

## **LABAN 2026: BODY–SPACE CARTOGRAPHIES**

### **Memory, Artistic Creation, and Moving Knowledges**

**Coordination:** Regina Miranda and Ligia Tourinho

The International Conference **LABAN 2026: Body–Space Cartographies** to be held at the Rio de Janeiro Museum of Modern Art, MAM RJ invites artists, students, researchers, and educators from diverse fields to create territories of passage - understood as spaces of movement between memories and futures, between tradition and reinvention, and among bodies, spaces, and ways of knowing.

The crossings evoked here are simultaneously concrete actions and poetic gestures: crossings between disciplines, languages, cultures, and modes of knowledge transmission. Such passages open spaces for sharing, friction, intervention, and displacement, while fostering intergenerational and transdisciplinary contributions emerging from diverse political, geographic, and ideological contexts. These encounters invite new perspectives and expand our understanding of ourselves and the environments we inhabit.

**LABAN 2026** reaffirms its commitment to the professional community that, over decades, has built this international gathering as a space for exchange, deepening, and resonance of Labanian thought. At the same time, it proposes itself as an entry point for those wishing to approach the field of movement studies. We aim to create a welcoming environment in which different layers of experience coexist, encouraging dialogue between established bodies of knowledge and perspectives still in formation.

By interweaving Laban and Bartenieff's ideas with contemporary investigations in theatre, anthropology, dance, architecture, sociology, performance, philosophy, and pedagogy, **LABAN 2026** proposes movement studies as a form of sensitive, embodied, and situated knowledge. Cartography is understood here as a living process — drawn through bodies, practices, and relationships among body, space, memory, and creation.

Within this context, the conference will celebrate the **80th Anniversary of the Laban Art of Movement Guild**, founded by Rudolf Laban in the UK in 1946 and directed by him until his passing. This celebration honors the many artists, scholars, and practitioners who, through the Guild's publications, events, and partnerships, have contributed to the international dissemination of Labanian thought as a living force of reflection and invention across artistic and choreological fields.

In dialogue with presentations of works that have significantly contributed to the expansion of movement studies, **LABAN 2026** positions itself as a space for encounter, experimentation, and creation, where the body is understood as a living archive and movement as an ethical, aesthetic, and political force capable of generating new forms of presence, coexistence, and collective imagination.

---

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

We welcome proposals for articles, academic papers, workshops, and practice-based presentations that explore embodied experience as a site of inquiry, where movement operates simultaneously as artistic practice, research methodology, pedagogical process, and cultural expression. By bringing together diverse perspectives across disciplines and geographies, LABAN RIO 2026 seeks to cultivate a dynamic space for exchange, critical reflection, and collective imagination, expanding the Labanian field in relation to contemporary artistic, social, and ecological contexts.

The following themes are proposed as points of departure, reflecting current global concerns; however, other perspectives are equally encouraged.

## **TOPICS OF INTEREST**

Submissions are invited that engage with, but are not limited to, the following thematic areas:

### **1. Crossing as an Analytical Framework in Movement Studies**

- Transitional states, liminality, and transformation in embodied experience
- Somatic and perceptual processes within contexts of passage and transition

### **2. Body–Spatial Cartographies**

- Body–Space as a relational and dynamic construct
- Practices of sensory mapping and embodied ethnographic approaches

### **3. Memory, Corporeality, and Transmission**

- Embodied memory and processes of transmission
- Collective, cultural, and territorial memory as expressed through movement

### **4. Dramaturgies of Movement and Crossing**

- Compositional methodologies grounded in transition, flow, and transformation
- Temporalities, spatialities, and choreographic architectures

### **5. Movement Pedagogies and Educational Processes**

- Pedagogical mediation, knowledge transmission, and collaborative creation
- Embodied experience within critical and reflective learning processes

### **6. Interfaces Between Art, Research, and Society**

- Practice-as-research methodologies
- Movement arts in relation to social practices and urban contexts

### **7. Tradition and Experimentation in the Labanian Field**

- Reinterpretations, contemporary developments, and extensions of the work of Rudolf Laban and/or Irmgard Bartenieff
- Dialogues between Laban/Bartenieff approaches and other somatic and performative practices

We invite participants to contribute to **LABAN 2026** as an open field of encounter, where movement becomes a shared space for listening, questioning, and imagining together. By gathering diverse practices, experiences, and perspectives, the conference seeks to foster meaningful exchanges that acknowledge both the histories that shape us and the futures we collectively create. We welcome proposals that engage critically and creatively with movement as a living practice — one capable of connecting bodies, communities, and ways of knowing across boundaries and generations.

## **ARTICLES, POEMS, AND NEW FORMATS**

### **Submissions:**

- Length: between **200 and 1,000 words**
- Format: **Microsoft Word**, Times New Roman, size **12**, **1.5 line spacing** or **PowerPoint, Photos, or other suggested formats**
- **Deadline for submission: March 30, 2026**
- **Acceptances will be sent by email.**
- Please send to: [conferencialaban2026@gmail.com](mailto:conferencialaban2026@gmail.com)
- Those who wish to submit a full paper for the conference proceedings must send it by 08/30/2026. Please keep the same format as above, considering that the text must be up to 4,000 words and follow ABNT citation guidelines.

### **With your submission, please include a front page with:**

- 1) Your name and Affiliation (if any)
- 2) Address, email, phone contact with country, state, local area code. Your WhatsApp whenever possible.
- 3) Title of your proposal
- 4) One paragraph bio (please specify your Laban and/or Bartenieff background)
- 5) Other information you may find important (Website, FB, Instagram, etc)

## **ACADEMIC PAPERS**

### **Submissions:**

- Length: between **2,000 and 4,000 words**
- Format: **Microsoft Word**, Times New Roman, size **12**, **1.5 line spacing**
- **A 170 words Summary of your paper.**
- **Deadline for submission of academic papers: March 30, 2026**
- Send to: [conferencialaban2026@gmail.com](mailto:conferencialaban2026@gmail.com)

- **Acceptances will be sent by email.**
- Those who wish to submit a full paper for the conference proceedings must send it by 08/30/2026. Please keep the same format as above, considering that the text must be up to 4,000 words and follow ABNT citation guidelines.

**With your submission, please include a front page with:**

- 1) Your name and Affiliation
- 2) Address, email, phone contact with country, state, local area code. Your WhatsApp whenever possible.
- 3) Title of your paper
- 4) One paragraph bio (please specify your Laban and/or Bartenieff background)
- 5) One paragraph about your research/application of Laban's theories
- 6) Other information you may find important (Website, FB, Instagram)

**WORKSHOPS**

We expect workshops to relate to the Conference general theme and to demonstrate an understanding and engagement with the principles of Laban and/or Bartenieff.

**Please, send a front page with:**

- 1) Name and Affiliation
- 2) Address, email, phone contact with country, state, local area code. Your WhatsApp whenever possible.
- 3) Title of your workshop
- 4) One paragraph bio (please specify your Laban/Bartenieff background)
- 5) Two paragraphs about your research/application of L& B's theories, including how L&B movement theories influenced your creativity, teaching, healing, etc.
- 6) Other information you may find important (one paragraph)

**Include a page with:**

- 1) Two paragraphs description of your workshop
- 2) Minimum & Maximum Number of Participants
- 3) Level of Difficulty

4) Technical Needs

5) Other information you may find important (Please, no more than one paragraph)

- All Workshop proposals must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format, Arial 12, spacing 1,5, addressed to [conferencialaban2026@gmail.com](mailto:conferencialaban2026@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE** for submission of proposals for Workshops: **March 30, 2026**

**Acceptances will be sent by email.**

- Those who wish to submit a full paper for the conference proceedings must send it by **August 30, 2026**. Please keep the same format as above, considering that the text must be up to 4,000 words and follow ABNT citation guidelines.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**REGISTRATION for the conference:** Registration forms and detailed information on how to send your registration fee to the international conference will be shared soon.

**Registration Fee - International Participants:** Understanding the difficult moment we are all undergoing, we are keeping the registration fee as affordable as we possibly can:

**Presenters and Seniors:** US \$70.00 (seventy dollars) paid before **April 30**

**Early adopters:** US \$90.00 (ninety dollars) paid before **April 30**

**Full Registration General Participants:** US \$160 from **April 15 to May 21**.

**Late Registration: A 30% increase in the Price of Full Registration**

The fee gives access to all activities of the conference, such as informal performances, lectures and workshops.

**HOTEL:** Reservations to all hotels must be made directly by the participants. It is possible to find nice hotel rooms close to the conference site, but there are options for all pockets in other neighborhoods. A list of suggested hotels will be shared soon.

**WEATHER IN RIO:** In July/August, temperature usually ranges from 16C – 22C / 61F - 72F during the day. Overnight, the temperature tends to drop, but not by much. Rain is not usual, but it is always a possibility!

We will be thrilled to receive your submissions!

**Regina Miranda, MSc, CMA & Ligia Tourinho, PhD, CMA**

LABAN 2026 Conference Coordinators