

Magical Practices in Childbirth Rituals in the Process of Transition from Tradition to Modernity: Examples from the Asenovgrad Region

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(Summary)

The current article focuses on the magical practices used in childbirth rituals in three villages in the Rhodope Mountains – Dobrostan, Oreshets, and Mostovo – during the period between the 1920s and the 1960s, when modernization and the medicalization of society became increasingly evident, even reaching smaller communities. The aim of the study is to examine whether these practices gradually disappear or are preserved over time, as well as to clarify the reasons behind this. The research conclusions are based on materials from the author’s own fieldwork, as well as on archival materials on the topic, which have not been published until now.

Keywords: childbirth rituals; magic; magical practices; birth

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