Transforming Bodies and Religions

This book sheds an interdisciplinary light on ‘transforming bodies’: bodies that have been subjected to, contributed to, or have resisted social transformations within religious or secular contexts in contemporary Europe. It explores the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion that underpin embodied transformations. Using post-secularist, postcolonial, and gender/queer perspectives, it aims to gain a better understanding of the orchestrations and effects of larger social transitions related to religion.

This volume is the outcome of the intensive collaboration of the authors, who for years have been meeting regularly in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to discuss themes related to religion and ‘the challenge of difference’, with an added afterword by Prof. Pamela Klassen from the University of Toronto. The book is divided into three subsections that focus on particular types of embodiment: body politics in governmental and NGO organisations; the role of the body in literary and/or autobiographical narratives; and ethnographic case studies of bodies in daily life.

Doing so, it provides an innovative exploration of contemporary religion and the body. It will, therefore, be of great interest to scholars of Religious Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Theology, and Philosophy.

Mariecke van den Berg studied Theology (BA) and Gender Studies (RMA) at Utrecht University. She obtained her PhD in Public Administration in 2014 at the University of Twente. She currently works as a postdoctoral researcher at Utrecht University in the project *Beyond ‘Religion versus Emancipation’: Gender and Sexuality in Women’s Conversion to Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Contemporary Western Europe*, funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). She is assistant managing editor at the open-access journal *Religion and Gender*.

Lieke L. Schrijvers is a PhD candidate for a joint doctorate at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Utrecht University and the Centre for Research on Culture and Gender at Ghent University. Her current research

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Jelle O. Wiering is a cultural anthropologist whose main interest lies in the field of religious studies. He is a lecturer in religious studies and sociology at the University of Groningen and Utrecht University. He recently finished his PhD at the University of Groningen. This project focused on the intersections of religion, secularity, and sexuality in the Netherlands. Previously, he researched Western Buddhists, and Dutch pilgrims traveling to Santiago de Compostela.

Anne-Marie Korte is a professor in religious studies at Utrecht University. She holds the chair of Religion and Gender, which aims to explore categories of gender, sexuality, and diversity when investigating the significance and operations of religion(s) in cultural processes and current social developments. She is currently Project Leader of the project *Beyond 'Religion versus Emancipation': Gender and Sexuality in Women's Conversion to Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Contemporary Western Europe*, funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and was the founding director of the journal *Religion and Gender*. Korte's current research is directed at the role of gender and sexuality in contemporary accusations of blasphemy and on contemporary miracle stories.

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