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Person–Place Bonding and the Sustainable Inheritance of Nanfeng Nuo Dance: An Ethnographic Study of Jiangxi, China

地方依恋与南丰傩舞的可持续传承：江西南丰的民族志研究

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Abstract

Nanfeng Nuo dance is a living ritual tradition and a nationally listed form of intangible cultural heritage in China. Its transmission depends on relationships among practitioners, communities, and local environments. This ethnographic study combines literature analysis, field observation, and semi-structured interviews across five Nuo dance groups in Nanfeng County, Jiangxi Province. Using person–place bonding as an organizing perspective, the analysis considers four interconnected dimensions: human–environment relations, cultural landscapes, religious beliefs, and customary practices. It examines how ritual participation, material settings, troupe organization, and local meanings contribute to continuity. The findings suggest that safeguarding requires attention to the social relationships and places through which dance is practiced, alongside documentation of movement and repertoire. The analysis offers a context-specific account of transmission rather than a guarantee of long-term sustainability.

Keywords Nanfeng Nuo dance, person–place bonding, intangible cultural heritage, cultural transmission, ethnography