



The Society for Armenian Studies

Newsletter Volume XLVII/1, 2023

President's Message

Christina Maranci, SAS President



Dear Members,

It is difficult to find words to capture the catastrophic changes that 2023 has wrought, most of all the ethnic cleansing by Azerbaijan of Armenians from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh), the resulting humanitarian crisis in Armenia, and the precarious future of Armenian cultural heritage in the lands left behind, and the ongoing falsification of medieval Armenian history by Azerbaijan. This tragedy has affected all of us in Armenian Studies, in one way or another. Some might suggest that this is the time for us to put down our pens (or research). Indeed, I recently participated in an online panel on Artsakh, about which a YouTube commenter decried the majority of us as “useless academics”.

I vehemently disagree with this assessment. Our work as Armenologists, whether on the deep past or contemporary events, and from philology to political science (and beyond), is more crucial now than ever. It is important to remind ourselves that Armenian Studies in the United States was mobilized by refugees from the Armenian Genocide. They knew the importance of preserving and teaching Armenian history and culture in the face of complete annihilation, and they did whatever they could do to support that goal.

It is the mission of the Society of Armenian Studies to support the work of its members through research grants, awards, sponsored events, and through the Journal of the Society of Armenian Studies. We were honored to continue our partnership with IAALA.

SAS was also proud to partner with the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in a series of online programs and lectures more on which you can find in this Newsletter.

Our members have also been diligently active by publishing books, delivering lectures, as well as webinars.

Along its yearly grant supports to Graduate Students and researchers, the Society for Armenian Studies also announced calls for SAS Outstanding Book, SAS Outstanding Dissertation, and the Best Conference Paper Awards. The recipients of the awards will be chosen by a selection committee composed of members of the SAS. The results and awardees will be announced on SAS website:

<https://societyforarmenianstudies.com/my-sas/>

SAS Member News and Publications

Professor Khachig Tölölyan

Co-founder and co-editor, [Pynchon Notes](#) (1979-2009),

Founder and editor, [Diaspora: a journal of transnational studies](#) (1991-2020),

T: 401-351-5041

Khachig Tölölyan (Emeritus, Wesleyan University, since the end of 2020) retired, became very ill, survived, recuperated, and is now working on several small projects. An article, "Diaspora studies and its supplement, the study of diasporas: The Armenian Case," is forthcoming in Chahinian T., Kasbarian C., and Nalbantian, T, Eds., *Armenia Diaspora and Stateless Power*, Bloomsbury/I.B. Tauris, U.K., December 2023. He gave a talk titled "Reorganizing the Five Hundred Thousand: Diasporic Strategies, Stateless Action," in Glendale on 29 April 2023. He continues to review books for Choice, the journal of American College and Research Libraries.

Gregory Aftandilian

Gregory Aftandilian has been hired as a full-time term faculty member in the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC. He typically teaches courses on US foreign policy, Middle East politics, and historical research methods.

Jennifer Manoukian

(UC Irvine)

Jennifer Manoukian earned her PhD from UCLA in June 2023 and is currently a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Irvine. Her article, "[Cultural Nationalism and the Spread of a 'National Language' among Arabophone, Turcophone and Kurdophone Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, c. 1840 to c. 1860](#)," appeared in *Middle Eastern Studies* 59, no. 3 (2023): 359-376. She also published a two public-facing articles based on her dissertation research: "[That's Not Armenian! Encounters with Language Purists Past and Present](#)" in *h-pem: Armenian Cultural*

Platform and "[Loosening the Tongue: Language-Learning among Early American Missionaries to the Ottoman Empire](#)" in *Commonplace: The*

Interactive Journal of Early American Life. The latter article made use of archival materials that an SAS Graduate Research Grant had helped digitize.

Hrag Papazian

(Assistant Professor of Anthropology, American University of Armenia)

Hrag Papazian presented a paper, "Christian, Muslim, and Alevi Armenians: Parallel regimes of religious and racial exclusion in Turkey," at the Middle East Studies Association 2022 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. His recent peer-

reviewed publications include "Between Passports and Belongings: Armenian citizenship acquisition among Armenians of Turkey," co-authored with Salim Aykut Öztürk, published in *Citizenship Studies* 27:4 (2022): 481-497,

DOI: [10.1080/13621025.2022.2151571](https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2022.2151571);

and "Turkey and 'Turks' in Postwar Armenia: Anxieties, Meanings, and Politics After the 2020 Karabakh War," published in *Ethnopolitics* (2023),

DOI: [10.1080/17449057.2023.2176587](https://doi.org/10.1080/17449057.2023.2176587)

Harold Takooshian

(Professor, Fordham University, New York NY 10023, USA, 212-636-6393, <http://takooshian.socialpsychology.org/>)

Harold Takooshian is Past-President (2020), Manhattan Psychological Association Editor, International Book Series,

www.infoagepub.com/series/International-Psychology

Treasurer, Psychology Coalition at the United Nations

Professor Harold Takooshian of Fordham University partnered with high school student Kristina Khrimian in Rockville MD to launch a new association of Armenian Behavioral Science Students. ABSS is now a global network of students working with the Armenian Behavioral Science Association (ABSA), to promote better understanding of the Armenian community through webinars, publications, service and other activities.

For details, check <https://www.armenianbss.com/> or contact armenian.bss@gmail.com

Konstantinos Takirtakoglou

(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Konstantinos Takirtakoglou authored “The Case of Mleh (1170–1175): Cilician Armenia between Nūr al-Dīn and Manuel I Komnenos.” *Medieval Encounters* 29, no. 4 (2023): 340–57.

Thomas Simsarian Dolan

(TSDolan@Emory.edu)

Thomas Simsarian Dolan just completed his first year as ACLS Emerging Voices Fellow in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Emory, after a year as a Fulbright US Teaching Scholar in History at AUC. He’s been active in Armenian Studies and activism: publishing “Thinking SWANA from the -stans: Armenia, Afghanistan and Spivak’s Other Asias” in the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 2; serving as Co-Coordinator, Critical SWANA Studies Section (Association for Asian American Studies); presenting “Armenians and Empire: Points of Contact and Contradiction” (Kevorkian Center K-12 Summer Institute), “Immigrant, Refugee and Citizen Futures: Anti-Armenian Racism and Armenian-American Organizing Past and Present” (Asian and American Research Institute, CUNY), “MENA and SWANA Categories and their Implications on Public Policy, Research, and Higher Ed” (Arab American Studies Association); and serving on SAG-AFTRA’s National MENA Committee, Armenian-American Action Network, and New York State’s REACH Coalition. Please be in touch to collaborate on all things Armenian, academic & activist!

Talinn Grigor

([University of California, Davis](https://www.psypress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-08943-0.html))

Talinn Grigor’s most recent book is titled *The Persian Revival: The Imperialism of the Copy in Iranian and Parsi Architecture*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2021.

<https://www.psypress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-08943-0.html>

She is the winner of Saidi-Sirjani Book Award 2022 by the Association of Iranian Studies as well as the winner of Honorable Mention 2022 by the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for

Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University.

She presented four talks at UCLA’s “Armeno-Indica” conference on Armeno-Indian architecture and artistic patronage, the 9th Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies in Yerevan on women’s agency in 19th-century Irano-Armenian photography, “The Soviet Experience in Armenia and Its Legacy – 2” conference on the Irano-Armenian press and its visual propaganda during the 1946-48 repatriation, and the *Journal of Dress, Body & Culture* conference on the 1974 costumes exhibition of Tehran’s ‘Armenian Woman’ Union. With her co-author, Houri Berberian, she has also presented their forthcoming book at UC Berkeley, entitled “From Photographic Ethno-type to Red Cross Revolutionaries: Minoritarian Modernism and the Armenian Women of Late Qajar Iran.” Under contract with Stanford University Press, the book has received subvention grants from UC Irvine and UC Davis.

Houri Berberian

Houri Berberian's chapter, "From a Reliable Ally to a Cunning Rival: A Look at the Changing Relations between Seyyed Hassan Taghizadeh and the Armenians during the Iranian Constitutional Revolution", appeared in Persian translation in *Founding Fathers of Modern Iran*, vol. I: Liberal Constitutionalist, Seyed Hasan Taghizade, edited by Farhad Soleiman-nejad (Tehran: Agar Publisher, 1402/2023). In March 2023, at UC Berkeley, she and her co-author Talinn Grigor presented “From Photographic Ethno-type to Red Cross Revolutionaries: Minoritarian Modernism and the Armenian Women of late Qajar Iran,” a paper based on their book under contract with Stanford University Press. During this period, the book received subvention grants from UC Irvine and UC Davis. Also in March, Berberian took part in a roundtable at *Infidelities: New Directions in Armenian Studies* conference at the University of Pennsylvania and served as a discussant at the Armeno-Indica: Four Centuries of Familiarity and Friendship conference at UCLA.

Jesse Siragan Alperen

(Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center; Fordham University)

Arlen, Jesse Siragan published two articles: “Spiritual Mourning with Tears in

Armenian Christianity from the Fifth to the Tenth Century,” in *St. Nersess Theological Review* 14 no. 1 (2023): 109–140; and “An Unpublished Gospel Manuscript Colophon from a Private Collection in the United Kingdom,” in *E-SAS: Entries of the Society for Armenian Studies*, September 18, 2022. He also peer-reviewed one book chapter: “Disease and Healing according to the Armenian Christian Tradition,” in *Soul and Body Diseases, Remedies and Healing Middle Eastern Religious Cultures and Traditions*, edited by Catalin-Stefan Popa, (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 201–223. He gave a two-semester public lecture series through St. Nersess Armenian seminary, titled “An Introduction to Medieval Armenian Poetry.” The recordings of the twelve lectures are available on [YouTube](#). He taught Classical Armenian at the Dumbarton Oaks/HMML summer language school in summer 2022 and gave a five-part lecture series on Armenian spirituality and monasticism at the Padus-Araxes summer course of Armenian language and culture in Venice in summer 2023 in addition to half a dozen invited public lectures and conference talks.

Matthew J. Sarkisian

Recent publication: *An Early-Eighteenth-Century Hmayil (Armenian Prayer Scroll): Introduction, Facsimile, Transcription and Annotated Translation*, edited and with a foreword by Jesse S. Arlen, (Sources from the Armenian Christian Tradition, 1), Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, New York, NY 2022.

<https://zohrabcenter.files.wordpress.com/2022/10/an-early-18th-century-hmayil.pdf>

In October 2022, the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center announced a new publication series, entitled *Sources from the Armenian Christian Tradition*, which provides the Krapar text and English translation of Armenian Christian sources in an attractive digital e-book format (<https://zohrabcenter.org/sources-from-the-armenian-christian-tradition/>).

An Early-Eighteenth Century Hmayil (Armenian Prayer Scroll): Introduction, Facsimile, Transcription and Annotated Translation by Matthew J. Sarkisian is the inaugural volume in this series.

Over a year and a half in the making, this volume brings to life a fascinating artifact from the early modern period: a talismanic prayer scroll known as

a hmayil, which was a popular and widespread medium in use among Armenians from the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries. This new e-book offers the reader the opportunity to digitally “unroll” this mesmerizing prayer scroll from beginning to end, thereby discovering a rich panoply of prayers, Scriptural passages, incantations, and illuminations.

Those interested in contributing to the series may write to the director of the Zohrab Information Center and editor of the series, Dr. Jesse S. Arlen, at the following email address:

zohrabcenter@armeniandiocese.org

Rubina Perroomian

Rubina Perroomian (independent scholar) has contributed a chapter, “Religion, a Driving Force but not a Major Cause of the Turkish Genocide of Armenians,” to *The Routledge Handbook of Religion, Mass Atrocity and Genocide* (2022): 109-125. She presented that article at the American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 2022. She participated in the following conferences, «Հայ հասարակական-քաղաքական միտքը 19-րդ դարի վերջին եւ 20-րդ դարի առաջին կեսին», March 2023, Yerevan State Pedagogical University and Hamazkayin, paper presented, «Հայ քաղաքական մտքի վերջին թռիչքը՝ ճիգ ազգայինից պետական մտածողութեան անցնելու, 1918-1920»; “Children and Nation: Forcible Child Transfer and the Genocide Convention. Through Historical and Contemporary Lenses,” (AGMI, AGBU, and Canadian Museum for Human Rights), Yerevan, May 2023, paper presented, “The Institutions of Turkification and Assimilation in the Eyes of Armenian Orphans who Fled Them”, International Association of Genocide Scholars, July 2023, Barcelona, paper presented, “The Authoritarian Ottoman Theocratic Regime Paved the Way for The Young Turk Genocide of Armenians.” She delivered a tribute speech to the memory of Richard Hovannissian at a plenary session of that forum. She presented a webinar (AGBU Armenian Virtual University and Ministry of Education RA) titled, «Միասին յաղթահարենք Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան դասաւանդման մարտահրաւերները», April 2023. She also had public lectures in Los Angeles, Yerevan, and Gyumri.

Meryem Kalayci

On August 14, 2023, Oxford scholar Meryem Kalayci offered a lively forum in NYC on her new *Oxford Network for Armenian Genocide Research*. On her return to the UK, Meryem arranged to pass through NYC again on Tuesday, Sept 26, for a forum focused on "unheard voices of the genocide," and her recent book on "Reading Silences."

<https://www.tomlinsons-online.com/p-20428340-reading-silences.aspx>



Forum "Unheard Voices of the Armenian genocide"

On August 14, 2023, a handful of New Yorkers participated in a mid-summer forum at Fordham University in New York City on "the Armenian Genocide of 1915: Unheard voices of Armenian and Turkish women."

The principal speaker was **Dr. Suzan Meryem Rosita Kalayci** of the University of Oxford, who serves on the history faculty of Oxford and Pembroke College, and is Chaplain of Saint Hilda's College.¹ Dr. Kalayci described the work of her new Oxford Network for Armenian Genocide Research (ONAGR), which is now partnering with the Oral History Archive (OHAC)² at Columbia University in New York, to digitize its unique collection of 138 audiotaped interviews of Armenian survivors of the Genocide of 1915. Kalayci also spoke on her new book on "Reading silences: Essays on women, memory, and war in 20th Century Turkey" (2022, DeGruyter).³

¹ Dr. Kalayci: <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/people/suzan-meryem-rosita>

² Columbia: https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_5321412

³ Book: <https://www.tomlinsons-online.com/p-20428340-reading-silences.aspx>

This forum featured two discussants. Professor **Ani Kalayjian** of Columbia University is an expert on trauma and genocide.⁴ She underlined the importance of Kalayci's oral history work, to share the "unheard voices" of the Armenian genocide, especially with continued denials by officials in Turkey. Kalayjian linked this with the powerful new film on Aurora's Sunrise which is now in U.S. theatres.⁵

Souren A. Israelyan is a New York City attorney and a member of Board of Governors of the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar), and the Vice Chair of its New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Chapter.⁶ Israelyan discussed the urgency of Kalayci's historical work, given the tragic "new genocide" we now see unfolding in Artsakh today, where the Azeri military's "Operation Iron Fist" is partnering with Turkey for "ethnic cleansing" of Armenians.⁷

The forum was welcomed by **Harold Takooshian**, a professor at Fordham University and Director of the Armenian Behavioral Science Association (ABSA). Takooshian presented Kalayci with the ABSA Outstanding Achievement Award for her pioneering career in genocide studies.

This forum segued into a lively discussion of genocide studies, and possible roles of the United Nations. This 90-minute Fordham forum is available online.⁸

This forum was cosponsored by the Armenian Society at Fordham University, ArmenBar, ABSA, Armenian Assembly of America, and Fordham FIRST. For any details, contact Professor Kalayci at suzan.kalayci@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk, or Harold at takoosh@aol.com.

Gohar Grigoryan

(University of Fribourg, CH)

Grigoryan Gohar is currently senior researcher within an SNSF-funded project on cultural interactions in the medieval southern Caucasus.

⁴ Kalayjian: <https://meaningfulworld.com/our-work>

⁵ Aurora: <https://www.facebook.com/auroras.sunrise/>

⁶ ArmenBar: <https://armenianbar.org/about-us/>

⁷ Artsakh: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=c6WGWgUELqk>

⁸ Forum: https://youtu.be/_AAWejlm49I

In the framework of that project, she completed an interdisciplinary study on one of the most characteristic features of Armenian ecclesiastical architecture – the *gawit'*. Her recent publications include two edited volumes: *Staging the Ruler's Body in Medieval Cultures: A*

Comparative Perspective, ed. by Michele Bacci, Gohar Grigoryan and Manuela Studer-

Karlen (Brepols/Harvey Miller, 2023, 351 p.) and an extensive *Bibliography of Publications (1772-1920) of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin* (Etchmiadzin, 2021, in Armenian, 744p.). In the past academic year, she participated in several international conferences and published the following articles: "The Just Judgement of King Lewon IV: Representational Strategies of Righteous Rulership in Cilician Armenia", in *Staging the Ruler's Body in Medieval Cultures* (Brepols, 2023), 79-116; "A Jacobean Shell for Šahuk, Servant of God", in *Armenia through the Lens of Time: Multidisciplinary Studies in Honour of Theo Maarten van Lint* (Brill, 2023), 56-79; "Royal Images and Coronation Celebrations in the Sermons of Yovhannēs Pluz Erznkac'i", in *Meanings and Functions of the Ruler's Image in the Mediterranean World (11th-15th centuries)* (Brill, 2022), 33-57; "Armenian Colophons on the Takeover of Sis (1375)", *Revue des Études Arméniennes* 40 (2021): 85-99 & 41 (2022): 631-632.

Helen Makhdounian

(Postdoc at Vanderbilt University)

Helen Makhdounian is now a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Collaborative Humanities at Vanderbilt University. Her article, "Armenian Studies in Conversation with Critical Indigenous Studies and Settler Colonial Studies: An Invitation," is available as advance access in the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, and she published "I Want to Teach a Different Story About the Armenian Diaspora: A Reflection on Pedagogy" in the blog *Days and Memory*. She received the Peer Dissertation Prize from the Department of English at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She gave invited lectures, many of which are available online: "Memory, Displacement, and the Image: A Conversation" (with Ara Oshagan, UIUC); "Literary Representations of Nested Memory: A Contrapuntal Approach" (Center for

South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, UIUC); "‘But the Expulsion is Not Everything’: On the Study of Creative Production, Diaspora, and Memory Work" (Promise Armenian Institute, UCLA); "To Withhold is Not to Forget: On Memories of Removal and the Everyday" (Armenian Studies Program, UC Berkeley); "Worlding Armenian Cultural Memory Studies: What Our Diasporic Condition Tells Us" (Center for Armenian Studies, UC Irvine); and "‘Where Time and History and Genocide Meet’: On Nested Memory in Settler Colonial Spaces" (Department of Cultural History and Theory, Humboldt University, Berlin).

Anne Redgate

(Newcastle University, UK)

Redgate Anne Elizabeth published a book titled *Royal Building Programs in Tenth and Eleventh Century Armenia: The Island City of Aghtamar* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2022), xxii + 532 pp. including 70 black and white photographs, 3 Maps, 20 Color Plates.

Talar Chahinian

(University of California, Irvine)

Chahinian Talar served as the Interim Director of the UCI Armenian Studies Program for the academic year 2022-2023. She published her first book entitled *Stateless: The Politics of the Armenian Language in Exile* with Syracuse University Press (2023). In March, she presented two papers: "Mobilizing Subjectivity in the Practice of the Nation: T'aghideants's Case for Women's Education" at the *Armeno-Indica: Four Centuries of Togetherness and Familiarity* conference held at UCLA and "Before Diaspora: The Paris School and a Theory of Literature as Transnational Institution" at the *Infidelities: Armenian Studies Otherwise* conference at U Penn. In April this year, she presented a paper entitled, "Internal Transfers: New Modes of Translation in the Global Armenian Linguistic Community" at the one-day conference, *Translation and Armenian Modes of Communication: Bridging Times and Spaces*, held at UC Berkeley.

Rubina Perroomian

(Independent scholar)

Rubina Perroomian has contributed a chapter, “Religion, a Driving Force but not a Major Cause of the Turkish Genocide of Armenians,” to *The Routledge Handbook of Religion, Mass Atrocity and Genocide* (2022): 109-125. She presented that article at the American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 2022. She participated in the following conferences, «Հայ հասարակական-քաղաքական միտքը 19-րդ դարի վերջին եւ 20-րդ դարի առաջին կեսին», March 2023, Yerevan State Pedagogical University and Hamazkayin, paper presented, «Հայ քաղաքական մտքի վերջին թռիչքը՝ ճիգ ազգայինից պետական մտածողության անցնելու, 1918-1920»; “Children and Nation: Forcible Child Transfer and the Genocide Convention Through Historical and Contemporary Lenses,” (AGMI, AGBU, and Canadian Museum for Human Rights), Yerevan, May 2023, paper presented, “The Institutions of Turkification and Assimilation in the Eyes of Armenian Orphans who Fled Them”; International Association of Genocide Scholars, July 2023, Barcelona, paper presented, “The Authoritarian Ottoman Theocratic Regime Paved the Way for The Young Turk Genocide of Armenians.” She delivered a tribute speech to the memory of Richard Hovannisian at a plenary session of that forum. She presented a webinar (AGBU Armenian Virtual University and Ministry of Education RA) titled, «Միասին յարթահարեմք Հայոց Ցեղասպանության դասաւանդման մարտահրաւերները», April 2023. She also had public lectures in Los Angeles, Yerevan, and Gyumri.

Asya Darbinyan, Ph.D.

(Visiting Professor at Clark University during the 2022-23 AY)

Asya Darbinyan presented at the international conference “Technologies of Communication and Armenian Narrative Practices Through the Centuries” in September 2022, at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), at the

2023 British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Conference taking place at University of Glasgow, (Glasgow, UK) in April 2023, and at the “Children and Nation: Forcible Child Transfer and Genocide Convention through Historical and Contemporary Lenses” international conference, hosted by the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute (AGMI) in conjunction with the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and AGBU in May 2023. Upon her return from Armenia, Darbinyan took the position of the Executive Director of Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education (Chhange) at Brookdale Community College (Lincroft, NJ).

Valentina Calzolari

(University of Geneva)

Valentina Calzolari organized the international workshop “The Armenians face New Challenges: Seljuqs and Crusaders” at the University of Geneva in collaboration with the prof. R. Amitai (31 March 2023). In addition to seven articles dealing with the ancient and modern Armenian literature (Siamanto, Mahari, Christian Apocryphal literature, Neoplatonism in Armenia, Hellenizing School), for which see her page on Academia.edu, she published two books and a thematic issue of a scientific journal: *The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles in Armenian*, Leuven, Peeters, 2022; *Les arts libéraux et les sciences dans l'Arménie ancienne et médiévale*, Paris, Vrin, 2022 (collective); “Pouvoir politique, censure et création littéraire dans l'Arménie soviétique”, *Connexe. Les espaces post-communistes en question(s)* 8 (2022) (with C. Mouradian). She attended several workshops or round-tables, and gave a number of academic and public lectures in Brussels, Rennes, Geneva, Pisa, Berlin, Venice, Leuven. Among others, see the lecture on “Armenian Philological Practices”, for the International Center for the Study of Ancient Textual Cultures of the Remnin University of China (October 2022). Since 2022, she is co-director (with prof. K. Amacher) of the Laboratoire Europe Centrale et Orientale, Asie Centrale et Caucase, at the University of Geneva.

News from the Chairs and Programs

Armenian Studies at Fresno State

1) Ralph Shabazian Bequest

When the late Ralph Shabazian learned about the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State in early 2016, he knew he wanted to be a part of helping students explore their heritage to help share the Armenian story.

Shabazian never learned the Armenian language. However, he had a keen interest in the history and culture of his people and was proud of his Armenian heritage. He wanted to help make it possible for students of Armenian descent to pursue their education, especially learning about their Armenian heritage, their country's history, culture, art, music and language.

This desire led him to establish the "Ralph Shabazian Endowed Armenian Memorial Fund" with a donation of \$700,000 through his estate trust to the Armenian Studies at Fresno State. Shabazian passed away on Jan. 8, 2022.

2) Florence Elaine Hamparson Bequest

Florence Elaine Hamparson a Fresno State alumnus, had a long career as a teacher in the Fresno Unified School District. She retired in 1995 and passed away in July 2021 at 85.

In late 2022, the Elaine Hamparson Trust gave \$450,000, went to the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. Those funds established the Hamparson Armenian Memorial Endowed Fund to support the program's rich tradition of research, publications, program outreach and conferences.

3) Armenian Studies Program 35th Banquet

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, the Armenian Studies Program held its 35th Annual Banquet at the Fort Washington Country Club in Fresno. The evening was dedicated to the establishment of the Ralph Shabazian Endowment in Armenian Studies and the Florence Elaine Hamparson Endowment in Armenian Studies.

Banquet sponsors, donors, scholarship recipients, faculty, university administrators, and family and friends celebrated student achievements, Armenian

culture, and the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State.

Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Berberian Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, thanked the nearly three hundred guests at the Banquet and introduced special guests: Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Provost Dr. Xuanning Fu, Vice-President for Administration Debbie Adishian-Astone, Fresno County Supervisor Sal Quintero, Dean Dr. Honora Chapman, Associate Dean Dr. Sergio La Porta, Dr. Hagop Ohanessian, and the family and friends of the late Ralph Shabazian and the late Florence Elaine Hamparson.

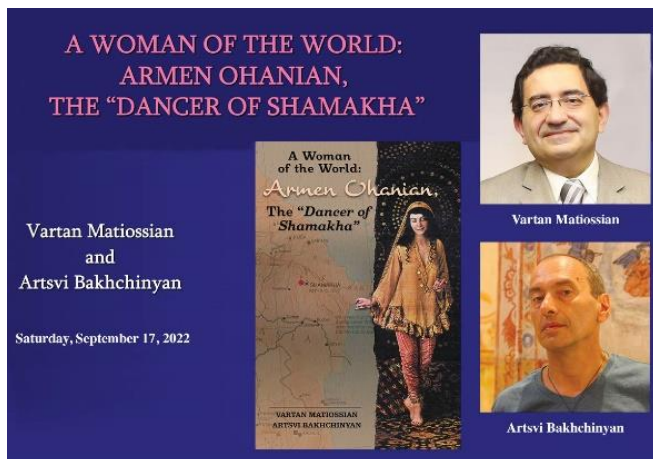


ASP Banquet

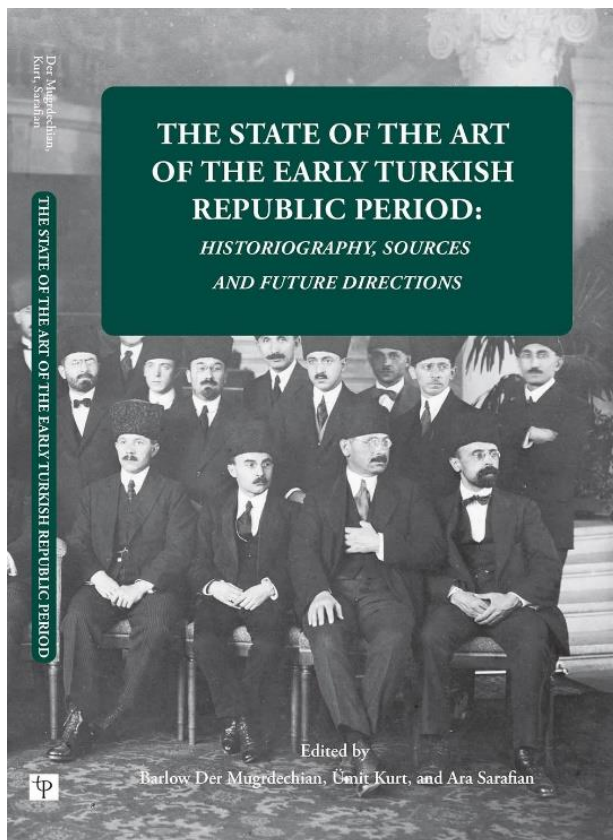
Armenian Series at Fresno University

The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period: Historiography, Sources and Future Directions

The Armenian Studies Program announces the publication of *The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period: Historiography, Sources and Future Directions*, Volume 17 in the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno.



A Woman of the World book



State of the Art of Early Turkish Republic book

Edited by Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ümit Kurt, and Ara Sarafian, *The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period* is the third in the Armenian Studies Program Conference series. The chapters included in this work were first presented as papers at a conference entitled “The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period: Historiography, Sources and Future Directions,” held October 2–3, 2020, organized by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Dr. Ümit Kurt,

and sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno.

A Woman of the World: Armen Ohanian, The “Dancer of Shamakha”

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, Vartan Matossian and Artsvi Bakhchinyan discussed their new publication in a lecture titled “A Woman of the World: Armen Ohanian, the ‘Dancer of Shamakha’” over Zoom. Dr. Vartan Matossian is a historian and literary scholar of Armenian classical and modern culture. He is currently Executive Director of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church in New York. Artsvi Bakhchinyan joined the lecture from Yerevan, Armenia. He is a scholar of the Armenian diaspora and culture and a researcher at the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia.

A Woman of the World: Armen Ohanian, The “Dancer of Shamakha” is the sixteenth volume published by the Armenian Series at Fresno State. The authors of the book provided insight on Armen Ohanian’s life and explained how they conducted research to authenticate their timeline as they presented the life and legacy of Armen Ohanian.

[Armenian Studies at University of California, Irvine](#)

The Armenian Studies at UCI hosted three events recently and has one planned for the November 2023.

1. In November, art historian, Dr. Vazken K. Davidian gave a lecture on Teotig's Everyone's Almanac to the UCI Armenian Studies community (November 2, 2022).



Davidian lecture

2. In February, literary critic, Dr. Helen Makhdounian discussed Armenian cultural memory for UCI Armenian Studies Center's lecture series (February 8, 2023).



Makhdounian lecture

3. In March, UCI Center for Armenian Studies screened Tigran Nersesian's *Back to Ashtarak*, followed by a Q&A with the film director and the Armenian Film Society founder, Armen Karaoghlanian (March 6, 2023).



Back to Ashtarak screening

4. In March, UCI Center for Armenian Studies hosted a "Digital Armenian Workshop," which brought together local digital content creators and language experts to discuss language vitality in the digital age (May 24, 2023).



Digital Armenian workshop

[Center for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan](#)

Dr. Gottfried Hagen, Professor of Turkish Studies, serves as the new director of the Center for Armenian Studies (CAS) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. During his first year as interim director, he has already proved an invaluable and capable leader of the Center! In addition, Professor Sosy Mishoyan has been appointed as the University of Michigan's Armenian Language Lecturer. U-M is thrilled to welcome Sosy and her family to Michigan as she accepts the position as the new Western Armenian Language lecturer.

To culminate a year of academic and community-enriching events, CAS hosted the first iteration of what they hope to be an annual tradition, commemorating the Armenian Genocide. The event titled, "Shared Memories: The Armenian Experience Through Objects and Stories", brought together campus faculty, staff, students, and local community members to recognize and share personal connections to the genocide. Guests were asked to bring objects and stories that embodied their connections to the genocide whether small or large. Though sombering, the event was met with great appreciation and anticipation for the next year's commemoration.

Armenian Studies at Harvard University

Harvard is accepting doctoral students in Armenian Studies through two departments: NELC and HAA, both under the advising of Christina Maranci. Please see respective departments for more information. For Armenian Studies, see <https://sites.harvard.edu/armenian-studies/>

Faculty:

Christina Maranci, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, NELC/History of Art and Architecture

Lisa Gulesserian, Preceptor in Armenian

Courses offered include:

Art and Culture in Armenia

Art and Ritual in Armenia

Writing on Art in Armenia

Ghost City: Ani

Threads of Survival: Armenian Liturgical Textiles

Beautiful and Sacred: Armenian Manuscripts

GENED 1185: The Power and Beauty of Being In-Between: The Story of Armenia

Introduction to Armenian Literature in Translation

Contemporary Armenian Culture

Kindred Spirits: Ghosts in Ethnic American Literature

Revolutionary Women: Contemporary Fiction of Dissent in Context

Language courses:

Elementary Western Armenian

Intermediate Western Armenian

Advanced Western Armenian

Program of Lectures:

Karnig Kerkonian lecture, March 6, 2023

Rachel Goshgarian lecture, September 14, 2023

Rachel Goshgarian workshop, September 15, 2023

Caucasus Heritage Watch Lecture, October 5, 2023

Caucasus Heritage Watch Workshop, October 6, 2023

Maranci lecture, Gulbenkian Foundation, October 11, 2023

Robin Meyer Lecture, October 30, 2023

Co-sponsoring many events with NAASR, including Sebouh Aslanian lecture, October 31.

Maranci lecture Dumbarton Oaks, November 3, 2023

Maranci lecture Columbia, November 10, 2023

East of Byzantium programming, see eastofbyzantium.org

Armenian Studies Program Scholarships

Armenian Studies Program Scholarships at
California State University, Fresno

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, awarded scholarships to fifty-seven students from forty-one different endowment or scholarship funds for a total of \$90,000 for the academic year 2022-2023. In addition to providing needed financial support, the scholarships encourage students to pursue Minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings.

Armenian Studies at University of California, Irvine

The Armenian Studies at University of California, Irvine offered following scholarships:

The Armenian Studies Prize in Honor of Sylvie Tertzakian -- 2023

Elif Shannon-Chastain for her research on the life and career of Armenian actor and director Mardiros Mnagian, an active figure in Ottoman theater.

Oğul Tuna for his research on a bilingual Armeno-Azerbaijani periodical called *Red Basarkechar*, published by multiethnic rural worker-farmers of the Basarkechar region during the 1920s.

The Nanah Graduate Research Fellowship -- 2023

Bedros Torosian for his dissertation project on "Whiteness Across Waters: Domesticating Euro-American Racialisms and Masculinities in the Service of Ottoman Imperial and Communal Subalternities."

OC Trex Scholarship-- 2023

For students pursuing Armenian Studies coursework or research.

Bedros Torosian

Susanna Gzaryan

The Center for Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The Center for Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor is pleased to announce two postdoctoral fellowship opportunities for junior scholars in Armenian Studies and in Armenian History. This full-time twelve-month position is open to junior scholars who have completed a PhD within the last three years. The fellowship offers a vibrant intellectual environment in which outstanding junior scholars will be able to conduct their research and have the opportunity to teach one course. While in residence, fellows will be affiliated with a department; they will be expected to participate regularly in the CAS events, present one public lecture, organize a conference, and teach one undergraduate course. Fellows are required to spend the 2023-24 academic year (September – August) in residence at the University of Michigan. **Applications open in November.** For more information email:

armenianstudies@umich.edu.

Feel free to edit and rearrange as you see fit. I'm attaching photos of Gottfried and Sosy. I'm also attaching a photo to be captioned: Dr. Michael Pifer

holding a family heirloom connected to the Armenian Genocide during the "Shared Memories" event. Edit, cut, and use however you'd like, I can provide more pictures as well.

SAS Webinar Series

To foster intellectual engagement and collegueship between members, the Society for Armenian Studies webinar series welcomes membership having more of a hands-on role. To that end, members are invited to share suggestions for potential webinars, including but not limited to individual presentations on current research or aspects of professionalization in the field. Self-nominations are welcome as are nudges to reach out to individuals whom members would like to see present. Webinars are not confined to single presenters and in that vein, members can also email

ideas for themes or broad topics, with or without names for these symposia or roundtable webinars. In short, SAS wants to hear from you, and the webinar series co-curators are ready to help members bring their ideas into fruition. Additional opportunities for participation outside of the presenter role are available as well, including hosting, moderating discussions, or serving as respondents. Members may nominate themselves or others for these roles as well. Please email Helen Makhdounian (helen.makhdounian@vanderbilt.edu) and Armen Marsoobian (marsoobian1@southernct.edu), co-curators of the series.

Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS)

Tamar M. Boyadjian, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, along with Reviews and Reconsiderations Editor, Rachel Goshgarian, recently finished editing two issues of the journal devoted to the topic of Indigeneity (29.1 and 29.2). Issue 29.1 is available online at

<https://brill.com/view/journals/jsas/29/1/jsas.29.issue-1.xml>,

and Issue 29.2 will be released shortly, with advance articles available here:

<https://brill.com/view/journals/jsas/aop/issue.xml>

The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, as well as all members of the Executive Committee (ECE) of the Society for Armenian Studies, are well aware of the complications our membership has had in accessing JSAS through Brill. While it seemed worthwhile to partner with Brill as a means of bringing more scholarly acumen to the journal by working with such an esteemed press, due to problems with distribution of the journal (i.e., no physical copies of the journal have been printed in over two years and membership has shoddy access at best to the online version), the Editor-in-Chief of JSAS and the ECE of the Society for Armenian Studies have decided to end the journal's contract with Brill and are currently working through a range of publishing possibilities for the future. Our goal in doing so is to ensure that the rigorous, cutting-edge work being published by esteemed scholars in the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* will be accessible and widely-read. We are also working on ways to ensure that the recently-published volumes of JSAS will be made accessible to all members of the Society for Armenian Studies.

The theme of indigeneity came to fruition through the work of scholars in and around the field of Armenian Studies who have begun to think about the notion of indigeneity as it relates to Armenians living across the Armenian Highlands, the

diaspora, the Republic of Armenia, and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh). The layered contextual frameworks that the term "indigeneity" engages, inspired many people struggling to understand and analyze the wide-ranging implications of: the war waged on the Armenian people in the Republic of Artsakh by the Republic of Azerbaijan (with clear and material support from the Republic of Turkey) in the Fall of 2020; the success of that military operation staged during a global pandemic; and the recent revival of this attempt at ethnic cleansing and occupation two years later, coupled with an intentional military breaching of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia on the part of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The chaotic political climate in the region and a growing scholarly interest around indigeneity find dialogue with the intersectional and vigorously engaging conversations found in this issue. Our authors invite us to reflect on: how the referential, spatial, and theoretical frameworks of indigeneity function as both comparative practices, and ones that intentionally analyze the place of Armenians in the world; how definitions of nationalistic articulations and narratives around indigeneity re-contextualize the place of the human within a spatial sphere, as well as within a framework of identity, defined by individuals and their surroundings; and how the aforementioned contexts of the legal and political implication of indigeneity effect conversation around cultural preservation, especially after the recent wars in Artsakh and disputes over territory.

By framing her study of indigeneity through a queer feminist reinterpretation of an Armenian fairy tale, Nelli Sargsyan's article explores how a collective Armenian indigeneity could be re-inscribed to move beyond narratives of loss towards one that opens gateways for community healing. Keith Watenpaugh's article uses Human Rights Studies as a framework for discussing the transferring of indigenous children through carceral institutions by state authorities during indigenous genocide – taking into specific account

the genocide of the Armenians and those of the Native and Indigenous peoples of North America. Hasmik Kirakosyan's article compares the meaning of the river-name Köndalan with the place-name Taghavard, and analyzes multiple interpretations of this space as reflective of their indigeneity – arguing also for the significance of the name as toponyms for pavilion passageways.

H. Aram Veaser explores the troubling question of Armenian indigeneity as linked to citizenship identification and the history of United States immigration law, especially in relation to the question of Armenian immigration and an Armenian legal “whiteness” that, in the end, stripped American-Armenians of their claim to indigeneity in West Asia. Simon Maghakyan's contribution continues the interrogative and reflective interjections of Veaser's article by advancing these conversations through considering whether discourses around indigeneity can be productive in dialogues related to the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage in places like the Republic of Azerbaijan. This conversation further progresses into the contribution of Arpineh Saribekyan's review of the 2021 National Gallery of Armenia exhibition entitled, Սու-նրանից-հին [SA-NRANITS-HIN; Older-Than-That-One] where she takes up questions related to works by generations of Armenian artists who depicted the late medieval sister monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin.

Online arts journal *Hyperallergic* (founded by Veken Gueyikian and Hrag Vartanian in 2009) dedicated a special Sunday edition to the threat on Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh in February 2021. Here, Murat Cem Mengüç – an Ottoman historian, artist and freelance writer – analyzes that important collection of essays and sees their significance within the framework of a new genre of academic writing, with regard to both style and reach.

The *JSAS* looks forward to the release of its second issue grounded in the theme of indigeneity, and to the new direction of the journal as it continues to embrace cross-cultural dialogue and the intersection of the works of artists and academics in and around Armenian Studies. In a brilliant invitation to scholars in all fields, Helen Makhdounian's contribution places Armenian

Studies in conversation with Settler Colonial Studies, while Deanna Cachoian-Schanz's creative intellectual intervention contemplates “Cartographies of Belonging”— both studies intentionally ponder the ways in which space and displacement shape cultural identities that are attached and detached from centered geographies.

The Reviews & Reconsiderations section continues to highlight notable works in the field and to offer critical insights and contemplations of recent and unique publications and exhibitions. Chris Atamian offers unique insights into Serge Avedikian's nostalgic and haunting “Return to Sölöz,” a unique film that traces the relationships between a Diasporan Armenian and individuals and places in his ancestral village. Tatiana Anoushian's heart-wrenching piece on Mariam Avetisyan's “The Desire to Live”— a remarkable cinematic effort to depict the aftermaths of the 44-Day War— offers readers an opportunity to contemplate the ways in which individuals can (and cannot) communicate about the indescribable of war, its horrors and its aftermaths. The review of Ara Oshagan's recent work by Adriana Tchalian further textures the volume by engaging the frames of movement and language as fluctuating entities that ground and disable senses of self and belonging, while Sosi Segal Lepejian and Edward Nolan offer readers thoughtful and critical insights into the meanings behind the virtual exhibitions of the Armenian Museum of America (Watertown). Readers are encouraged to think broadly and profoundly about the space of the Armeno-Turkish language in the Ottoman World in Aram Ghoogasian's poignant and deeply contextualized review of Laurent Mignon's *Uncoupling Language and Religion: An Exploration into the Margins of Turkish Literature*. The only “Review Essay” in this issue of the *JSAS*, Arman Grigoryan's “The Causes of Defeat in the 44-Day War,” responds to the Armenian-language version of «Փոթորիկի Կովկասում» with a critical lens, both long and deep, on the political and social culture of the Republic of Armenia leading up to the Second Karabagh War.

Intending to keep scholars in the Diaspora aware of the most recent activities of one of the most significant centers of Armenology in the world, Hayk Hambardzumyan generously offers his annual report on the Publications of the Mesrop

Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts at the Matendaran.

The Society for Armenian Studies is proud of the work that has been accomplished by the JSAS in the past several years, thanks to so many remarkable contributors and the critical, insightful and rigorous work they have undertaken, all a product of the hard work and creativity of Drs. Boyadjian and Goshgarian. We thank the membership of the Society for Armenian Studies

SAS Grants and Awards

Grants to Graduate Students for Spring 2022 and 2023

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announced the recipients of its Spring 2022 Graduate Research and Conference Grants. Established in 2019, the aim of the Grants Program is to provide resources for graduate students to conduct research and present papers at conferences. Grants of up to \$1000 are awarded semi-annually to eligible graduate students. The Spring 2023 grants were awarded in two grant categories: Graduate and Conference Grants for M.A. and Ph.D. students, and Nina G. Garsoïan Graduate Research Grant for Ancient and Early Mediaeval Armenian History. The recipients of the grants were chosen by a selection committee composed of members of the SAS Executive Council.

The three recipients were Atineh Movsesian, for her research exploring the role of women as patrons at the Gandzasar monastery, Ani Ohanian for her research on the collaboration between Bolsheviks and Kemalists in the South Caucasus region between 1917 to 1923 and Arev Papazian for her research examining the conflictual relationship between environmentalism and the labor and livelihoods of communities around Lake Sevan. Each of the winning recipients received a \$1,000 grant awarded by the Society.

Movsesian's research focuses on the immediate social context of the Gandzasar monastery, an

for its patience, grace and support as we strive— as a community of scholars— to continue on the path forged by the leadership of the journal and ensure that the remarkable work of the JSAS becomes more accessible and visible in the near future.

important religious and cultural center in the Republic of Artsakh, by examining its construction and the impact made by women. She explores the role of Khorishah, patron and mother of Prince Hasan-Jalal Dawla, by studying her “literary depiction in the foundation inscription of the church” and “her depiction within the sculptural program on the church drum.” In considering female patronage of the thirteenth century, Movsesian's research follows and builds upon that of Antony Eastmond and Zaroui Pogossian, who have explored the role of noblewomen in shaping the visual culture of the medieval Caucasus.



Movsesian is a current second-year graduate student in the department of History of Art and Architecture at Tufts University. Movsesian commented on the grant's impact on her research, “This generous support will enable me to travel and present my research at the *Beyond*

Exceptionalism II conference at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, United Kingdom.” “In these uncertain times, it is important to advocate for the endangered Armenian monuments. Therefore, I am thankful to the Society for Armenian Studies for granting me the opportunity to speak at this conference, which will also culminate in an edited volume,” added Movsesian.

Ohanian’s research looks to address the collaboration between Bolsheviks and Kemalists in the South Caucasus region between 1917 to 1923. She argues, “Bolshevik ambivalence towards the Armenian people and Bolshevik ideology itself as inherently violent, led not only to cooperation with Turkish revolutionaries, but also to support of atrocities against Armenians.” Ohanian examines the separation of Artsakh from Armenian territory came due to Turkish pressure after the Bolshevik conquest of the South Caucasus. Additionally, her research looks towards proving how these relations and collaboration led to such decisions, created the grounds for future conflict and its relation to the recent developments in Artsakh.



Ani Ohanian is a doctoral candidate in the department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. The grant will allow her to travel to Istanbul, Turkey and carry out her research project at the Social History Research Foundation of Turkey, where she will access Turkish Communist Party archives. “Despite my extensive time abroad, I have never had the opportunity to travel to Turkey and I thank SAS for assisting me, not only to access documents crucial for my dissertation project, but also to connect with Armenian history in a more profound way,” said Ohanian.

Papazian carries out her ethnographic research on the conflictual relationship between environmentalism and the labor and livelihoods of communities, who contribute to and are negatively impacted by environmental change. She utilizes participant observation, informal conversations, interviews, archival research in media and legal documents, and discourse analysis to understand the relationship between Armenia’s Lake Sevan and local communities by looking into “the dialectical relationship between the ecological change of the lake, the labor and livelihood of the fishing communities, the impact of environmentalism and capitalist relations, and the cultural production of environmentalism.”



The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) has also selected its awardees for its Graduate Research and Conference Grants Program for M.A. and Ph.D. Students for the Spring of 2023. The two recipients are Armineh Babikian and Lee E Patterson.

Armineh Babikian is a PhD student at the University of Toronto. She specializes in rehabilitation sciences and global health. She used the grant to participate at the Nordic Network for Disability Research (NNDR) 16th Research Conference taking place in Reykjavik, Iceland. Her presentation was titled *A critical analysis of influential policy and guidelines in Armenian rehabilitation: What are the prevailing assumptions about human rights of disabled Armenians and the implications for rehabilitation services?* It is based on the first study of her thesis

research which examines representations of rehabilitation and disability within policy and lived experience in post-2020 war Armenia. In this presentation, she discussed the potential beneficial and harmful consequences for disabled Armenians when these discourses guide rehabilitation development, and propose ways to rethink the aims of rehabilitation through co-design with disabled people and a human-rights lens.

Recent Publications:

Babikian, V. A., Hamdani, Y. (2022). Social enterprises and transition to employment for people labeled with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Current Developmental Disorders Reports*, 10, 40–46 (2023).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40474-023-00267-7>

Lee E. Patterson received his PhD in 2003 at the University of Missouri-Columbia in Classical Studies. He applied for the grant to support a book project, *The Roman Presence in Armenia*. The project focuses on Roman-Armenian relations from the 2nd century BC to the 7th century CE.

He studied medieval Armenian with Tim Greenwood (University of St Andrews). Below is a list of Patterson's publications:

"Justin II and the Armenian Revolt of 572." *HiMA* 10 (2021): 265-87.
 "Mithridates II's Invasion of Armenia: A Reassessment." *REArm* 39 (2020): 187-98.
 "Nero, the Reign of Tigranes VI, and the Annexation of Armenia." *Latomus* 79 (2020): 761-78.
 "Minority Religions in the Sasanian Empire: Suppression, Integration, and Relations with Rome." *Sasanian Persia: Between Rome and the Steppes of Eurasia*. Ed. Eberhard Sauer. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017. 181-98.
 "Antony and Armenia." *TAPA* 145 (2015): 77-105.
 "Caracalla's Armenia." *Syllecta Classica* 24 (2013): 173-99.
 "Pompey's Albanian Connection at Justin XLII,3,4." *Latomus* 61 (2002): 312-25.
 "Rome's Relationship with Artaxias I of Armenia." *AHB* 15 (2001): 154-62.
 Forthcoming
 "Augustus and the Nobility of Armenia."

L'Antiquité Classique 92 (2023): 67-92.
 "Armenia" (and 13 other entries). *The Tacitus Encyclopedia*. Ed. Victoria Emma Pagán. Wiley-Blackwell, 2023.
 "Social and Diplomatic Relations in Greater Armenia." *Problems and Sources of the History of Ancient Armenia*. Eds. Giusto Traina and Anahide Kéfélian. Brill. (in progress).

Grant Information

"This year we had a great number of applicants. Due to our tight budget, we were not able to support all of them. The awardees are conducting novel research in the field of Armenian Studies in the general understanding. We are extremely happy that we are able to support our graduate students in these difficult times," noted SAS President Christina Maranci. "I would like to thank the Armenian Chairs and Programs Directors and other Armenian Institutions for supporting us in fulfilling this objective. We hope to raise more money in the future to fund more graduate students."

The SAS Graduate and Research Grant was made possible through the generous institutional support of the Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, University of California, Irvine; the Hovannisian Chair of Modern Armenian History, University of California, Los Angeles; the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art & Architecture, Tufts University; the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR); the Armenian Communities Department, Gulbenkian Foundation; the Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno; the Institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California; the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, and the AGBU Nubar Library, Paris. The Nina G. Garsoïan Graduate Research Grant for Ancient and Early Medieval Armenian History is supported by Dr. Levon Avdoyan.

SAS Partnerships

SAS and NAASR

In 2023, thus far, NAASR and SAS partnered (joined, in some instances, by other organizations) on five online programs. Two of these were focused on the Artsakh crisis: on January 21, the panel discussion “The Blockade of Artsakh and Global Indifference,” featured Bedross Der Matossian, David Phillips, Lara Setrakian, and Henry Theriault, and was moderated by Christina Maranci and Marc Mamigonian. This was co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Series, and the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University. On October 1, SAS and the NAASR / Gulbenkian Contemporary Issues Series partnered on “The Fall of Artsakh: Refugee Crisis, Existential Threat, and Uncertain Future” with Vicken Cheterian, Bedross Der Matossian, Nerses Kopalyan, Anna Ohanyan, and David L. Phillips, moderated by Marc A. Mamigonian.

In addition to these timely programs, NAASR and SAS offered presentations of new research by Nora Lessersohn whose February 21 talk was titled “The Sultan of New York: Armenian-American Entertainment and Politics (1834-1895),” and on March 28, Hazal Ozdemir’s “They Vowed Never To Return: Armenian Transatlantic Mobility and Undesirable Subjects at the end of the Ottoman Empire.” On September 20, SAS and the NAASR / Gulbenkian Contemporary Issues Series presented a discussion with former SAS President Bedross Der Matossian focusing on the recently published book *Denial of Genocides in the 21st Century*. In addition to presenting an overview of the book, Der Matossian and NAASR’s Marc Mamigonian discussed the then-developing situation in Artsakh, which was attacked by Azerbaijani forces the previous day.

SAS and NAASR will continue their collaborations in 2024 and events are being planned.

SAS and IAALA

The Society for Armenian Studies and the International Association of Armenian Librarians and Archivists (IAALA) continued to cooperate and envision future collaboration. The SAS executive council and the IAALA executive board express thanks to Christopher Sheklian who served as the inaugural SAS liaison to IAALA. This past year, IAALA continued to host their "IAALA in Focus" webinar series, including an illuminating lecture on "The Current Status of Libraries and Librarians in Armenia." SAS deeply appreciates the IAALA executive board as well as IAALA's respective committees and committee members for all that they do. As current liaison, Helen Makhdomian shares the following personal note: "I am in awe and admiration of the infrastructure of support IAALA members are establishing across the globe for librarians and archivists who oversee collections as well as researchers who seek access to materials. I humbly admit to having my own eyes opened to all that goes into collecting, preserving, documenting, and making available Armenian-related materials. I am also excited by the energy that IAALA has for mentoring future librarians and archivists and encourage anyone interested in learning more to reach out to the IAALA executive board (iaala.saslibrarian@gmail.com)." To get a sense of the breadth of precisely all that IAALA champions, please see their website (<https://iaala.org/whats-on/>) and social media presence (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080376885095>). Finally, as a reminder, all Society for Armenian Studies members are eligible to also be members of IAALA. Any current member of SAS who wishes to also join IAALA may write to Flora Ghazaryan (execsecretary.sas@gmail.com) to have their membership information updated and their information to be shared with IAALA to be added to their listserv, separate from the SAS listserv.

New Executive Secretary

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) is pleased to announce that Flora Ghazaryan has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the SAS.

Flora Ghazaryan is a PhD Candidate at Central European University. Her dissertation titled “The Edge of Political Power: Informal Politics of Catholic Armenians in Early Nineteenth-Century Istanbul” explores the contested and asymmetric power and confessional relations of Ottoman communities in the nineteenth century before the Tanzimat age of reforms (1839-1878).

Flora Ghazaryan is also involved in peacebuilding with a focus on educational sector, specifically analysis of history textbooks in Armenia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan.



Flora Ghazaryan will be responsible for managing the day-to-day activities that include membership outreach, the SAS website, mailing list, SAS publicity, SAS relations with affiliated institutions/organizations, SAS Zoom lectures and meetings, annual EC elections, and report to the president.



2023 SAS Executive Officers:

President: Christina Maranci

[\(cmaranci@fas.harvard.edu\)](mailto:cmaranci@fas.harvard.edu)

Vice President: Rachel Goshgarian

Treasurer: Shushan Karapetian

Secretary: Varak Ketsemanian

Advisors: Armen T. Marsoobian, Asya

Darbinyan, and Helen Makhdoumian

Executive Secretary: Flora Ghazaryan

[\(execsecretary.sas@gmail.com\)](mailto:execsecretary.sas@gmail.com)