



The Image of Islam in the German Media*

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Abstract

The German people believe that the existence of Islam and Muslims violates their purity and threatens their religious and cultural heritage and their future. Studies show that this biased attitude tends to increase day by day. In the formation of the negative perception that exists and is widespread in Germany, and in the reproduction and normalization of anti-Islamic and anti-Muslim racist rhetoric, undoubtedly the media, among other factors, plays an important role. Especially in societies such as Germany, in which a differentiated and complicated social structure and a network of relationships are active, it is almost impossible for people to know about events and other people directly. The main source of information in these societies is the media, which regulates social life, even social relations. In this context, it can be said that the prevailing discourse about Muslim women and the Islamic religion is largely determined by media images and narratives. The aim of this study is to question the role of the German media, which is assumed to directly or indirectly support the rise of anti-Islamic and Muslim anti-women racism in Germany, and to show how the media participates in the production and circulation of rhetoric that creates and normalizes negative perceptions about Muslim women (the vast majority of whom are German citizens) living in Germany and how these developments can be addressed. For this purpose, how the Islam, Muslims and women are covered and presented in national newspapers in Germany is analyzed.

Keywords: Germany, Images, Islamaphobia, Muslims, Narratives.

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