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**Headscarf Debates in Europe: Conflicts of Belonging in National Narratives**

In both popular and scholarly analyses, the headscarf, burka and niqab often symbolize the immigrant related religious threat to nationhood. In collaborative work with Gökçe Yurdakul (Humboldt University Berlin), I show that discussions of the ways in which Muslim women cover their bodies can also become sites for the (re)articulation of national belonging. Based on an analysis of newspaper discussions of the headscarf as well as targeted interviews with Muslim women actively promoting women's right to cover their bodies, we analyze how these debates reinforce rather than undermine distinctly French, Turkish, Dutch, or German notions of national belonging. In each of these countries, a wide array of political actors, including politicians, newsmakers, and representatives of sub-state communities, among them headscarf-wearing Muslim women themselves, participate in these media debates. In discussing the headscarf, they produce national narratives by drawing from the historical repertoires that informed the construction of national identity in these nation-states. In discussing the headscarf, burka and niqab, this wide array of actors demarcate belonging through the inclusions and exclusions associated with race, ethnicity, gender, and religion.