of moving gatherings online and the attendant reprioritization of the senses. As social media gains importance in the Egyptian belly dance industry, visually-oriented dancers from Eastern Europe and Latin America are replacing local Egyptian dancers who prioritize the vibrational senses of sound and affect. Yet many Egyptians say that foreign dancers are only hired for their looks and lack the feelings and interactivity that are central to the traditional style. Drawing data from my ongoing research in Cairo, I will argue that spending time vibrating together is a key part of *communitas* and thus social cohesion."

**MARCH 19TH AT
6PM IN THE
LAM MUSEUM**

