



Viola Thimm (Hamburg):

'Embodying and consuming Muslim pilgrimage: Gendered shopping and clo- thing practices by Malaysian women on "umrah and ziarah Dubai"

Traveling plays a special role in Islam. The spirituality of travel becomes obvious in the big (hajj) and the small (umrah) pilgrimage journey to the holy places of Islam in today's Saudi-Arabia as well as in visiting holy graves and shrines (ziarah) even outside the Arabian Peninsula. In Malaysia travel agencies offer umrah journeys connected with ziarah, which are understood here as part religious observance and part holiday and leisure. Malay women from Malaysia especially choose Dubai as the destination for ziarah due to the possibilities for going shopping. They are particularly interested in purchasing the abaya, a long black cloak which is usually worn by Arab women. The way of dressing plays an important role in bodily self-representation and in communicating one's self-image to the outside world. Muslim Malay Malaysian women allocate different meaning to their abayas: From "religiously-modern to "too sexy." Through the abaya, they negotiate modernity as well as interpretations and concepts of Islam. This lecture gives insights into gendered negotiations of consumerist practices by Muslim Malaysian women on the religious journey to Dubai, especially with regard to the body and dress codes.

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Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!

**Institut für Ethnologie, Bergius-Villa,
Albert-Ueberle-Straße 3-5
www.eth.uni-heidelberg.de**