From 1977 until 1980 (16-17 April 1977; 15-16 April 1978; 7-8 April 1979; 11-13 April 1980), the Departments of Religious Studies and of Sociology at the University of Lancaster lent their support to a succession of four annual Bahá’í Studies Seminars held under the convenership of Peter Smith, then a post-graduate student in the Department of Sociology. Designed to further academic research into the Babi and Bahá’í religions, these seminars afforded opportunity for a number of post-graduates from Europe and America to present and discuss papers on various aspects of "Bahá’í Studies". Most of the substantive papers presented at the seminars have since found their way into print or been incorporated into the participants' doctoral theses.

The papers presented were as follows:


- Published in slightly revised form as "The rise of the Bahá'í community of 'Ishqábád". Bahá'í Studies 5 (1979):1-13.

(1979) The concept of jihād in the Bābī and Bahā'ī movements.
- Published in part as "The Babi concept of holy war". Religion 12 (1982):93-129.


Momen, Moojan
(1977) Some problems connected with the Yazd episode of 1890.

(1978) Early contact between Bahā'īs and Christian missionaries.


- Published in Iran 20 (1982):113-43.

Mossop, Denise

Peitola, Harri (Helsinki)

Scholl, Steven
(1980) Imām Shī'ism and the Baha'i Faith.

Smith, Peter (Lancaster)
(1977) The routinization of charisma? Some comments on Peter L. Berger's "Motif messianique et processus social dans le Baha'isme".
- Published in shortened and amended form as "Motif research: Peter Berger and the Bahā'ī Faith". Religion 3 (1978):210-34.

- See also Smith's Ph.D. thesis, "A Sociological Study of the Babi and Baha'i Religions" (University of Lancaster, 1982).

(1979) Millenarianism in the Bābī and Bahā'ī religions.
- Published in amended form as "Millenialism in the Babi and Baha'i religions", pp.231-83 in Millenialism and Charisma, ed. R. Wallis (Belfast: The Queen's University, 1982).

For short accounts of the Seminars see the following: For the 1977 and 1978 Seminars, the United Kingdom Bahā'ī Journal 245 (June 1978):16-17 (See also the erratum in issue no.248 (Jan. 1979):11); for the 1979 Seminar, the Bulletin of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies 6 (1979):119-23.

Peter Smith.