

Religious Identity And Social Change Explaining Christian Conversion In A Muslim World Routledge Advances In Sociology

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STARK KENZIE

The Case of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Routledge

The 1950s religious boom was organized around the male-breadwinner lifestyle in the burgeoning postwar suburbs. But since the 1950s, family life has been fundamentally reconfigured in the United States. How do religion and family fit together today? This book examines how religious congregations in America have responded to changes in family structure, and how families participate in local religious life. Based on a study of congregations and community residents in upstate New York, sociologist Penny Edgell argues that while some religious groups may be nostalgic for the Ozzie and Harriet days, others are changing, knowing that fewer and fewer families fit this traditional pattern. In order to keep members with nontraditional family arrangements within the congregation, these innovators have sought to emphasize individual freedom and personal spirituality and actively to welcome single adults and those from nontraditional families. Edgell shows that mothers and fathers seek involvement in congregations for different reasons. Men tend to think of congregations as social support structures, and to get involved as a means of participating in the lives of their children. Women, by contrast, are more often motivated by the quest for religious experience, and can adapt more readily to pluralist ideas about family structure. This, Edgell concludes, may explain the attraction of men to more conservative congregations, and women to nontraditional religious groups.

The Politics of the People of God Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG

This edited collection provides interdisciplinary, global, and multi-religious perspectives on the relationship between women's identities, religion, and social change in the contemporary world. The book discusses the experiences and positions of women, and particular groups of women, to understand patterns of religiosity and religious change. It also addresses the current and future challenges posed by women's changes to religion in different parts of the world and among different religious traditions and practices. The contributors address a diverse range of themes and issues including the attitudes of different religions to gender equality; how women construct their identity through religious activity; whether women have opportunity to influence religious doctrine; and the impact of migration on the religious lives of both women and men.

An Exercise in Spiritual Guidance Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Since colonial days, religious work in American has happened through denominations. At least since the start of the twentieth century, these religious bodies consisted of a fairly tight, intra-denominationally connected system of congregations, regional judicatories, and national offices. This system was the product of more than two centuries of consolidation among American's historic immigrant and indigenous churches. The vast majority of these structures are still in place, retain some semblance of internal coherence, have considerable social and religious significance, and will be with us for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, the stresses upon them today clearly indicate that they are entering an unsettled period of transition. The purpose of this book is to examine the national structures of eight diverse Protestant denominations as a part of that shift. The frame of this study is the relationship between the theological and organizational nature of national denominational structures as they adapt to the changing situation of the twenty-first century. *Identity, Social Action and Social Change* BRILL

Religious Identity and Social Change Explaining Christian conversion in a Muslim world Routledge

Strangers in a Familiar Land Routledge

Return has long been considered the end of a migration cycle. Today, returnees' continued transnational ties, practices and resources have become increasingly visible. Transnational Return and Social Change joins what is now a growing field of research and suggests new ways to understand the dynamics of return migration and the social changes that come along. It pays tribute to the meso-level impacts that follow the practices and resources migrant returnees mobilize across borders. With a particular focus on the meso-level the book takes up the challenge of transnational research and enquires into the consequences of return for local communities, organizations, social networks and

groups. Presenting a collection of case studies dedicated to migrations across Europe and beyond, this book contributes new insights into the societal impact of migration in pluralized societies.

Identity Process Theory C. Hurst & Co. Publishers

The immense changes that the world is undergoing in terms of globalization and migration of peoples have had a profound effect on cultures and identities. The question is whether this means shifts in religious identities for women and men in different contexts, whether such shifts are seen as beneficial, negative or insufficient, or whether social change actually means new conservatism or even fundamentalism. Surrounding these questions is the role of education in any change or new contradiction. This unique book enhances an interdisciplinary discourse about the complex intersections between gender, religion and education in the contemporary world. Literature in the social sciences and humanities have expanded our understanding of women's involvement in almost every aspect of life, yet the combined religious/educational aspect is still an under-studied and often under-theorized field of research. How people experience their religious identity in a new context or country is also a theme now needing more complex attention. Questions of the body, visibility and invisibility are receiving new treatments. This book fills these gaps. The book provides a strong comparative perspective, with 15 countries or contexts represented. The context of education and learning covers schools, higher education, non-formal education, religious institutions, adult literacy, curriculum and textbooks. Overall, the book reveals a great complexity and often contradiction in modern negotiations of religion and secularism by girls and boys, women and men, and a range of possibilities for change. It provides a theoretical and practical resource for researchers, religious and educational institutions, policy makers and teachers. *Religion & Identity Politics: Global Trends And Local Realities* Springer

Throughout history, many Christians have existed on the margins of society; deviants and strangers in lands they call home. To survive, they have had to construct alternate identities that not only make sense of their religious experiences and beliefs but also equip them to successfully negotiate their social worlds. In Thailand, a nation where social identities are thoroughly intertwined with Buddhist religious adherence, Christians must come to terms with such a marginalized existence. By leaving Buddhism and adopting what is considered a foreign faith, Christian converts become deviants to "normal" Thai identity and belonging. In response, they have discovered creative solutions for traversing this complex terrain of marginalization. This book presents a deep exploration of the phenomenon of marginalization as experienced by Thai Christian converts. In it, readers will follow participants through the heights of transformative religious experience, the lows of severe social displacement, the tensions of managing two disparate lifeworlds and two conflicting selves, and the comfort and joy of finding a new place to call home. In the end, the reader will gain deep insight into what it is like to successfully navigate a minority religious identity on the margins of society.

Church, Identity, and Change Anthem Press

This dissertation examines how religious group identity and the perception of threat toward one's religious group affect political attitudes. Drawing on social identity theory, it argues that religion is a meaningful social category to which individuals can develop a psychological attachment. This enables individuals to locate themselves within their social and political contexts, and also to perceive threats to their religious group, which can elevate the salience of their religious identity and alter religion's causal impact on politics. This amends the literature's predominant understanding of religion's politically relevant facets by accounting for religion as a social identity. This also enables a more dynamic conceptualization of religion as responsive to changing circumstances in the political environment. Among the dissertation's contributions, it develops reliable survey measures of religious identity. Using these measures, it establishes the relationship between religious identity and threat, showing threat and religious identity to have independent and statistically significant effects on political attitudes. It also finds threat to have a moderating effect on religious identity, which matters more for those with weaker religious identities than for those with stronger ones. Finally, it finds that the moderating effect of threat on religious identity among Republicans (as with the general

population) is felt the strongest by those with weaker religious identities and decreases in magnitude as religious identity strengthens. However, the inverse is true for Democrats, with threat's greatest moderating effect being seen among those with stronger religious identities. By viewing religion as a social identity, this dissertation explores the social and cognitive processes that make religion such a powerful political force, which helps to better explain the political consequences of religious division during a time of growing religious pluralism and demographic change.

Engaged Spirituality Routledge

How can one describe the pluralisation of the religious realm, which is of such significance for processes of social change? How can it be done from an international perspective? The book sharpens the idea of religious pluralisation by elucidating it against the backdrop of specific religious phenomena and practices. Concepts and interpretations of religious praxis are correlated here in a way that has proven most fruitful in the field of Practical Theology. We take a closer look at twelve highly relevant topics that are formative for the practical-theological discourses in South Africa and Germany: poverty and wealth, education, transitional rites and passages, health, religious community formation and the future of the Church, beginning and end of life, transformation of the media, migration and interculturality, populism and radicalisation in religion and knowledge, processing of the past, communal living. Each topic will be introduced by one scholar from a certain country and commented on by another. The conversational procedure contributes to a contextual theology that understands theology essentially as dialogue. In all contributions pluralisation is the overarching topic. It shall be developed as a conception and theory respectively, both of which are not self-evident their theoretical implications must be explicitly unfolded.

Hollywood Faith Springer Science & Business Media

In a search for a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between gender, language and religious identity, this book gathers a global range of studies from the field of linguistics. It connects language use to both a religious and gender identity and shows how language works to unite, oppress, liberate or fracture the various participants.

Explaining Christian conversion in a Muslim world Uitgeverij Van Gorcum

We live in an ever-changing social world, which constantly demands adjustment to our identities and actions. Advances in science, technology and medicine, political upheaval, and economic development are just some examples of social change that can impact upon how we live our lives, how we view ourselves and each other, and how we communicate. Three decades after its first appearance, identity process theory remains a vibrant and useful integrative framework in which identity, social action and social change can be collectively examined. This book presents some of the key developments in this area. In eighteen chapters by world-renowned social psychologists, the reader is introduced to the major social psychological debates about the construction and protection of identity in face of social change. Contributors address a wide range of contemporary topics - national identity, risk, prejudice, intractable conflict and ageing - which are examined from the perspective of identity process theory.

Digital Religion Routledge

Religious Identity and Social Change offers a macro and micro analysis of the dynamics of rapid social and religious change occurring within the Muslim world. Drawing on rich ethnographic and quantitative research in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia, David Radford provides theoretical insight into the nature of religious and social change and ethnic identity transformation exploring significant questions concerning why people convert and what happens when they do so. A crisis of identity occurs when religious conversion takes place, especially from one major religious tradition (Islam) to another (Christianity); and where religious identity is intimately connected to ethnic and national identity. Radford argues for the importance of recognising the socially constructed nature of identity involving the dynamic interplay between human agency, culture and social networks. Kyrgyz Christians have been active agents in bringing religious and identity transformation building upon the contextual parameters in which they are situated.

Towards Religious Identity SUNY Press

Through oral history research in Congo this book studies the

reconfiguration of Christian identity during migration. It examines the intersection of contemporary influences upon group expressions of identity. It demonstrates how religious affiliation aids a sense of belonging.

Towards Religious Identity AFRICAN SUN MeDIA

"In their introduction to this Handbook, the editors affirm: 'Many sociologists have come to realise that it makes no sense now to omit religion from the repertoire of social scientific explanations of social life'. I wholeheartedly agree. I also suggest that this wide-ranging set of essays should become a starting-point for such enquiries. Each chapter is clear, comprehensive and well-structured - making the Handbook a real asset for all those engaged in the field." - Grace Davie, University of Exeter "Serious social scientists who care about making sense of the world can no longer ignore the fact that religious beliefs and practices are an important part of this world... This Handbook is a valuable resource for specialists and amateurs alike. The editors have done an exceptionally fine job of incorporating topics that illuminate the range and diversity of religion and its continuing significance throughout the world." - Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University At a time when religions are increasingly affecting, and affected by, life beyond the narrowly sacred sphere, religion everywhere seems to be caught up in change and conflict. In the midst of this contention and confusion, the sociology of religion provides a rich source of understanding and explanation. This Handbook presents an unprecedentedly comprehensive assessment of the field, both where it has been and where it is headed. Like its many distinguished contributors, its topics and their coverage are truly global in their reach. The Handbook's 35 chapters are organized into eight sections: basic theories and debates; methods of studying religion; social forms and experiences of religion; issues of power and control in religious organizations; religion and politics; individual religious behaviour in social context; religion, self-identity and the life-course; and case studies of China, Eastern Europe, Israel, Japan, and Mexico. Each chapter establishes benchmarks for the state of sociological thinking about religion in the 21st century and provides a rich bibliography for pursuing its subject further. Overall, the Handbook stretches the field conceptually, methodologically, comparatively, and historically. An indispensable source of guidance and insight for both students and scholars. Choice 'Outstanding Academic Title' 2009

Toward a Hermeneutic of Covenant SAGE

Given increasing global migration and the importance of positive cross-cultural relations across national borders, this book offers an interdisciplinary and intercultural exploration of identity formation. It uniquely draws from theology, psychology, and sociology--engaging narrative and identity theories, migration and identity studies, and the theologies of identity and migration--and builds on them in an unprecedented study of international migrants to construct an initial theology of Christian identity in migration. New sociological research describes the social

construction of religious, ethnic, and national identities among non-North American evangelical graduates who entered the United States to pursue advanced academic studies from 1983 to 2013. It provides an intercultural account of Christian identity formation in the context of migration, transnationalism, and globalization. It ultimately argues that an integral component of Christian identity-making involves the concept of migration, of movement, toward a transformation.

The Reason for the Season BRILL

Religion is of enduring importance in the lives of many people, yet the religious landscape has been dramatically transformed in recent decades. Established churches have been challenged by eastern faiths, revivals of Christian and Islamic fundamentalism, and the eclectic spiritualities of the New Age. Religion has long been regarded by social scientists and psychologists as a key source of identity formation, ranging from personal conversion experiences to collective association with fellow believers. This book addresses the need for a reassessment of issues relating to identity in the light of current transformations in society as a whole and religion in particular. Drawing together case-studies from many different expressions of faith and belief - Hindu, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Anglican, New Age - leading scholars ask how contemporary religions or spiritualities respond to the challenge of forming individual and collective identities in a nation context marked by secularisation and postmodern decentering of culture, as well as religious revitalisation. The book focuses on Britain as a context for religious change, but asks important questions that are of universal significance for those studying religion: How is personal and collective identity constructed in a world of multiple social and cultural influences? What role can religion play in creating, reinforcing or even transforming such identity?

Transnational Return and Social Change Palgrave Macmillan

There has been increased interest in the relationship between religion, identity and politics in modern societies. Building on this debate, Claire Mitchell presents a challenging analysis of religion in contemporary Northern Ireland, arguing that religion is not merely a marker of ethnicity and that it continues to provide many of the meanings of identity, community and politics. Drawing on a range of unique interview material, this book traces how individuals and groups in Northern Ireland have absorbed religious types of cultural knowledge, belonging and morality.

Language and Religious Identity Columbus : Ohio State University Press

Religiosity is one aspect without which Ethiopian society cannot be fully understood. This book aims to map out the terrain of the discourse in religion-social change nexus in Ethiopian using the notion of covenant as an interpretive tool.

Wipf and Stock Publishers

STAR - Studies in Theology and Religion, 4 The spiritual dimension of existence has always been a part of people's lives. Religion serves this dimension, in which people are confronted with the question of what is holy and what is ultimately important. In

Towards Religious Identity Tjeu van Knippenberg concentrates on spiritual guidance in the context of the Christian faith. A number of questions arise here. What is the spiritual? Can what we call spiritual, be compared with what has been said about it in the course of the centuries? Is there a relationship between personal experiences that go beyond direct experiences and what is taught in the Christian church about the spiritual? Can this be distinguished within the complex psychological processes that take place within a person? Just how personal and private is it? Where can it be found? What is its connection with the daily course of life? Is it of importance in one's own development and in the development of society? Where can one learn about it? How does one deal with it? Are there people equipped to guide others from this perspective? Towards Religious Identity offers a framework that can contribute to people's competence in discovering the meaning of the personal life story from a spiritual perspective. M.P.J. van Knippenberg is professor of pastoral theology at Tilburg University, The Netherlands From the Contents Part 1 Identification 1 Development and Characteristics 2 Ecclesiastical and Poimonic Position 3 Path of Life and Perspective Part 2 Progress and Content 4 Process and Guidance 5 Question as to Meaning and Christian Faith 6 Theology and Identity Part 3 In Practice 7 Guidance Model 8 Competence and Applications

An introduction Africa World Press

Evangelical Christianity is the largest Protestant religious body in the United States today (Pew, 2014) and is charged with a mission to spread the Gospel across the globe while also influencing transformative change in the sociopolitical sphere. To understand Evangelical Christians' desire to influence social change, it is essential for researchers and policy makers to discover what motivates their desire to instigate change by exploring their perceptions of social problems. This study qualitatively explores the experiences, attitudes, and opinions of 18 Evangelical Christians relating to religious identity, social change, and holiday celebrations, traditions, and rituals preceding from the theoretical framework of Smith's (1998) subcultural identity theory of religious strength and Goffman's (1959) dramaturgical theory of impression management. An analysis of the interviews of the study participants revealed several subthemes that emerged from the main three themes of religious identity, social change, and holiday celebrations. These subthemes include: biblical scripture as a source of moral guidance, a calling to ministry, the perceived breakdown of the family, and the secularization of holiday celebrations. The findings of this study reveal that religious identity, perceptions of social change, and perspectives of holiday celebrations are interconnected and mutually informing, which provides additional insight into the motivations of Evangelical Christians and their strength as a community to remain steadfast in their belief in the midst of tension and conflict with a society they perceive as trying to silence their voices and erase Christian influence.