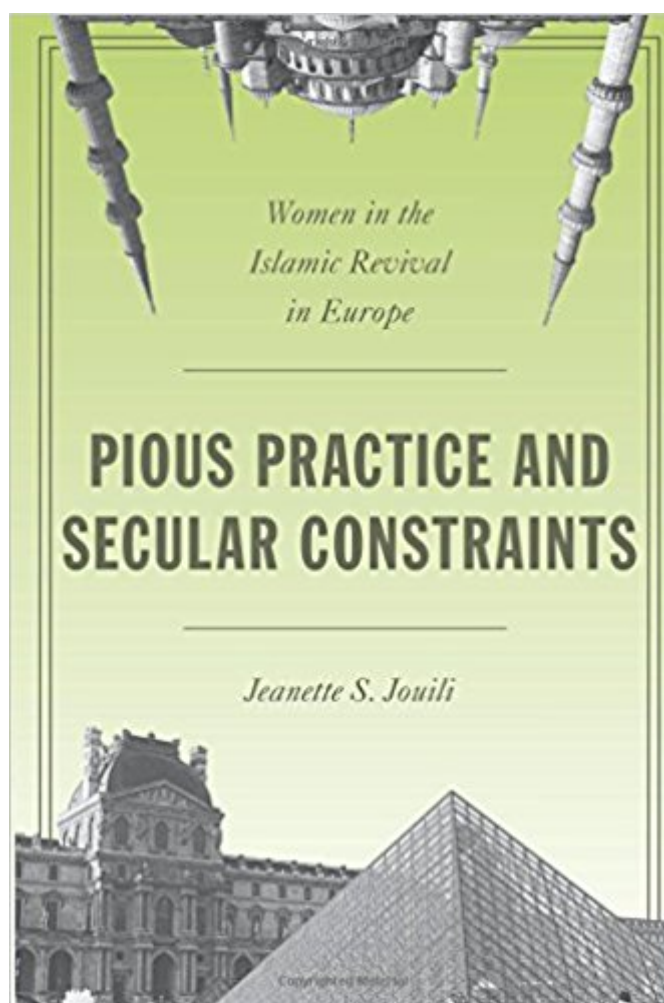


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Pious Practice And Secular Constraints: Women In The Islamic Revival In Europe



Synopsis

The visible increase in religious practice among young European-born Muslims has provoked public anxiety. New government regulations seek not only to restrict Islamic practices within the public sphere, but also to shape Muslims', and especially women's, personal conduct. *Pious Practice and Secular Constraints* chronicles the everyday ethical struggles of women active in orthodox and socially conservative Islamic revival circles as they are torn between their quest for a pious lifestyle and their aspirations to counter negative representations of Muslims within the mainstream society. Jeanette S. Jouili conducted fieldwork in France and Germany to investigate how pious Muslim women grapple with religious expression: for example, when to wear a headscarf, where to pray throughout the day, and how to maintain modest interactions between men and women. Her analysis stresses the various ethical dilemmas the women confronted in negotiating these religious duties within a secular public sphere. In conversation with Islamic and Western thinkers, Jouili teases out the important ethical-political implications of these struggles, ultimately arguing that Muslim moral agency, surprisingly reinvigorated rather than hampered by the increasingly hostile climate in Europe, encourages us to think about the contribution of non-secular civic virtues for shaping a pluralist Europe.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press (May 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804794669

ISBN-13: 978-0804794664

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #565,171 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice #135 in Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Women in Islam #5044 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies

Customer Reviews

This is an excellent and original study that will be of great interest to anyone thinking about Islam in the west, orthodoxy, feminism, or citizenship. As a comparative religion professor at a public university, I recently used this book in a graduate seminar and the students loved it. I would

definitely use it again for graduate classes. I am also planning to use this book in upper-level undergraduate classes. The book uses ethnographic method to advance our understanding of Muslim women in France and Germany, rooting all of its insights and claims in the words of these women, and in their vividly described experiences. The book is one of the very few grounded and trustworthy studies of "orthodox Islam," a religious tradition that is misunderstood in Europe and America. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in this topic, as well as those who wish to understand intersections between Islamic and ancient Greek moral and philosophical traditions.

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