

# “Halal and Kosher Certification Requirements in the Food Industry. Culture and Application Research Notes 2013-2014”

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Developed in order to provide an interactive course of religious anthropology for the students of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Bucharest, as part of a Master course studying the Halal and Kosher food, the paper suggests diverse points of view, both mobile and well documented, on concepts specific to this research. The study proposes a series of studies and study notes, as follows: *Anthropological mutations in the modern education – a diagnosis of the religious subject communication* (Pr. Conf. Univ. Constantin Necula, pp. 1-25), *Food and holiness in the Old Israel, starting with food regulations in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14* (Dr. Marius Tofană, pp. 26-590), *General aspects on certification* (Assoc. Prof. Univ. Dr. Camelia Daniela Petcu, pp. 60-76), *Talmud – a brief description. Animal slaughtering* (Dohotariu Marius-Florentin, pp. 77 - 92); *The Koran – the fundamental Mohammedanism writing* (Duşa Raluca Felicia, pp.93-102); *Fasting in Ramadan* (Frone Mihai, pp. 102-122); *The influence of religion in dieting. “The rabbinisation” of foods – the phenomenon of kosher certification of products* (Jumunga Lucian, pp. 123- 127); *Kosher, Halal and vegetarianism* (Caracostea (Făfâneaţă) Cornelia, Porumbel (Petcu) Carmen Daniela, pp. 128- 142); *The Kosher coffee certification* (Iurea Elena, pp. 143-148); *Halal and Haram in Islam* (Roşu George Bogdănel, pp. 149-156); *Facts and forbidden things in the Islamic religion. Kaba- Medina* (Dumitru Ruxandra Maria, pp. 157-165); *Halal and Haram* (Stancu Alexandra, pp. 188-194); *Presentation, storage, processing and cooking of halal food* (Vass Brigitta Bianca, pp. 195-201); *Kosher wine* (Vişan Codruţa, pp. 202- 206); *Muslim alimentation – prohibited and permitted* (Vlad Daniela- Mirabela, pp. 207- 209) and *The classical Islamic civilization* (Temea Ioana Alexandra, Ion Cătălina, pp. 209- 214).

The volume begins with some analytical questions imposed by the coordinator, which he will try to find answers and solutions for throughout the chapter.

- In the second chapter, after crossing many cultures of the world, trying to find some analogies to help describe the cultural context of food prescriptions through anthropological research, the author presents a series of concepts and key formulations of the animal impurity spectrum.
- In such a volume, presenting data linked to the certification of the quality management and food safety system [1], is necessary and made possible in the third chapter.
- Essential Talmud elements [2] of interest to readers are briefly described in the fourth chapter of the book.
- The fifth chapter presents some aspects of animal slaughter and of Halal and Kosher food [3]. There are also shown some aspects of the Islamic religion (faith and ritual, Muslim traditions) [4]. The end of the chapter presents a discussion and two interviews on Halal.
- After the six chapters, where the author reviews some of the Islam values and information on Koran, the seventh chapter shows aspects of fasting in Ramadan.
- The next two chapters present the influence of the Christian, Islamic, Hebrew, Hindu, Buddhist, Judaic religions in nutrition [5] and also the aspects of the kosher products certification. The volume is complemented by a comparative presentation of diverse aliments and practices in terms of halal, kosher and vegetarian foods [6].
- The book presents, in one of the chapters, aspects of quality coffee - a real need for both sellers and buyers and the importance of defining its kosher certification.

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- The volume is followed by defining the halal and haram terms in Islam, as well as by aspects related to the fundamentals of the Islamic faith, the civilization of the classic Islamism and the presentation and storage of halal food.
- A large chapter is dedicated to kosher wine, developing a thorough insight into its time and space.

The work is presented as collaboration between a research centre of Metropolitan of Ardeal (CADCO - Mitropolit „Andrei Şaguna”, Sibiu), belonging to the Orthodox Church and the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Bucharest, in order to identify the reference points of a halal - kosher spirituality in the food certification. There are identified some basis of the educational anthropology [7] related to the religious element in the modern world, sometimes emphasized by the link between nutrition anthropology and the ritual act, the identification of the interpretation keys of the concepts on a theoretical and practical basis and the practice of the religious concepts on a managerial level. The texts, even if uneven in content and form, bring in front of the reader a series of lecture and direct practical experience in the food certification context. A mix of religious and food quality requirements, the paper is marked by an interdisciplinary act and inter-religious dialogue, the dialogue being present in the academic context of the research. The book is unique in the religious and the Romanian veterinary medicine context, even if the tradition of a dialogue research is not new. The choice of the coordinator, the priest named Constantin Necula, leads to a short volume of intensive, dynamic and dialogue notes. By identifying the analytical questions of the context of the religious communication and choosing as active means of work the multimedia communication and also by analysing the confusion of values and their accelerated revitalisation, the book proposes a decent solution for certification through comparative analysis and mutual respect. In the context of a broad culture of the compared elements, the anthropology proposed by the authors of this volume (theologians, veterinarians, specialists in certification and in product quality intervention) are not separated from the faith and unbelief ethos, the analysis being made by the knowledge of their own quality culture. We are challenged to respond to the verbal, non-verbal and para-verbal communication challenges, by identifying (based on the Speaking scheme of Dell Hathaway Hymes [8]) the temporal, physical and cultural

circumstances of the analytical action. The purpose, manner and order in which the communication is created, develops a visible hierarchy of the anthropological typologies and of the materials contained in this book. Articles and studies do not aim to finalities, but developing a fundamental research plan in the veterinary medicine field.

This research brings an important contribution in the anthropology field, through the information submitted in multiple plans, from nutrition, communication to religion and medicine, bearing the strong influence of the coordinator, father Constantin Necula, associate professor at the “Lucian Blaga” University from Sibiu, Romania, the Orthodox Theology Faculty of “Saint Andrei Saguna”. The book reflects, among other 48 volumes published as author, 10 coordinated volumes, 70 Romanian studies, 7 studies in foreign languages, 261 scholarly articles in Romanian, 10 specialized articles in foreign languages, 390 theological conferences and presence to 143 international conferences, 24 published conferences, the multiple interests of the coordinator, both in the pastoral theology and anthropological research fields, but especially his involvement in the current problems of our society.

The novelty of the well documented approach, the clear personal style and the prospects it brings, recommends this book to be read by specialists in anthropology, nutritionists, doctors student and all those who want to study an example of interdisciplinary study.

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