

## **Session: The Moving Frontiers Between Religiosity and Atheism in Post-Communist States: Gender and Age Differences**

### **Gender and Religion in Post-Soviet States**

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The paper will be based on the data collected during the third stage of the European values study in 1999/2000 - approximately ten years after the collapse of the communist system. These ten years make it possible to identify some features of this transformation. The goal of this paper is to analyze gender attitudes toward religion in six republics of the former Soviet Union: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. From the point of the dominant confession, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are primarily Orthodox, while Lithuania is primarily Catholic, Latvia is a mixture of three Christian confessions, and in Estonia only a small part of the population identify themselves as religious. These differences make the whole picture rather complicated. However, there are some features that related to the common gender characteristics of religious attitudes.

By comparing contemporary mass attitudes toward religion in the above mentioned six former Soviet states with the attitudes towards religion measured in these republics in 1990 (during the Soviet days) we will define the differences in religious attitudes reflected gender and age dimensions adequate for the periods of 1990 and 2000.