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Interesting observation in the ongoing gender study at ECITE 2012!

Hi all! as many of you know, I am doing an ongoing study of gender choice in partners in contact duets at contact improvisation events internationally. Basically i or a collaborator discretely counts the dances by male/female, male/male, female/female, etc. sometimes, i do a follow up survey to see what people remember. this was motivated a few years ago by the odd situation of observing that there is a consistent, strong emphasis on cross gender dancing at CI events, but an oddly frequent denial or lack of recognition of this fact.

I've now got observations from 8 different major events, with over 1000 dances counted and plan to write a new article on it after i get another few events observed. the article will be a combination of the statistics from observation and surveys with review of some of the more qualitative information from survey responses and conversations.

I first did this at ECITE 2009. Given that it was the teacher's meeting, i expected less of a preference for cross gender dancing and thought i would find something like 1.5 to 1 ratio of cross gender to same gender preference. Instead, I was surprised to find a preference ratio of 4 to 1!

Since then, many conversations have happened. 'also many more counts. the average is about 3 to 1 preference for cross gender dancing, averaged over 8 major CI gatherings.

I had a friend counting this year at ECITE and was intrigued to find that the observations gave a preference ratio of 1.25 to 1, which is the lowest I have yet observed at any event.

I'm intrigued.

If anyone would like to comment on the change, I would love to hear reflections. Here are a number of questions...

Does this represent some kind of shift amongst european contact improvisation teachers? a different sub-population present at Bern vs Omskirk?

How have conversations around gender affected your choices in dance in the last years?

Did something happen at ECITE 2012 specifically? (The numbers for individual days are too small to make strong claims about the event over time, but the first few observed jams give a preference of 2.2 to 1, but after that , there is a small preference for same gender dancing displayed)

Any thoughts or reflections would be great!

regards
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