

Special Issue

Behind the Veil: Gender, Religion, and Power in the 21st Century

Message from the Guest Editor

The hijab remains a complex and multifaceted subject that cuts across cultural, religious, and political boundaries. On one hand, proponents highlight bodily autonomy and argue that wearing the hijab can be a conscious and empowering personal choice.

On the other hand, critics contend that the hijab functions as a symbol of patriarchal control, suggesting that even when chosen voluntarily, it may still be shaped by deeply embedded and internalized norms and expectations which reproduce patriarchal control over women's bodies.

This Special Issue seeks to engage with both perspectives and encourages scholarly contributions that critically explore the various dimensions of veiling. We aim to investigate how these discourses shape social dynamics, influence personal agency, and contribute to broader understandings of freedom, identity, and human flourishing.

Particular attention will be given to the experiences of Muslim women living in non-Muslim-majority societies, where the hijab can provoke discrimination, social exclusion, or politicized reactions. These contexts are essential to grasping the wider societal implications of veiling in our contemporary world.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Marziyeh Bakhshizadeh
Reutlingen School of Theology, D-72762 Reutlingen, Germany

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Religions
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health,
Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke,
Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

Caritaswissenschaft und Christliche Sozialarbeit, Theologische
Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Platz der Universität 3, D-
79098 Freiburg, Germany

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