

RESEARCH BY HERMAN BECK

Ritual and Identity: Muslims in the Netherlands

Many Muslims in the Dutch diaspora want to live a life in conformity with the rules of their religion. At the same time, they try to respect the rules and laws in Dutch society. Sometimes there is tension between compliance with the rules of Islam and Dutch laws and regulations or the circumstances in the Netherlands. In such cases, a solution must be found, whereby adaptations or changes sometimes cannot be avoided.

It is the firm conviction of Muslims that their ritual devotional rules are unchangeable, because they are inextricably bound up with their faith and their identity. Still, shifts can be perceived in the Western European diaspora. This project is aimed at the question of what these shifts mean for the identity and self-image of Muslims in a country like the Netherlands.