



# Gender Expression in East Slovak Folkdance



Although couple's dances were a medieval import to Slovakia, the dance illustrates societal gender relations and expectations. Men's dances are performances: articulations of masculine strength and command of space. Women's dances are relatively modest, with small, simple steps and less room for creativity, expressing her willingness to support and follow her partner and community. Men remain the dominant figure in the dance through dynamism and control not only of his female partner, but over his accompaniment and audience.

