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*The Academic Study of H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophy – past and present*

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891) is recognized as one of the major figures in modern 'Western esotericism', especially because of her co-founding of the Theosophical Society (1875) and her major works such as *Isis Unveiled* (1877) and *The Secret Doctrine* (1888), which already during her lifetime provoked interest from learned members of society as well as from inquiring skeptics. The latter, however, judged her fatally wherefore until fairly recently - with the emergence of the academic study of 'Western esotericism' - critical interest in her Theosophy has lain more or less dormant. This lecture will outline and discuss the academic study of Blavatsky's Theosophy from its beginning to the present and thereby provide an overview of the "state of affairs" in Blavatsky research.