Abstract:
Since the 1960s, the number of Muslims in the Netherlands increased manifold as a consequence of migration. In the historically Christian and increasingly secular Dutch context, Islam to this day largely remains a religion of immigrants and their offspring. Against the background of contrasting secular and religious orientations in Dutch society and within immigrant communities, the religiosity of immigrants and their offspring is studied in the present research. On the basis of rich survey data gathered among Muslim minority populations in the Netherlands, religious trends across generations and over time are studied. In addition, the role of social integration in co-ethnic minority and majority groups is taken into account. The results of the five empirical chapters presented in this book suggest remarkable stability in religious identification, practice and attitudes across generations and over time. There is little evidence indicating a religious revival among the second generation, but neither is there a trend towards secularisation. At an individual level, differences in religiosity can be explained partly by differences in social integration of Dutch Muslims. Embeddedness in the ethnic community is associated with stronger religiosity, whereas engaging in close ties with Dutch majority group members is associated with lower levels of religiosity.