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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
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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

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## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – A MOVE TOWARDS BUILDING PEACE OR A TOOL FOR MAINTAINING ETHNIC DISTANCE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA?**

The religious education model in Bosnia and Herzegovina reflects its institutional and political heterogenization, based on ethnic and religious determinants. The importance of religion in the process of peacebuilding is manifested in the extensive trust that the citizens show to their respective religious leaders and institutions, as well as in the fact that religious affiliation is among the main distinguishing factors between constitutive nations – thus, representing the core element of these national identities. Therefore, it is indisputable that religious leaders have a significant potential to guide the peacebuilding process towards a positive outcome through the affirmation of ideas that promote peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between their religious Others. The current religious education model envisages that the students learn only the teachings and sacred scriptures of the majority religion of their own communities. The author will conduct an analysis of religious textbooks for high school students in B&H with the aim of determining the way in which the religious Other is presented, and identifying overlapping ideas about peace, common to all dominant religions. The author will further discuss the reasons why the initiative to introduce a religious course of a broader scope wasn't widely accepted and why such model didn't materialize.

**Key words:** religion, religious education, Bosnia and Herzegovina, peacebuilding process, identity