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ABSTRACTS

ILONA BLUMGRUND, HILKKA LYDÉN & ALINA LEMINEN

Migrin teologia turvapaikkapäätösten valossa

The purpose of the study was to find out what the theological understandings of the Finnish Immigration Office (Migri) appear to be in the asylum decisions of those who have converted to Christianity, and especially how Migri's interpretations affect the decisions. The research material consists of 48 asylum decisions, of which the negative decisions (total 20) were the focus of the analysis due to the scant justifications for positive decisions. Based on previous research, it seems that Migri understands religion as an internal matter and a private phenomenon. We analyse how this is reflected in Migri's decisions, especially in relation to the meaning of baptism. We consider what kind of conversion to Christianity is considered credible, and what this notion is based on. Based on the analysis, it seems that Migri's understanding of religion is within the Western secularist paradigm, which is in conflict with the self-understanding and theological charters of several churches. Migri's understanding does not always correspond to the religious paradigms of asylum seekers who have converted to Christianity. This contradiction leads to negative asylum decisions and many asylum seekers ending up undocumented, i.e. outside of society and its structures.

VESA ESKOLA & ANNE BIRGITTA PESSI

Surussa kohdataan? Suomalaisten sureminen sosiaalisessa mediassa

As media technologies evolve, we can participate actively in different events of life on social media - including mourning. At the same time rituals of mourning have changed on social media. The research question for this quantitative study was how and why Finnish people grieve on social media. The data was collected via an electronic survey and there were in total 102 answers. All people over the age of 18 were allowed to take part in the study. The research participants grieved and posted actively on social media. The most active group were middle-aged people and women. In these posts people remembered and respected the dead ones. The participants found it easy to show emotions and found that they got support in their mourning on social media. The study found that a person who uses social media in their daily life, also mourns actively online. At the same time, traditional, modern and postmodern ways and rituals of death are intertwined as people grieve both virtually and in a traditional way.