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# Religious Education and Religiosity of Young People

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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

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS\*

FORUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES  
OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RELIGIOSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

(Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, Serbia)

Organized by

Forum for Religious Issues and Centre for Sociological and Anthropological

Research of the Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade in co-organization

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

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## **RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SERBIA IN THE XXI CENTURY – FROM FORMAL TO INFORMAL AND VICE VERSA\***

Christianity represents a two-millennia old heritage which in its long period of origin and development often determined social (educational, cultural, but also political) and personal (people's activities, perceptions, level of consumption) aspects of life. For centuries in Serbia, through tradition and experience, knowledge, beliefs and rituals have been acquired and transmitted by the Church as an institution. However, religious teachings and rituals were also passed on by families, observing Orthodox Christian holidays and practicing customs in their households. In Serbia, the first schools were founded in monasteries, and one of those schools was attended by the famous educators Dositej Obradović and Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, who would become the main reformers of culture and education and who contributed to the development of literacy, as well as to the general enlightenment in Serbia. In addition, the first copies of books were made in these very same monasteries, and they today represent valuable testimonies of medieval culture in this region. From the 19th century until the Second World War, religious education had been compulsory in schools, after which it was abolished and atheism was advocated as a substitute for religion, although the Yugoslav liberal version of socialism was not as rigid towards religion, as some other communist regimes. However, religious education was not taught in Serbia for many years, until the renewed wave of re-traditionalization of Serbian society at the beginning of the 21st century, returned religious education courses into the system of formal education, i.e. into schools. Therefore, today it is possible to acquire general formal religious education through primary and secondary schooling, but also to acquire professional knowledge through specialized educational

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institutions, such as, for example, The Orthodox Faculty of Theology. The same applies to other traditional religious communities in Serbia (Catholic, Protestant, Islamic and Jewish), as they are able to implement their own religious education programs without hindrance in Serbia. However, the accelerated technological development and many social changes brought into question the currentness of the religious teaching in its existing form, but also opened up the following question: "Is it possible to acquire religious education through other social disciplines?", that is, the issue of modernization of religious education and its adaptation to the spirit of time, which will be the topic of our scientific work.

**Key words:** religious education, educational system, society, Serbia, modernization