



CONTENDING RELIGIONS, IDENTITIES AND SPACE

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PAPER PROPOSAL

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PAPER'S TITLE: LIVING TOGETHER IN THE FULL-FACED VEIL'S SHADOW

ABSTRACT: In 2014, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) delivered a decision on the French legislation banning the full-faced veil from every public place. The ECtHR's ruling upheld the law maintaining that it was grounded on the French republican idea of «vivre ensemble» that the juxtaposition of a scarf covering the face would violate.

France is not the only European country that passed a ban on the religious symbols characterising Islamic women: also Belgium shortly after enforced a very similar legislation and other attempted but failed short of a full majority in Parliament. In the immediate aftermath of the ECtHR's judgment, some political movements scattered in all the continent (from Norway to Spain, from Denmark to Greece) promised to put again the ban in the domestic political agenda.

What kind of coexistence is foreseeable after the ECtHR's decision? Would that provoke major transformations in Europe? What is living together with religious minorities for Europeans? Is the weaponry of our constitutional culture well suited to deal with these epochal challenges?

AUTHOR'S SHORT BIO AND ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Benedetta Barbisan is associate professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Macerata. She was visiting researcher and professor in several foreign institutions, including Boston College Law School, Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, and currently at the King's College London School of Law.

She has published a book on the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Marbury v. Madison*, and other has been writing a book on the constitutional dilemmas of the «right to die».