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CONFERENCE 2027

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Dear ICKL Members and ICKL Friends,

We are preparing the 35th Conference of the International Council of Kinetography Laban/Labanotation (ICKL) to be held July 12-17, 2027 (arrival on Sunday July 11th and departure on Sunday July 18th) at Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen-Werden, Germany.

The Institute for Contemporary Dance at Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen-Werden Campus, will offer a Pre-Conference with an Embodied Introduction on July 9-10, 2027 (arrival on Thursday July 8th). Led by teaching staff and alumni-ae, these sessions provide participants with additional education in preparation for the conference.

The conference marks the approaching centenary of Rudolf Laban's notation system, originally published in 1928 under the term *Schrifttanz* [Script Dancing]. By 2027, this groundbreaking system will have achieved nearly a century of influence, spreading worldwide across a variety of disciplines and applications—just as Laban himself envisioned.

Our 2027 Biennial conference coincides with the centenary of Folkwang University of the Arts, founded in 1927 as the “Folkwang School of Music, Dance and Speech.” We are fortunate to be hosted by the university in Essen-Werden, Germany, as it celebrates this historic milestone.

The conference is entitled “Schrifttanz|Tanzschrift a Century Onward: (Re-) Positioning & (Re-)Imagining Laban's Notation System,” and aims to highlight the remarkable variety and creativity in the system's usages. Participants will explore the ways in which notation continues to evolve, adapting to new artistic, pedagogical, and research contexts and challenges while remaining rooted in its foundational principles.

We invite everyone to participate in our Call for Proposals, whether your interests are in technical matters or in applications of Kinetography Laban/Labanotation and other Laban-based concepts and methodologies. Proposals that address technical topics [*orthography*] will be passed along to the Research Panel, who will offer advice and guidance to authors, ensuring your contributions are supported and developed. All other submitted proposals will be considered by a Selection Committee.

The Board of Trustees, will work in collaboration with the Research Panel as needed, and is responsible for managing the Call for Proposals, evaluating submissions with the Selection Committee, developing the conference program and sessions, and coordinating the overall organization of the conference in partnership with the Host Committee.

To be eligible to submit a proposal for the 2027 conference, you must be an ICKL member in good standing for the year 2026. If your membership has lapsed or if you are not yet a member for 2026, please ensure you join or renew as soon as possible.

For assistance with membership, including fee details and contact information, visit the Membership section of our website at ickl.org/membership/join-ickl/

Further details regarding the conference organization and local accommodations will be sent out before the end of 2026. Additionally, regular updates and information will be posted on our website.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Bastien, ICKL Chair, and Ambre Emory-Maier, ICKL Secretary
Siân Ferguson, ICKL Research Panel Chair
Henner Drewes, Foteini Papadopoulou, Anja Arend, Host Committee

Contact: secretary@ickl.org



35th BIENNIAL ICKL CONFERENCE

Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen-Werden Campus, Germany
July 12-17, 2027

Schrifttanz|Tanzschrift a Century Onward: (Re-)Positioning & (Re-)Imagining Laban's Notation System

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Released May 26, 2026

We invite ICKL members to submit proposals related to:

- **Research and applications of Laban-based systems** including, but not limited to, Kinetography Laban/Labanotation, Motif Notation, Choreological Studies, Laban Movement Analysis and Laban Bartenieff Movement Studies, in areas such as movement research (comparative analysis, stylistic analysis), dance documentation, directing from score, education / pedagogy (in dance notation and its use in interdisciplinary work), technology, dance practices (technique, compositional process, performance, etc.), dance studies (history, theory, cultural studies, etc.). Because of the nature of our organization, priority may be given to proposals focusing or clearly interweaving with Kinetography Laban/Labanotation topics.
- **Orthography of the Laban system of notation** (orthography refers to the standard usage of symbols to indicate specific movements. It embraces the meaning of the symbols, their order and placement with one another, and efficient design to facilitate reading). Proposals in this category may include improvement or clarification of a current rule/sign or presenting a proposal for a new sign, offering a solution to a clearly identifiable need; or presenting a topic that has given rise to particular challenges in analyzing movement, writing a score, reconstructing a dance, or teaching notation theory.

NOTE – While submissions are not limited to this topic, the Research Panel has identified the theme of Dynamics for exploration in the 2027 conference. The term dynamics arose from the ancient Greek “*dýnamis*” (δύναμις) meaning “force,” “power,” “strength” including both physical force and the inherent potential to act/become. In dance, dynamics is the study that focuses on the quality or texture of a movement including, but not limited to, the use of energy, body weight, resistance, resilience, tension, initiation, and accents. We hope to clarify the use of dynamic signs in scores, including Knust’s “Strength measurement signs,” Ann Hutchinson Guest’s “Dynamics,” “Effort” in Laban Movement Analysis, and Vera Maletic’s exploration of phrasing. Specific topics may address the Time Factor of Effort and challenges and solutions with the use of exact and unit timing in notating dynamics (for example: accents and sound). Historical explorations on the development and evolution of dynamic symbols and their application in both structured notation and motif are also welcome.



FORMATS

All formats below can be submitted by a single member or by a team (including non-members). However, the Board requires at least one person to be a current ICKL member (in good standing for the year of 2026).

Long paper, short/student paper, panel: Completed research projects or ongoing research may be presented. Expected content includes methodology, references to related work if any, results, analysis, and implications.

- **Long paper:** 30 minutes, inclusive of question and discussion period (generally 10 minutes).
- **Short paper or student paper:** 20 minutes, inclusive of question and discussion period.
- **Panel:** 45 minutes, inclusive of question and discussion period. Individual or group paper proposals are welcome. Panels with a shared theme may be proposed (2–4 presenters).

The Board may decide to group long or short/student papers into a panel format.

Spotlight talk or Ignite talk: Recommended for those who wish to share an experience, insight, or project—without the need for formal research or methodology. Students are encouraged to apply. No formal questions or discussion period, with optional slides.

- **Spotlight talk:** 10 minutes.
- **Ignite talk:** 5 minutes. Fast-paced talk, preferably with auto-advancing slides.

Workshop: 45 minutes inclusive of discussion period. In-studio sessions to demonstrate theory through practice or share a process—not to teach a workshop. The goal is to show how a subject is or would be addressed practically.

The Board may give a longer time for workshops depending on the priority of the topic.

Roundtable: 45 to 60 minutes, inclusive of question and discussion period. Roundtable session on a relevant topic for the notation community can be initiated by a member willing to organize it and lead it. ICKL will facilitate contacts between its leader and potential participants.



SUBMISSION

September 10, 2026 – Deadline

November 10, 2026 – Notification of decisions

Please submit an abstract of your paper, a description of the workshop or a description of the panel including prospective panelists, **through this form:**
<https://forms.gle/Qz7Xx1CMdYRJ5jvMA>



Proposals must include:

- Format (long, short or student paper, panel, spotlight talk, ignite talk, workshop, roundtable);
- Name(s), address, and e-mail of one author, not all;
- Title of presentation;
- An abstract (no less than 300 and no more than 400 words), to be used in conference booklet;
- Short biography (or biographies) (no more than 100 words), to be used in conference booklet;
- Space and equipment needs;
- If using notation for a workshop, examples of an accompanying page should be included with your submission (please send by email to secretary@ickl.org).

An incomplete proposal will be returned to the author for more information.

The Selection Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, will evaluate papers based on the clarity and completeness of the abstract, as well as the following criteria.

- Relevance of the subject and contribution to the field;
- The methodology, and the quality of the references provided, including citations of prior research in the field;
- Originality of proposed content.

The Selection Committee welcomes newcomers and junior researchers, and will make sure that there is a variety of geographical representation.

Only submissions led by a current ICKL member (2026) will be evaluated. Submissions from non-members (or those not yet members for 2026) will be placed on standby and given lower priority.

Proposals not fitting the topic will not be submitted to the Selection Committee.

Contact: secretary@ickl.org

In case of questions or need for advice on technical sessions or orthography proposals.

Research Panel contact: research-chair@ickl.org



REFERENCES FOR PROPOSALS RELATED TO *ORTHOGRAPHY*

Reference Books

- HUTCHINSON GUEST, Ann. 2005. *Labanotation*. New York: Theatre Arts Books, Revised Fourth Edition.
- KNUST, Albrecht. 1997. *A Dictionary of Kinetography Laban*. Vol. 1-2. Second edition. Poznan: Instytut Choreologii.
- SZENTPÁL, Mária Sz. 1969. *Táncjelírás: Laban-kinetográfia*. II. kötet, kinetográfiai melléklettel [vol. 2, with kinetographic addendum], Budapest: Népművelési Propaganda Iroda.
- SZENTPÁL, Mária Sz. 1973. *Táncjelírás: Laban-kinetográfia*. III. kötet, kinetográfiai melléklettel [vol. 3, with kinetographic addendum], Budapest: Népművelési Propaganda Iroda.
- SZENTPÁL, Mária Sz. 1976. *Táncjelírás: Laban-kinetográfia*. I. kötet, második, átdolgozott kiadás, kinetográfiai melléklettel [vol. 1, second revised edition, with kinetographic addendum], Budapest: Népművelési Propaganda Iroda.

Further References

- CHALLET-HAAS Jacqueline. 1999. *Grammaire de la cinétographie Laban*. Vol. 1. Pantin: Centre national de la danse.
- CHALLET-HAAS Jacqueline. 1999. *Grammaire de la cinétographie Laban*. Vol. 2. Pantin: Centre national de la danse.
- CHALLET-HAAS Jacqueline. 2011. *Grammaire de la cinétographie Laban*. Vol. 3. Pantin: Centre national de la danse.
- ECKERLE, Christine. 1982. *Einführung in die Kinetographie Laban*. Essen-Werden: Folkwang Hochschule.
- HUTCHINSON GUEST, Ann (with Rob van Haarst, or Joukje Kolff, or Raymundo Ruiz González). Advanced Labanotation Series, Issues 1 to 10.
- KNUST, Albrecht. 1946-1950. *Handbuch der Kinetographie Laban*.
- European Seminar for Kinetography, Papers 1 to 14. Papers to download at kinetography.eu
- Proceedings and papers from previous ICKL Conferences. Most Proceeding are available on ICKL website, in the publications section, or in the private members zone for the most recent ones.

You may also consult on ICKL website the list of textbooks in different languages:

<http://ickl.org/resources/textbooks/>