

# Salsa and Its Transnational Moves

CULTURAL STUDIES • DANCE/MUSIC

"This splendid book captures salsa dancing as both a global phenomenon carried throughout the world by migrants and media technologies and as a local practice rooted deeply in the distinct cultures of different cities. Sheenagh Pietrobruno deftly combines rich ethnographic observation with a well-researched account of salsa's origin, development, and ongoing transformation. This book moves toward a compelling engagement with dance's place in a world of digital communications and within what Pietrobruno calls 'virtual migrations.' This is a genuinely interdisciplinary book, which will interest scholars of dance, diasporic cultural practice, media, and popular music."

—William Straw, McGill University

*Salsa and Its Transnational Moves* presents a brilliant critical analysis of salsa dancing in a major North American city. Drawing on many disciplines, Sheenagh Pietrobruno focuses on the tension between the status of dance as a bodily expression of identity and its function as a cultural commodity within the economic life of modern cities. This engaging work investigates the transnational movements of salsa by exploring its circulation within the Montreal dance scene, nourished by the continuous flow of people, and by examining the commodification of Latino culture. Pietrobruno's analysis is singular in highlighting how the migration of a people and a dance represent displacements that are not always homologous. At the core of this work, Pietrobruno offers an extensive and intricate ethnography of the institutions and individuals involved in shaping the Montreal salsa scene that will appeal to academic and general audiences, including those who are interested in the study of anthropology, popular music, dance, gender, ethnicity, and culture.

Sheenagh Pietrobruno is Assistant Professor of English at Fatih University in Istanbul.

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