

Alonso Fernández, Z. (2022) “Dance and the senses at the *convivium*”, in K. Schlapbach (ed), *Aspects of Roman Dance Culture: Religious Cults, Theatrical Entertainments, Metaphorical Appropriations*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.

This chapter aims to delineate a system of sensorial parameters for defining the multiple effects that dance could generate in the synesthetic ambiance of a Roman dinner party, and to explore the impact this might have had when displayed in a literary text. Focusing on passages from comedy, satire, and other “low” genres that represent dance together with other “consumables”, such as food, perfumes, and sex, the piece reconsiders the cognitive and cultural role of the senses in experiencing a choreographic performance, in particular a female choreographic performance. Rather than reiterating the negative moral and aesthetic judgements implied in these texts, this approach tries to unpack the rich and complex sensorium of the *convivium*, while emphasizing the multilayered and deeply affective impressions of dance among (usually male) audiences, spectators, and readers in ancient Rome.