

Gender Identity in Islam

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Expectations of Behavior

“Unless we believe what we are told, we would do nothing in this life” – Augustine, *Book VI*

- *Acceptance of expectations: modest dress and physical placement*
- *Modesty vs condemnation*
- *Dress and behave differently: delicacy and placement*
- *Praying a certain way*

Our community establishes our expected behavior such as societal norms and gender roles. (Bender)

Gender Roles

" Gender Roles are a set of social roles, symbolic functions that are assigned to the anatomical difference between the sexes in different cultures/ societies." - Daniel Boyrain

- *Rely on men*
- *Expected to stay at home*
- *Women pray in the back and Men pray in the front*

Any deviance from social norms seems to weaken identity (Barth)

Authority figures in communities are able to reaffirm gender roles by using the authority of God in scripture and religious text. (Bell)



What roles do Muslim women play in their communities? How does modest dress reinforce societal roles?

The World's Religion Paradigm – theory by James L. Cox



Through A Woman's Eyes



<http://www.santabanta.com/photos/arab-women-in-hijab/15601012.htm>

Conclusions

- Looking through the framework of the World's Religion Paradigm
- One theory can be interchangeable
- World view on women
- Gender playing a role in religion
- Expectations in religion

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