

How do modern European societies deal with new religious movements? – *Eileen Barker*
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New Religious Movements (NRMs) have existed throughout history, but the visibility, extent and variety of the movements in Europe, as elsewhere, has increased dramatically since World War II, partly due to increased social and geographical mobility and partly due to the exponential increase in the mass media, particularly the Internet. Reactions within and between the countries of Europe have varied widely. The paper will briefly outline a variety of answers (at both the macro and the micro levels) to the question "What should be done about the movements?" As well as looking at the responses of governments and mainstream religions, there will be a brief examination of the positions of the so-called 'cult-watching groups' that have emerged to construct images of the movements and to promote special policies directed towards them. Consideration will also be paid to the variety of locations of religious identity promoted from a theological or ideological perspective, including the cosmic, global, national, local, biological, ethnic, lineage, cultural, individual, inner space, and virtual.