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## **The Transformative Power of Movement: A Conversation between Marcel Mauss and Maurice Merleau-Ponty and its Influence on Contemporary Theology**

### **Abstract**

The dissertation explores the transformative power of human movement and seeks to find a complex approach to movement that resists the instrumental treatment of movement. It offers an overview of and engages with the ideas of Marcel Mauss (1872–1950) and Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908–1961), the main representatives of this dialogue, who paved the way for interdisciplinary collaboration in movement research; it examines the insights of Mauss's disciples Marcel Jousse (1886–1961), André Leroi-Gourhan (1911–1986) and Pierre Bourdieu (1920–2002), who contributed to movement research by revealing new aspects of the movement; and analyzes the ideas of Louis-Marie Chauvet (1942) and Michel de Certeau (1925–1986), who applied the ideas about movement to Christian life and influenced contemporary theology. The dissertation discusses the role of movement in the life of the human self and community, examines the proximity of the ecclesiastical and the artistic spheres in their relationship to transformation through movement, and reveals the transformative aspect of movement and its significance for the survival of the human species. The transformative power of movement has been found to be closely linked to the symbolic treatment of movement, indicating the boundary between the individual and society, between real and imaginary life.

### **Keywords**

Marcel Mauss; Maurice Merleau-Ponty; Marcel Jousse; André Leroi-Gourhan; Pierre Bourdieu; Louis-Marie Chauvet; Michel de Certeau; movement; body; transformative power.