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Problematic Multiculturalism: Recasting the Post-Westphalian "Other" in Religious Garb

The paper takes as its starting point the core question of why multiculturalism as a contemporary problem or challenge – in Europe especially, but also in the British settler societies – has come to be consistently scanned as, not just religious diversity, but as the presence of particular kinds of religion and religious expression? From this starting point, it addresses the prominence in debates on multiculturalism of symbolic issues which include a series of questions about the sexual use and control of (mostly but not exclusively women's) bodies, religiously informed education and law, and far less often ritual practices and spaces. On this basis, the analy-

sis then shifts to discussion of how the entire question points to a current transformative historical juncture that is witnessing the undermining of a fundamental "Westphalian" logic which cast purportedly universal civilization as multiple particular national state-centred societies resting explicitly or implicitly (in "secular" guise) on ethno-cultural, racial, and religious foundations.