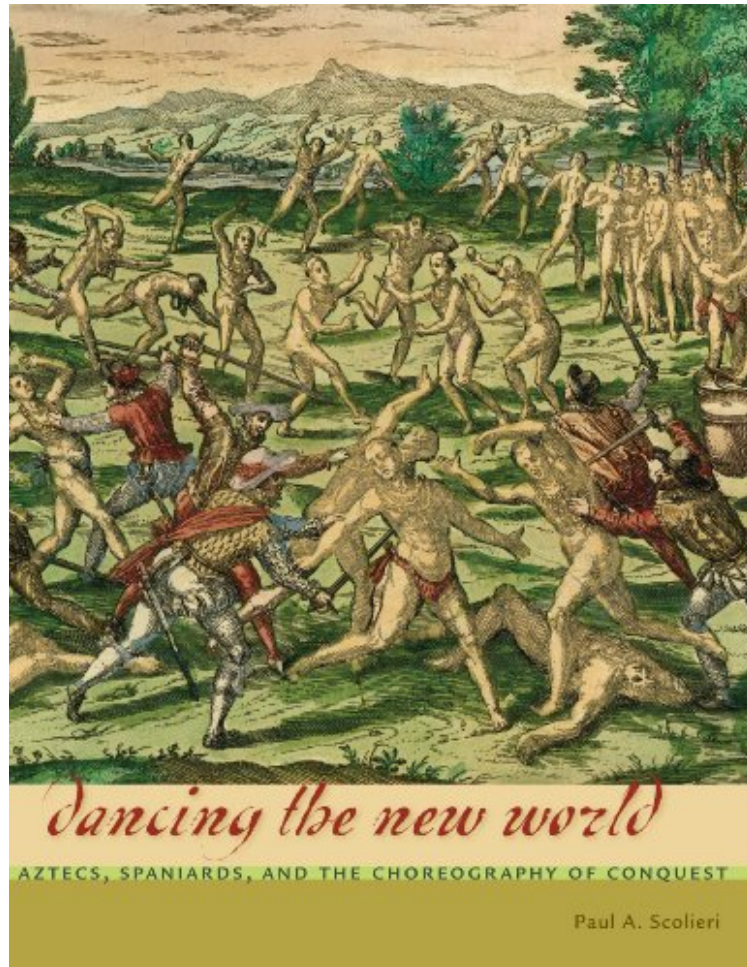


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Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture Publication Initiative)

Paul A. Scolieri

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Paul A. Scolieri : Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture Publication Initiative) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture Publication Initiative):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. DancingBy Sebastian Carranza-LiraIt is a very interesting book since I don't know other on this theme. In it the author shows other aspects of prehispanic cultures.

From Christopher Columbus to the first anthropologist; Friar Bernardino de Sahagún, fifteenth- and

sixteenth-century explorers, conquistadors, clerics, scientists, and travelers wrote about the "Indian" dances they encountered throughout the New World. This was especially true of Spanish missionaries who intensively studied and documented native dances in an attempt to identify and eradicate the "idolatrous" behaviors of the Aztec, the largest indigenous empire in Mesoamerica at the time of its European discovery. *Dancing the New World* traces the transformation of the Aztec empire into a Spanish colony through written and visual representations of dance in colonial discourse—the vast constellation of chronicles, histories, letters, and travel books by Europeans in and about the New World. Scolieri analyzes how the chroniclers used the Indian dancing body to represent their own experiences of wonder and terror in the New World, as well as to justify, lament, and/or deny their role in its political, spiritual, and physical conquest. He also reveals that Spaniards and Aztecs shared an understanding that dance played an important role in the formation, maintenance, and representation of imperial power, and describes how Spaniards compelled Indians to perform dances that dramatized their own conquest, thereby transforming them into colonial subjects. Scolieri's pathfinding analysis of the vast colonial "dance archive" conclusively demonstrates that dance played a crucial role in one of the defining moments in modern history—the European colonization of the Americas.

"The textual, iconographic, and linguistic analyses demonstrate Scolieri's depth and breadth of understanding of the historical and cultural implications of the European colonizing of Mexico. With glossy color plates, well-reproduced black-and-white images, and ten appendixes of translated source material, the book provides a great example of in-depth research using primary sources." (Choice magazine 2014-01-01)"Paul A. Scolieri's beautifully illustrated *Dancing the New World* is breathtaking in its intellectual breadth and depth. The book examines the ways in which dance and power were mutually imbricated in a signal moment of modern history—the European colonization of the Americas. Scolieri's scholarship is rigorous and detailed, but his analyses are particularly compelling because of the theoretical questions he brings to bear on previously under-examined materials. Dance historians always need to grapple with the problem of limited archival sources. Scolieri manages to turn a particularly problematic research site—an archive devastated by the processes of colonization itself—into his advantage, making it an occasion for reflecting on the complexities of all attempts to describe, document and contain dance. For this reason, the book adds significantly not only to "New World" scholarship, but also to theoretical debates in dance history." (de la Torre Buenoreg; Prize Committee, Society of Dance History Scholars)"...an excellent addition both to conquest scholarship and to the cultural history of colonial Mexico. This is a clearly written work that will appeal to a variety of readers, from the sixteenth-century Mexicanist to the upper-level undergraduate student. . . . Scolieri's interdisciplinarity is another of the book's strengths; the fields of dance and performance studies, art history, ethnography, and history come together seamlessly in this very fine contribution to conquest historiography." (Hispanic American Historical 2017-02-01)"Scolieri's scholarship is stunning and unquestionably some of the finest and most accurate I have encountered in my forty years of work in this field . . . I am not aware of any other book in English similar to Scolieri's treatment of the subject. It is unique and vital scholarship that helps penetrate many mysteries of the Mexican dance legacy." (Susan Cashion, Senior Lecturer Emerita, Mexican dance, Latin American dance, Stanford University; author of *Dance Ritual and Cultural Values in a Mexican Village: Festival of Santo Santiago*)"I thoroughly enjoyed reading this work! . . . Scolieri presents a fascinating and long overdue study that is innovative and interdisciplinary and makes an excellent contribution to the field of colonial Mexican cultural history." (Linda A. Curcio-Nagy, Associate Professor of History, University of Nevada, Reno; author of *The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City: Performing Power and Identity* and coeditor of *Latin American Popular Culture*) "Scolieri's scholarship is stunning and unquestionably some of the finest and most accurate I have encountered in my forty years of work in this field . . . I am not aware of any other book in English similar to Scolieri's treatment of the subject. It is unique and vital scholarship that helps penetrate many mysteries of the Mexican dance legacy." (Susan Cashion, Senior Lecturer Emerita, Mexican dance, Latin American dance, Stanford University; author of *Dance Ritual and Cultural Values in a Mexican Village: Festival of Santo Santiago*)"I thoroughly enjoyed reading this work! . . . Scolieri presents a fascinating and long overdue study that is innovative and interdisciplinary and makes an excellent contribution to the field of colonial Mexican cultural history." (Linda A. Curcio-Nagy, Associate Professor of History, University of Nevada, Reno; author of *The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City: Performing Power and Identity* and coeditor of *Latin American Popular Culture*)

About the Author Paul A. Scolieri is Assistant Professor of Dance at Barnard College, Columbia University.