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The Multiplatform Hypermediated Digital Niqabosphere

In my paper, I focus on two theoretical concepts that are helpful in the understanding of digital Islam: platform interconnectedness and hypermediated religious spaces. The latter has been linked to articulation of hybrid religious identities, the creation of shared aesthetics, and the enablement of alternative and nonmainstream religious narratives (Campbell and Evolvi, 2019). I demonstrate how they are evident in what I have called the “digital niqabosphere”: a digital space that consists of individuals and groups invested in the idea of wearing the *niqab* (the Islamic face veil) who create, discursively and performatively, interconnected third spaces across multiple digital media platforms where they develop, perform, adjust and negotiate their hybrid religious and gender identities in relation to the practice of *niqab* wearing. Actors talk about aspirations, experiences, and challenges related to wearing the *niqab*, but what makes these narratives distinct from traditional interviews or context-specific media appearances is their dialogicality, versatility, and global reach. As a result, the digital religious third spaces where these actors communicate facilitate the creation of shared “aesthetics of the *niqab*” that underpin the production of global, mediatized alternative religious narratives and counterpublics.

<https://annamagdalenapiela.wordpress.com/>

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