

Summaries

Karin van Nieuwkerk

Multiculturalism, islam and gender

Visions of Dutch new Muslima's

As a consequence of the changes in Dutch society into a multicultural society, about 4000 Dutch women have converted to the islam. These new Muslima's intertwine the Dutch way of life with their new life style and conviction. In the public opinion this 'bricolage' of life styles is generally not estimated very positively, mainly due to the negative image of the position of women in the Islam.

Karin van Nieuwkerk describes how these new Muslima's reached their decision to convert,

and how they value their own position in relation to emancipation and gender. The interviewed women show that they do not perceive a contradiction between emancipation and Islam. To the contrary, a lot of the new Muslima's regard the islamic opinions about women as inspiring. They see men and women as equal, but different. In this way they criticize dominant Western gender argumentations.

Edien Bartels

'Honesty in belief and at school'

Girls, Islamic life-rules and secondary education

In addition to clashes about headscarves, face-veils and prayer-rooms in schools, there are also clashes about the compulsory eating of non-ritually (non-Islamic) slaughtered meat at schools for secondary education. Bartels demonstrates a case which shows how girls lead the way in creating space to follow Islamic life-rules in Dutch society. This article is focused on the role of Muslim girls in this process. It becomes clear that the description 'between two cultures' with which the girls characterise themselves, is not useful in an anthropological view. A perspective starting

from ethnic relations and boundaries is much more fruitful; Muslim girls know very well how to combine central notions of their faith with central notions of Dutch school society. At the same time this case shows us that there are a lot of differences between Muslim girls concerning believing and behaving. Not every Muslim girl sees herself and is seen by others as a 'good muslima'. But also for girls who do not manifest themselves as a 'good muslima', Islam remains the direction and also for them, it is profitable to refer to their faith. .