



The Bahā'ī Faith: Doctrinal and Historical Explorations

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Message from the Guest Editors

The Bahā'ī Faith has been in existence for over 160 years and in that time has spread around the world such that there are now organized Bahā'ī communities in almost every country of the world and, according to the statistics compiled by the Association of Religion Data Archives, over 7 million Bahā'īs.¹ All such statistics can be problematized but what is undoubted is that the Bahā'ī Faith has not received from the academic community the amount of attention and research that its size and rapid growth would warrant. Until recently, there have been only a handful of scholars in North America and Europe and almost none in the rest of the world who have had this religion as the main focus of their research and very few papers and monographs were published in the past one hundred years or so. The situation is improving gradually but only slowly so.

The collection of papers in this Special Issue is a small effort toward correcting this deficit in the publications available to the academic world. The theme has been made deliberately broad so that the scholars who contribute can present the research they are currently engaged in.





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