

CLOTHING BETWEEN THE SECULAR AND THE RELIGIOUS: POLICIES AND IDENTITY

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the question of how clothing which expresses religious identity is used and perceived in Bulgarian secular society. The authors discuss different strategies in the choice of religious symbols and clothes corresponding to individual roles in society, as well as to the ethnic and religious communities in general. The exposition follows through several basic cases in which the activities of state institutions and public opinion are discussed. The strategies in regard to the religious elements of clothing in the public and private spheres in Bulgaria are viewed in terms of a historical and contemporary perspective of the relations between the religious and the secular in the context of the traditional ethnic and religious variety in Bulgaria. Research on the topic indicates that there is a necessary and clear position on the part of the institutions and civil society in order to build adequate mechanisms to influence or control the processes in the future.