

Embodying Mobile Cultures: A case study of Capoeira

Vou no balanço das ondas, vou no

Balanço do mar

Eu vou, vou no balanço do mar

Vou jogando Capoeira

Seguindo o meu ideal

Vou na energia da roda

No balanço do berimbau

Ouvindo as histórias do mestre,

Imagino aonde posso chegar,

Dou asas ao meu pensamento,

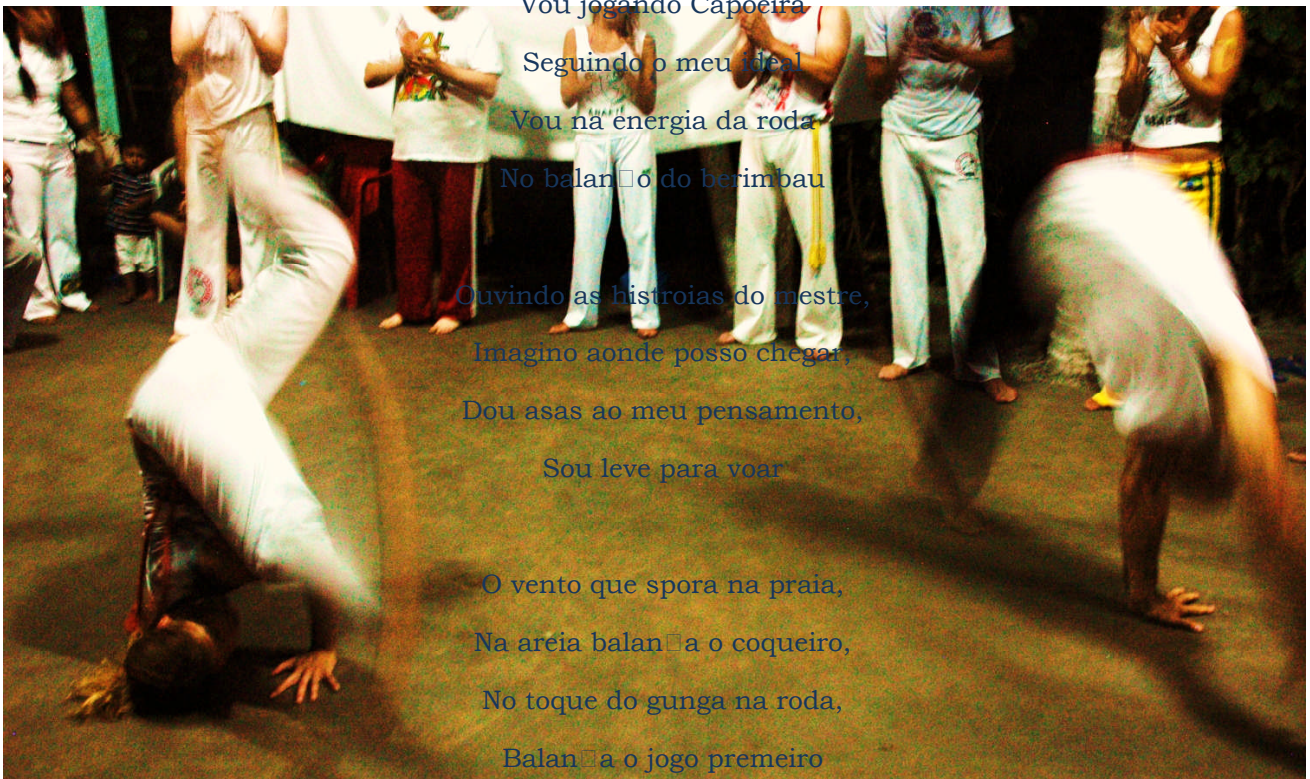
Sou leve para voar

O vento que sopra na praia,

Na areia balanço a o coqueiro,

No toque do gunga na roda,

Balanço a o jogo premeiro



Aprendo com o mestre jogar,

Artista pintando uma tela,

Hoje no mar vou jogando,

E amanhã está na tela.

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation investigates the way embodied cultural practices travel through space and how this can cause the transference and reinterpretation of cultural manifestations and traditions. The investigation follows a central story of changing learning experiences in different geographical and cultural contexts, amid the broader theme of cultural transposition focussed on the scale of the individual body. Specifically, the movement of Capoeira, a Brazilian cultural manifestation, is explored with reference to the travel experiences of members from the ‘Abolição Oxford’ Capoeira group. The investigation focuses upon the variation of participants’ embodied experiences when travelling to new cultural and geographical environments (UK to Brazil), and how bodily dispositions are negotiated, questioned and created in order to learn Capoeira. The difference of multisensory and affective qualities within Capoeira spaces in different geographic locations are considered important to learning experiences and the maintenance of tradition. Finally, the ways in which the mind and body are unified in learning an embodied form successfully is considered, with reference to the development of style and tactical elements of the game. Throughout, the use of participatory techniques and importance of the body in transferring skills and dispositions, is explored with reference to non-representational theory and the work of Pierre Bourdieu and his notion of *habitus*.

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SALVE!



Source: Author