Since the early twentieth century, Iranians have often approached the Islamic realm of the unseen in rational and scientific terms. At the heart of their approaches stands an image of “gullible women,” the negative against which rational understanding comes into relief. Doostdar examines this image in relation to a series of shifts in spiritual inquiry and its social contexts. The “gullible woman,” he argues, captures two very different sets of social anxieties over the past century. These in turn reveal how hegemonic forms of rationality are produced and the kinds of challenges they engender.

**ISLAM, SCIENCE, AND THE GENDER OF REASON**

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