

ANNOTATION

This thesis focuses on the definition of terms charisma and charismatic authority and its application in new religious movements (NRMs) studies. The first part of the thesis is rather generally oriented and provides a commentary review of the most famous approaches to charisma. In the end, the discussion about various theories of charisma results in its definition from the perspective of Religious Studies. This definition is applied in the second part of this paper afterwards. Second part introduces intricate history of term NRMs and its semantics including sociological typology. Furthermore, it is argued that NRMs are charismatic movements and the author suggests a model of charismatisation degree inside NRMs. These claims head towards the deconstruction of relationship between charismatic leader and his followers. The inner dynamics of charismatisation process is stressed. By referring to problematics of origin, constitution and maintaining charisma within NRMs, this thesis proves that charisma is a relatively common, social and dialectical phenomenon.