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### **Expertise of religion in Russia and its Soviet background**

After the fall of the Soviet Union, we observe the emerging field of expertise of religion in Russia. Various academic experts (historians, ethnologists, cultural studies specialists) are asked by courts to give their opinion on religious issues. Most of these cases are dealing with 'religious extremism', 'violation of believers' feelings' or the right to have the legal status of religious organization. Experts are also invited to participate in various councils and commissions on religious expertise, religious literature, religious organizations where they take part in forming new religious standards ('traditional Islam', 'traditional religions', 'traditional values', etc.)

All these processes are post-Soviet phenomena. They are regulated by post-Soviet laws on expertise, the cases are marked by post-Soviet specifics, even the terms 'expert' and 'expertise' relatively to Social Sciences are used especially starting 1990s. However, an extended study of the contemporary experts' discourse and an analysis of their Soviet predecessors shows some undoubted continuities. It concerns the pro-Orthodox experts as well, who are quite critical towards 'scientific atheists' of the USSR.

Besides the question of knowledge production on religion in Russia, the analysis of the expertise of religion and its evolution allows us to have a new perspective to the (de)secularization debate in Russia. Based essentially on the study of institutions or believers, this question could be refined with this study of the intermediate field of categories production.