

The presented project is designed to show the images and functions of holy women in the Serbian national and spiritual spheres, including the historical, cultural and social background of state and Church. The project will attempt to answer the following questions: Are the old, medieval female cults revived in modern, post-secular Serbia? In what context is it done and what function does this process have? Are women saints patrons of national and ecclesiastical institutions in modern Serbia which are founded on specific national traditions and religious norms that legitimize the Serbian identity? Has women's holiness, among other things, an impact on the proclaimed ideas of cultural and spiritual rebirth in Serbia? Is it used to confront the heterodoxy (as it was, for example, at the time of Ottoman domination)? Does the Christian morality and ethics which female saints guard, serve the Serbian Orthodox Church as an example to contradict the modern, secularized ways of thinking about family and female role in the society and Church? The results obtained during the implementation of the project, which is essential to Slavic Studies and European Cultural Studies, will fill the gap in the existing research and enable verification of the existing views marginalizing the influence of holy women on the political, social and spiritual formation of the Serbian people. As a result, it will help to correct some stereotypical ideas about Serbian culture, giving them a completely new perspective.