Since the late 1800’s, Protestant - particularly Evangelical and Pentecostal - churches have been competing with the once-monopolistic Roman Catholic Church. This study examines religious competition of Protestants with Roman Catholicism using data from the ledgers of the dance workshops (morerias).

The dances in Guatemala are directly related to Roman Catholicism, for example, they are performed on a town’s saint’s day. Data in the ledgers beginning in 1900 until 2009 permit an analysis of where the dances continue to be or are no longer being performed. Using data on religious affiliation in Guatemala combined with the ledger data allows a spatial analysis of where the Evangelicals are gaining converts.

Village and moreria locations were georeferenced using historic paper and digital maps of Guatemala. Cartographically the dance ledgers provide a very rich dataset that can be depicted by geography, time, magnitude of dances, and directionally by dance sites and morerias. The background for the maps is a shaded relief image made from a digital elevation model intended to depict the rugged and varying terrain of Guatemala.