The way the Fatimids wore their turbans was severely criticized by Abu Bakr al-Turtushi, an Andalusi Maliki scholar who lived between the eleventh and twelfth centuries. He considered it an ‘innovation’ worthy of being censored, although of course for the Fatimids it was a practice deeply rooted in the Islamic tradition. Abu Bakr al-Turtushi was not the first to have paid attention to this piece of clothing. In fact, as shown already by Manuela Marín (“Signos visuales de la identidad andalusí”, Tejer y vestir: de la antigüedad al Islam, Madrid: CSIC, 2001, 137-180), turbans played an important role in the way ethnic, political, religious, and social identities were manifested in al-Andalus. In my paper I will review some of the cases in which the turban played a role as the symbol of a specific Muslim group or as the symbol of Islam in contrast to those identifying with Christendom.


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