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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELIGIOSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

(Annual International Scientific Conference)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Srebrno jezero, Veliko Gradište, 8–9 September 2023

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

FORUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELIGIOSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

(Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, Serbia)

Organized by

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**YOUTH RELIGIOSITY:
RESEARCH, RESULTS, TRENDS**

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RELIGIOSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND STUDENTS IN SERBIA – AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND TRENDS

In the socialist political system of former Yugoslavia, religion was on the margins of society within the framework of a non-stimulating and rigorous general socio-political pattern of the secular worldview. The consequences were numerous: from the decline of religious beliefs and ritual practices to the stigmatization of religion in public life. In the adolescent and student population, a pattern of low religiosity was dominant until the late 1980s, except in predominantly Roman Catholic areas of Yugoslavia, where, both in the general population and youth population, a trend of increased religiosity had replaced the previous atheistic pattern. In predominantly Orthodox Christian areas, the population was predominantly non-religious. Profound changes came later, from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, following the national and confessional homogenization during the socio-political crisis, the dissolution of socialist Yugoslavia, and wartime events. The last two decades have brought new patterns of young people's attachment to religion. In Serbia, young people seem to follow the general population in some aspects of religiosity, but in others, their religiosity surpasses that of the general population, especially in the cognitive dimension of religiosity, as a result of religious education in Serbian schools (introduced in the early 2000s). The last two decades have been marked by the stabilization of religious situation both in the segment of the general population and in the youth population.

Key words: religiosity of the population of Serbia, religiosity of young people, religious beliefs, religious behaviors, atheism, desecularization