Mass Religious Ritual and Intergroup Tolerance: The Muslim Pilgrims’ Paradox

Book launch event with authors
Mikhail Alexseev and Sufian Zhemukhov

The book examines how Muslims from Russia’s North Caucasus returned from the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca both more devout as Muslims and more tolerant of out-groups. Drawing on prominent theories of identity and social capital, the authors resolve seeming contradictions between the two literatures by showing the effects of religious rituals that highlight within-group diversity at the same time that they affirm the group’s common identity. This theory is then applied to explain why social integration of Muslim immigrants has been more successful in the USA than in Europe and how the largest Hispanic association in the US defied the clash of civilizations theory by promoting immigrants’ integration into America’s social mainstream. The book is part of Cambridge Studies in Social Theory, Religion and Politics.

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Friday, October 27, 2017
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Lindner Commons, Room 602
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
RSVP here