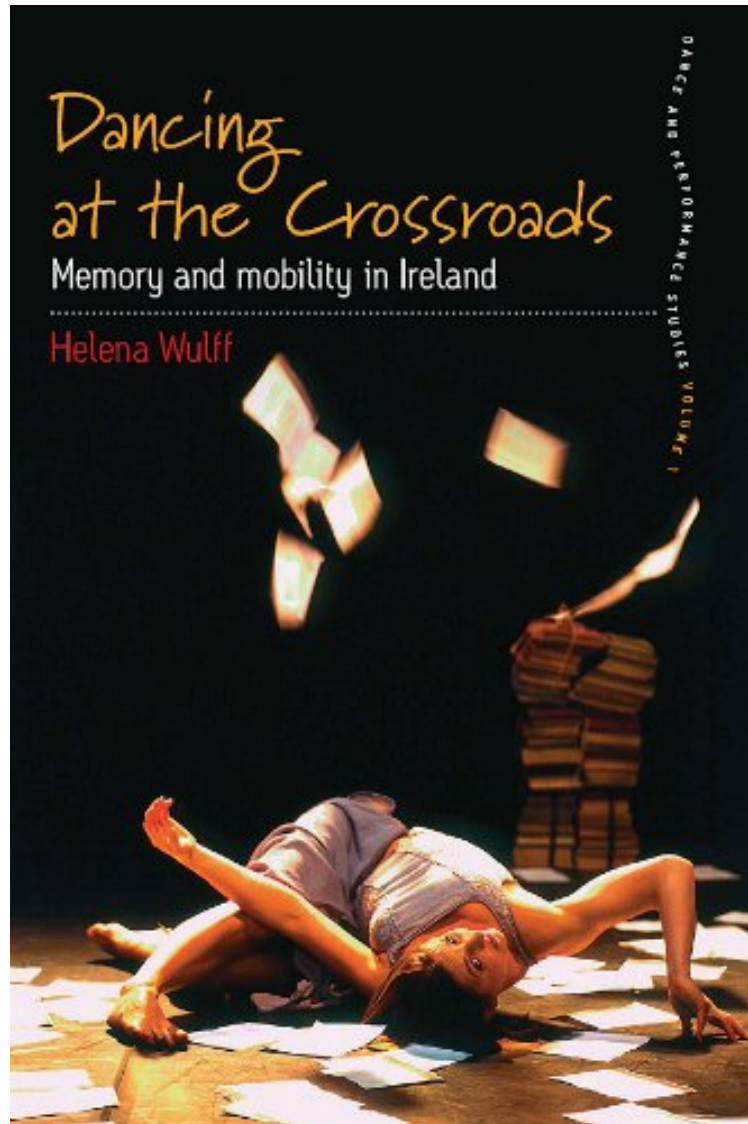


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## Dancing At the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland: 1 (Dance and Performance Studies)

*Helena Wulff*

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**Helena Wulff : Dancing At the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland: 1 (Dance and Performance Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing At the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland: 1 (Dance and Performance Studies):

Dancing at the crossroads used to be young people's opportunity to meet and enjoy themselves on mild summer

evenings in the countryside in Ireland until this practice was banned by law, the Public Dance Halls Act in 1935. Now a key metaphor in Irish cultural and political life, "dancing at the crossroads" also crystallizes the argument of this book: Irish dance, from Riverdance (the commercial show) and competitive dancing to dance theatre, conveys that Ireland is to be found in a crossroads situation with a firm base in a distinctly Irish tradition which is also becoming a prominent part of European modernity.

"Wulff does convincing and interesting work in making the argument that all Irish dance is influenced by links to the land and/or notions of Irishness, tradition, authenticity, and collective identity...[that] becomes increasingly complicated given issues of immigration, colonization, diasporic communities, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism." [H-Net](#) s "There is an admirable reconception of performance, which moves away from the usual tightly bodily based formulas towards an appreciation of storytelling and characterization... These re-thinkings have significant implications for seeing tradition as a resource and/or as a mode of engagement." [JRAI](#) About the Author Helena Wulff is Professor of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University. Her research focusses on expressive cultural forms in a transnational perspective. Studies on the transnational world of dance and social memory have generated questions in relation to place, mobility and emotions, as well as to visual culture and writing. Among her publications are *The Emotions: A Cultural Reader* (editor, 2007, Berg), *Ballet Across Borders: Career and Culture in the World of Dancers* (Berg, 1998, reprinted 2001), and *Youth Cultures: A Cross-Cultural Perspective* (edited with Vered Amit-Talai, 1995, Routledge).