Abstract: Socialisation or militarisation? On the change of way to regulate posture and movement between sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, as exemplified by standing and walking in fencing, dancing and the military

This essay re-examines the cross-relationship between the military and society in the light of norms of regularised standing and walking, using the cases of fencing, dancing and military movements. It seeks to trace processes of the formation and transfer of norms of everyday behaviour in textual and pictorial sources mainly from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. The main argument is that such processes then, contrary to nineteenth century practice, then took place among various professional or social groups, which were not tied together into a wider socio-legal framework, that came to be defined as society from the turn of the nineteenth century.

Keywords: Society (word and meaning) – movement of the body – militarisation of society – civilising the military – dance – fencing – Early Modern Period