



THE SOCIETY FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER VOLUME XLV, No. 1, 2021

President's Message

Bedross Der Matossian
SAS President

In the past year the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) continued with its academic activities with great success. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to continue with our Zoom lectures, co-sponsoring conferences and symposia. Our Podcast Series and E-SAS continue to expand. We awarded SAS Research and Travel Grants and the new SAS Grant on Race to graduate students. The *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS) published its first issue with Brill, JSAS 27:1 and more issues are on the way under the energetic editorship of Dr. Tamar Boyadjian. While we were in the midst of forming a three-year strategic plan, the second Karabagh War broke out. One cannot disregard the impact of the war on our members in Armenia, Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, Australia, among other places.



On September 27, 2020, the Azerbaijani military forces, aided by Turkey and jihadist militants from northern Syria, attacked the self-declared Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh), which had declared its independence in 1992, after a devastating war that took the lives of more than 30,000 people. The fall 2020 war lasted for 44 days, leading to the death of thousands of Armenian soldiers and more than 50 civilians. The infrastructure of the Republic of Artsakh was destroyed and 80% of the Armenians of Artsakh became refugees in the neighboring Republic of Armenia. On November 9, the leaders of Armenia,

Russia and Azerbaijan signed a trilateral statement, and several Armenian-controlled regions were ceded to Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani aggression not only targeted the civilian population of the Republic but also the Armenian cultural heritage of the region that had survived for centuries. Cathedrals and cultural centers were bombed. Shushi, the cultural capital of Artsakh, was occupied, and the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral was twice targeted and damaged.

The attack on the Republic of Artsakh was a fundamental violation of the cardinal right of its people for self-determination. SAS released a series of statements condemning the attack and demanding that the Republic of Azerbaijan adhere to the peace efforts brokered by the OSCE Minsk Group. The involvement of the Republic of Turkey in the conflict escalated the situation, posing a serious danger to the security of the entire region and the physical existence of the Armenian people.

Given the gravity of the situation, SAS organized and co-sponsored a series of lectures, symposia, and conferences to bring the attention of the international community to the plight of the Armenians of Artsakh. SAS members published opinion pieces in prestigious newspapers and employed their expertise to enlighten the international community about the existential threat facing the Armenians of Artsakh and their rich cultural heritage.

While threats to and destruction of cultural heritage during periods of war have become all too familiar, and frequently engender widespread expressions of concern and condemnation from scholars and scholarly associations, during the Artsakh war we witnessed a dispiriting lack of solidarity and, with few notable exceptions, near total silence from our academic colleagues in general and in the related fields of Middle Eastern Studies, Ottoman and Turkish Studies, Caucasian Studies, and Russian Studies in particular. The lack of support from the interna-

tional political community, while devastating, was not more painful than the reluctance of individuals and organizations to take a public stand on the violations of human rights and cultural heritage unleashed by this war.

During its 46th Annual Membership Meeting held on January 21, 2021, the Society mapped out a “Three-Year Strategic Plan” which will concentrate on three areas: 1) strengthening SAS ties with educational institutions in Armenia and Artsakh; 2) mentoring SAS graduate students; and 3) disseminating knowledge about Armenian Studies throughout the world.

We will prioritize the strengthening of mutual cooperation between SAS and academic institutions in Artsakh and Armenia. SAS will use academic means to expound the importance of preserving Artsakh’s cultural heritage and expose attempts to distort the history of Artsakh in general and reaffirm the undeniable right of its population to live in freedom, harmony, and independence.

We will continue pursuing our academic objectives for this academic year. The support of the SAS members in this crucial time is fundamental for the realization of these goals. We will reach out to you for assistance because we believe that you all are the pillars of this organization which is dedicated to promoting Armenian Studies in the international arena by abiding to the highest professional academic standards

Society for Armenian Studies Zoom Lecture Series & Zoom Discussions

In 2020, responding to the limitations on travel due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19, the Society for Armenian Studies started an exciting new online lecture series. The SAS Zoom Lecture Series connected its members highlighted their research. Beginning in late May, the Society for Armenian Studies convened on Zoom for seven lectures in the series. Formats have ranged from a lecture followed by a Question and Answer session, to a more conversational format. Each live event has been attended by 50 or more people, with hundreds more viewing the videos after they have been posted to the Facebook and YouTube pages of the SAS. In addition to the seven lectures in the series, the SAS convened two panel discussions, “**Transition Tremors: Armenian Two Years Af-**

ter the Velvet Revolution” and “**No End in Sight? Lebanon in Renewed Turmoil.**” These events and their recordings are an excellent opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research in Armenian Studies being conducted by members of the Society for Armenian Studies. The SAS Zoom Lecture Series is ongoing.

The inaugural event took place on May 29, with a talk by **Dr. Stephen Badalyan Riegg**, Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University. Titled “**Russia’s Entangled Embrace: The Tsarist Empire and the Armenians 1801-1914,**” the lecture introduced his book of the same name, released subsequent to the talk in July. Dr. Badalyan Riegg’s talk emphasized that the dramatic vicissitudes of policy and perception characterized Russo-Armenian ties throughout the long 19th century. Entwined Armenophilia and Armenophobia on the part of tsarist agents marked practically every encounter of Russian officials with Armenian subjects. This fascinating subject marked the first—and highly successful—presentation in the new series.

On Thursday, June 11th, the second event in the SAS Lecture Series was presented by **Dr. Tamar Boyadjian**. Dr. Boyadjian, Assistant Professor of Medieval Literature at Michigan State University and a member of the Executive Council of the Society for Armenian Studies who was recently selected as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies, presented her recently published book, *The City Lament: Jerusalem Across the Medieval Mediterranean*. Boyadjian critically evaluated how various ethnoreligious cultures across the medieval Mediterranean world lamented the loss of the city of Jerusalem, and in what ways these lamentations are informed by reinscribing models of ancient city laments. During the period more commonly and problematically referred to as the “Crusades,” the as Jerusalem wavered from the hands of a various powers, a number of literary traditions –Arabo-Islamic, Cilician Armenian, and the Latin West –produced lamentations over the loss of Jerusalem. It is through these city laments that these traditions allow for their own Jerusalems to live anew- through this very paradoxical mourning of its loss and destruction.

The third talk in the SAS Lecture Series took place on Thursday, June 25th with **Dr. James Barry**, Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute, Dea-

kin University in Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Barry discussed his latest book, *Armenian Christians in Iran: Ethnicity, Religion and Identity in the Islamic Republic*, published in 2018 by Cambridge University Press. An anthropologist by training, Dr. Barry offered a historical overview of the Armenian community of Iran and detailed the lives of Armenians living in Iran today based on his own research.

Prof. Marc David Baer from the London School of Economics and Political Science offered the fourth talk in the Zoom Lecture Series on Thursday, July 2nd. The author of five books on the Ottoman Empire, Dr. Baer is an expert on the minorities of the Ottoman Empire. He presented his most recent book, *Sultanic Saviors and Tolerant Turks: Writing Ottoman Jewish History, Denying the Armenian Genocide* published by Indiana University Press. The book asks what compels Jews in the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, and abroad to promote a positive image of Ottomans and Turks while they deny the Armenian genocide and the existence of antisemitism in Turkey? Baer looked at the complexities of interreligious relations, Holocaust denial, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

The fifth event in the SAS Zoom Lecture Series, on Thursday, July 15th, took a different format of a conversation between **Dr. Aram Goudsouzian**, Professor of History at the University of Memphis and Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, Associate Professor of History at Lafayette College. Under the title of **“Writing Race: An Armenian-American and African-American History,”** Dr. Goshgarian and Dr. Goudsouzian together addressed the timely topic of race in America and Armenians place in the American racial landscape in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. Dr. Goudsouzian, a prominent historian of 20th century America who has written extensively on race, politics, and culture, including the Civil Rights Movement, addressed important questions such as the legal racial identification of Armenians in America and the reticence of some Armenians to identify with the struggles of Black Americans. Incredibly well-attended, this SAS Zoom Lecture was one of several important events in the past months confronting the question of racism from within the Armenian-American community.

On Thursday August 6th, **Dr. Haig Utidjian**, a musi-

cologist, practitioner, and member of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy at Charles University in Prague, delivered the sixth talk, **“Treasures of the Earliest Christian Nation: Spirituality, Art and Music in Medieval Armenian Manuscripts.”** Dr. Utidjian described the genesis of the book of the same name out of an exhibition. Along the way, he introduced the audience to beautiful examples of Armenian sacred art, detailed his own research on Armenian music and musical notation, and even sang portions of hymns. His incredibly engaging talk offered the audience much to consider in the connection between Armenian Christian art, music, and theology.

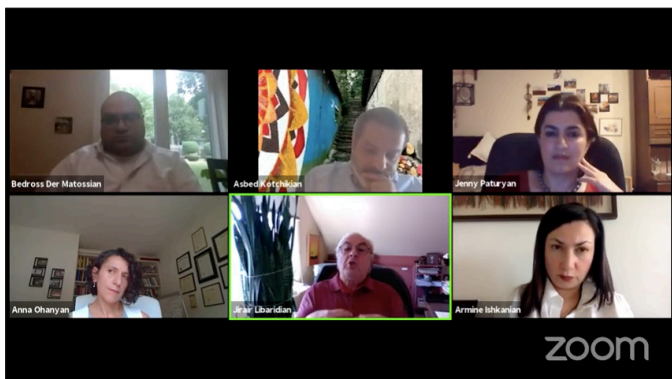
The seventh and final SAS Zoom Lecture of 2020 took place on Saturday, September 19th. **Dr. Gaïdz Minassian**, of SciencesPo, Paris, spoke about **“The Armenian Experience: Between Memory and History.”** Dr. Gaïdz Minassian was born in France in 1966. He has been a journalist at Le Monde since 2001, he is an international expert at CERISciences Po. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science and teaches International Relations at SciencesPo, Paris and is the author of several books on international relations, the South Caucasus and Armenia. His most recent book is titled *Les Sentiers de la victoire, peut-on encore gagner une guerre?* (Passes, Composes, 2020)

In addition to the seven SAS Zoom Lectures, the SAS hosted two panel discussions as part of the Zoom Lecture Series. The first, **“No End in Sight? Lebanon in Renewed Turmoil,”** took place on Wednesday, August 19th, 2020 at 12:00 PM EST. On August 4th, 2020, a massive explosion at the Beirut Port that destroyed many neighborhoods in the city. The death toll due to the explosion was more than 180 with over 6000 casualties. The explosion hit the already shaky Lebanese socio-political and economic infrastructure, weakened by decades of political infighting and a collapsing economy, all compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. The panel, co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), attempted to contextualize the recent developments in Lebanon by looking at the country’s socio-political structure, the role of the Armenian community within that fabric, and possible futures of the country and the community.

Panelists included Ohaness Geukjian, of the Ameri-

can University of Beirut, who spoke about “Lebanese politics from sectarian power sharing to nepotism”; Tsolin Nalbantian (Leiden University) discussed “Armenians in the Lebanese and socio-political fabric”; Sara Anjargolian from the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia presented “Armenia’s helping hand to Lebanon and to the Lebanese-Armenians”; and Antranig Dakessian (Haigazian University) offered “Armenians in Lebanon: A view from inside.” Moderated by Asbed Kotchikian of Bentley University, the panelists first offered their remarks before having the opportunity to address the other panelists’ comments. Questions from the sizable audience followed.

A second Zoom Panel, titled **“Transition Tremors: Armenia Two Years after the Velvet Revolution”** was also co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) as well as the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. The Zoom Panel took place on Saturday, August 22nd at 12:00pm ET (9:00am Pacific).



In 2018, a democratic breakthrough via mass-scale nonviolent disobedience campaign led by Nikol Pashinyan, brought down Armenia’s soft-authoritarian system headed by then President-turned-Prime Minister Serge Sargsyan. Since then, the country continues to face challenges to consolidate its still fragile democracy. The task of the current government to transition to a full-fledged democracy has been hampered by various factors, including the still persistent of the ancien régime, unreformed judiciary, weak political party system, spread of misinformation and fake news. The most recent global health crisis brought on by Covid-19 pandemic further complicated reform initiatives. In an attempt to take stock of gains and challenges towards democratic consolidation, this panel will contextualize Arme-

nia’s domestic politics over the past two years, doing so in a global comparative context. The discussion is geared towards identifying some of the key issues/challenges that the post-Velvet government faces.

The panel, moderated by Prof. Jirair Libaridian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor-retired) featured Prof. Anna Ohanyan (Stonehill College) talking about “Velvet is not a Color: Armenia’s Democratic Transition in a Global Context”; Prof. Jenny Paturyan (American University of Armenia) discussing “State Capacity Building & Institutions: Changing Role of Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches in Armenia Since 2018”; Prof. Asbed Kotchikian (Bentley College) exploring the “The Reconfiguration of the Political Landscape in Armenia and the Ensuing Challenges”; and Prof. Armine Ishkhanian (London School of Economics and Political Science) talking about the “Changing Role of Civil Society in Post-Velvet Revolution Armenia.”

Society for Armenian Studies Reading group in Medieval Armenian History and Culture



Another wonderful new initiative started during the COVID-19 lockdown was the Society for Armenian Studies reading group in Medieval Armenian History and Culture. Organized by SAS Vice-President Alison Crossley Vacca, the reading group met via Zoom several times during 2020. A different scholar led each session, which consisted of a close reading and discussion of an article related to the history and historiography of the Medieval Period. These articles were not limited specifically to Armenian topics, but rather included pieces that helped the participants think about the study of the “Middle Ages” in the Armenian context. More than forty scholars as well

as non-specialists from Europe and the United States participated in the sessions of the reading group. The reading group in Medieval Armenian History and Culture first met on May 26, 2020, to discuss Tim Greenwood's recent article on "Armenian Space in Late Antiquity." The group was led by Prof. Alison Crossley Vacca. The second meeting, hosted by Prof. Christina Maranci, discussed Meyer Schapiro's "The Miniatures of the Florence Diatessaron." It was held on June 8th. Finally, on June 22nd, Prof. Tamar M. Boyadjian hosted a fascinating conversation about Sharon Kinoshita's pioneering article, "Deprovincializing the Middle Ages." The invigorating conversation of the group included discussion of how Western European temporal and geographical frameworks dominated by discourses of the West have imposed themselves upon medieval Armenian studies. The Society for Armenian Studies hopes to organize and support other similar reading groups in the future!

SAS Podcast Series is now Available on iTunes, Spotify, and Google play

SAS Podcast #45-Joanne Laycock

Joanne Laycock and Francesca Piana (eds.) *Aid to Armenia: Humanitarianism and Intervention from the 1890s to the Present* (Humanitarianism: Key Debates and New Approaches) (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2020)

Interviewed by Dr. Asya Darbinyan (Clark University). [November 6, 2020]

SAS Podcast #44-Stephen Riegg

Dr. Stephen Badalyan Riegg, *Russia's Entangled Embrace: The Tsarist Empire and the Armenians, 1801-1914* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2020)

Interviewed by Dr. Asya Darbinyan (Clark University). [September 16, 2020]

SAS Podcast #43-Stephan Astourian

Profs. Stephan H. Astourian and Raymond H. Kévorkian (eds.), *Collective and State Violence in Turkey: The Construction of a National Identity from Empire to Nation-State* (New York: Berghahn, 2020).

Interviewed by Asya Darbinyan (Stockton University). [September 1, 2020]

SAS Podcast #42-Charlie Laderman

Prof. Charlie Laderman (Kings College, London), *Sharing the Burden: The Armenian Question, Humanitarian Intervention, and Anglo-American Visions of Global Order* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Interviewed by Anna Aleksanyan (Ph.D. Student, Clark University). [Released August 7, 2020]

SAS Podcast #41-Levon Avdoyan

Dr. Levon Avdoyan, Reflections on Armenian Studies V. Interviewed by Nareg Seferian (School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech). [Released July 17, 2020]

SAS Podcast #40-Jirair Libaridian

Prof. Jirair Libaridian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Retired), Reflections on Armenian Studies IV. Interviewed by Dr. Dzovinar Derderian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor). [July 8, 2020]

SAS Podcast #39-George Bournoutian

Prof. George Bournoutian (Iona College) Reflections on Armenian Studies III. Interviewed by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (California State University, Fresno). [June 23, 2020]

SAS Podcast #38-Sergio La Porta

Prof. Sergio La Porta (California State University, Fresno) Reflections on Armenian Studies II. Interviewed by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (California State University, Fresno). [June 8, 2020]

SAS Podcast #37-Richard G. Hovannisian

Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian, Reflections on Armenian Studies.

Interviewed by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (California State University, Fresno). [May 12, 2020]

SAS Podcast #36-Carolyn Dean

Prof. Carolyn J. Dean, *The Moral Witness: Trials and Testimony after Genocide* (Cornell University Press, 2019)

Interviewed by Asya Darbinyan (Stockton University). [March 26, 2020]

SAS Podcast #35-Dzovinar Derderian

Dr. Dzovinar Derderian, *Nation, Media, and Empire: Voices from Ottoman Van*.

Interviewed by Nora Lessersohn (University College London). [February 24, 2020]

SAS Podcast #34-Tsolin Nalbantian

Prof. Tsolin Nalbantian, *Armenians Beyond Diaspora: Making Lebanon their Own* (Edinburgh University Press, 2019)

Interviewed by Varak Ketsemanian (Ph.D. Student, Princeton University).

[December 3, 2019]

SAS Podcast #33- Rubina Peroomian

Dr. Rubina Peroomian, *My Father, A Man of Courage and Perserverance, A Survivor of Stalin's Gulag* (Glendale, Calif: Rubina Peroomina Minasian, 2017)

Interviewed by Vahe Peroomian (University of Southern California).

[October 17, 2019]

SAS Podcast #32- David Gutman

Dr. David Gutman, *The Politics of Armenian Migration to North America, 1885-1915: Sojourners, Smugglers and Dubious Citizens* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019)

Interviewed by Nora Lessersohn (University College London).

[September 17, 2019]

SAS Podcast #31-Satenig Batwagan Toufanian

Dr. Satenig Batwagan Toufanian, *Le Piège de L'orgueil Un Projet Républicain en Orient au XVIIIe Siècle* (Paris: Presses de l'inalco, 2018)

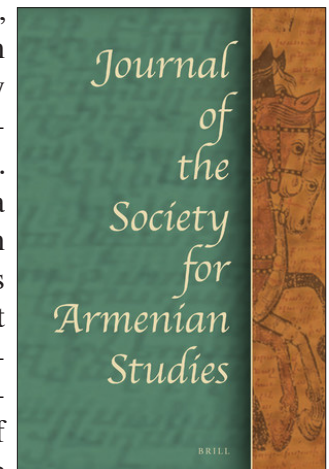
Interviewed by Gérard Malkassian (Professor of Philosophy, Paris).

[September 5, 2019]

Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS) Releases its First Volume through Brill (Volume 27.1) with its new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Tamar M. Boyadjian

The Society for Armenian Studies announces the release of Volume 27, Issue 1 (Spring 2020) of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS), edited by Dr. Tamar M. Boyadjian at Michigan State University. This volume of the JSAS includes four articles, and five book reviews. The articles in this issue address topics in Armenian religious practice, philology, the Ar

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European confession-building and Ottoman sunnization, in the face of Tridentine Catholicism. Ohanjanyan contextualizes these polemic writings and the ways of detecting “bad innovations” versus those enforcing “pure faith” in the doctrine and practice of Armenian communities in the Ottoman realms in the late seventeenth century. Ohanjanyan’s article is followed by Jesse S. Arlen’s micro-historical study of an episode in Joseph Emin’s Life and Adventures, where Emin encounters Armenian villagers in the town of Jinis. Arlen reads this episode within the greater context of eighteenth century “port Armenians” and Armenian merchant culture in the early modern world, while also reflecting on the growing divergences between viewpoints

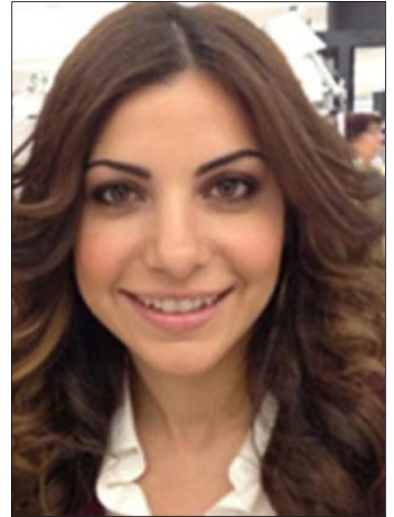
of developments in this period, and that of rural dwellers like the local villagers and priests of Jinis. Maria Armoudian and Vukan Jokic provide an in-depth study of the portrayals of Armenia and Armenians in the New Zealand media from 1842 up to the beginning of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Their sample includes over 35,000 archived national and local newspaper articles, as well as other types of news reports in the period. In addition to categorizing the various representations of Armenians in these papers—including a special discussion of women, the article further serves as a reminder of the Armenian community of New Zealand, which is not often considered in historical studies of Armenians, especially during this period. The final full-length article in this volume is the work by Maral Aktokmakyan devoted to Madt'ēos Mamurian's *English Letters or the Destiny of an Armenian*. Aktokmakyan argues for the role of the strange, stranger, and uncanny in Mamurian's text, and its engagement with modernity as a framework which hopes to reawaken the Armenian nation and its political voice in a late nineteenth century Ottoman Empire. **The table of contents for JSAS 27 (1) can be accessed at <https://brill.com/view/journals/jsas/27/1/jsas.27.issue-1.xml>**

In addition to these articles, Volume 27, Issue 1 also contains the following book reviews: Gohar Grigoryan Savary's review of Heghnar Watenpaugh's *The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice*; Michael Pifer's review of Christina Maranci's *The Art of Armenia: An Introduction*; Alison M. Vacca's review of the edited volume by Hourì Berberian and Touraj Daryaei entitled, *Reflections of Armenian Identity in History and Historiography*; Alyssa Mathias's review of Sylvia A. Alajaji's *Music and the Armenian Diaspora: Searching for Home in Exile*; and Zaruhi Hakobyan's review of Yana Tchekhanovets's *The Caucasian Archaeology of the Holy Land: Armenian, Georgian and Albanian Communities*. The JSAS continues to strive to make the journal more visible in the national and international academic arena. The JSAS is also very excited about this new partnership with Brill. As the Society for Armenian Studies President, Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) commented in his message: "We look forward to a fruitful collaboration with Brill with the aim of transform-

ing the Journal into a global hub of disseminating knowledge about Armenian Studies... JSAS will open new horizons for developing as a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary field...I have no doubt that JSAS will soon become a prestigious journal attracting scholars from all around the globe." The JSAS also thanks its former Editor-in-Chief Sergio La Porta for his decade of dedicated service.

Tamar M. Boyadjian, Michigan State University,

continues as the Editor. The Book Review Editor for this volume was Michael Pifer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The journal now has moved from having only a book review section to a now including a section entitled "Re-



views and Reconsiderations" with the editorial team of Rachel Goshgarian, Lafayette College; Nora Lessersohn, University College London, and Erin Piñon, Princeton University. The Advisory Board consists of: Bedross Der Matossian, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Barlow Der Mugardehian, California State University, Fresno; Sharon Kinoshita, University of California, Santa Cruz; Alison Vacca, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Jyotsna Singh, Michigan State University; and Rachel Goshgarian, Lafayette College. The Editorial Board consists of: Sebouh Aslanian, University of California, Los Angeles; Stephan Astourian, University of California, Berkeley; Marie-Aude Baronian, University of Amsterdam; Hourì Berberian, University of California, Irvine; Talar Chahinian, University of California, Irvine; Myrna Douzjian, University of California, Berkeley; Shushan Karapetian, University of Southern California; David Kazanjian, University of Pennsylvania; Lilit Keshishyan, University of Southern California; Tsovin Nalbantian, University of Leiden; Christina Maranci, Tufts University; Hratch Tchilingirian, University of Oxford; and Heghnar Watenpaugh, University of California, Davis.

The *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* is a peer-reviewed journal and is published bi-annually by Brill. The Journal can be accessed here: <https://>

brill.com/view/journals/jsas/jsas-overview.xml. If you are an SAS member please contact the SAS Secretariat, Barlow Der Mugrdchian at 559-278-2669 or by email at barlowd@csufresno.edu, for either a print copy or online access to the volume. Copies of the latest volume, and back issues, are also available by contacting the SAS Secretariat, or can be ordered online at societyforarmenianstudies.com.

e-SAS (*Entries of the Society for Armenian Studies*)

In 2019, the Society for Armenian Studies launched e-SAS. e-SAS (Entries of the Society for Armenian Studies) is an open access, peer-reviewed platform for the publication of short, scholarly pieces pertaining to Armenian Studies. In line with its name, Entries, e-SAS aims to provide “entry points”—for both the international academic community, as well as the general public—into Armenian-related topics and issues concerning material and visual culture, politics, history, literature, art, archeology, etc. As such, we conceive of Armenian Studies as broadly as possible—as a dynamic, interdisciplinary field that links various geographic areas, peoples, languages and chronologies. To advance this inclusive and expansive vision of Armenian Studies, and to encourage a wide range of contributions, e-SAS’s Editorial Board comprised of early-career scholars working in a variety of disciplines.

The editor of e-SAS is **Dzovinar Derderian**, Ph.D. In 2020, e-SAS published several new entries. The first two entries demonstrate the expansive aim of e-SAS: the first comes from the “Reviews Page,” which provides book reviews, and listings of peer-reviewed articles published in non-Armenian themed peer-reviewed journals; the second falls within the section of “Research Guides,” meant to facilitate finding Armenian-related materials dispersed around the world. First, the editor of e-SAS, Dr. Dzovinar Derderian, published an extensive list of articles relevant to Armenian Studies (along with their abstracts) published in 2019. At the beginning of the entry, titled “2019 Armenian-Themed Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals,” Derderian provides an assessment of the field based on these articles.

In the category of “Research Guides,” the second contribution, prepared by Dr. Anush Sargsyan from the Matenadaran, is entitled «Գիրք փակեալ կուրք են» Գարեգին Սրվանձտյանցի ցուցակագրած ձեռագրերի հետքերով "Along

the Traces of the Manuscripts Catalogued by Garegin Srvandztyants." This gem provides an extensive catalog, based on the information that Garegin Srvandztyants (1840-1892) collected on Armenian manuscripts in the Ottoman Empire. Sargsyan also provides information on the current whereabouts of those manuscripts, as well as lists manuscripts whose whereabouts are still unknown. If readers have additional information on the manuscripts listed in the catalog, they are encouraged to contact Anoush Sargsyan at anoush.sargsyan@gmail.com.

Two other entries were published in 2020. Prof. Sebouh David Aslanian, the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair of Modern Armenian History and Professor in the Department of History at UCLA, prepared a modified version of a keynote talk that Professor Sebouh Aslanian gave at the UCLA Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies on February 15, 2019. Titled “Conversing with the Early Moderns: On Reading Voices in the Archives of Armenian Mobility,” it is a wonderful meditation on the historian’s craft and the joys of hearing and conversing with the voices one finds in archival sources. Prof. Aslanian also offers some reflections on working in Armenian Studies for scholars—especially those early in their careers.

Finally, Dr. Gayane Ayvazyan’s «Հայաստանի պարզագույն պետական հայեցակարգի շուրջ», translated from the Armenian by Dr. Dzovinar Derderian and also published on e-SAS as “Armenia’s Official Strategy Paper for the Advancement of Armenian Studies,” discusses the development of Armenia’s state policy for Armenian Studies since 2003 and the subsequent redefinition of the field in the Republic of Armenia (RA). In particular, it examines the making of Armenia’s official strategy paper for the advancement of Armenian Studies, which can be traced back to an Armenian Studies conference in 2003 and to historian Gevorg Khoudinyan’s article from 2004. This strategy paper outlined the definition as well as educational and research goals of Armenian Studies. Dr. Ayvazyan provides an overview of the ideologies that ground this state project of regulating Armenian Studies and how this policy has harmed and confined the scholarship produced in the spheres of the humanities and the social sciences into nationalist and orientalist frameworks.

For questions about submissions to e-SAS please contact the editor Dr. Dzovinar Derderian at dzovinar@umich.edu.

Society for Armenian Studies Awards Travel/Research Grants to Six Graduate Students

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) has selected its awardees for its Graduate Research and Conference Grants Program for M.A. and Ph.D. Students, as well as its inaugural Grant on Race, which seeks to support research that analyzes race as it relates to Armenian communities in the United States.

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 Fall 2020 group of applicants was chosen by a selection committee composed of members of the SAS Executive Council, with an eye towards helping students cover unexpected costs that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, motivated by the difficult conversations that took place in response to the killing of George Floyd and with the intention to encourage scholars to fill the gap of research on race in Armenian Studies the SAS initiated a new SAS grant awarded for research projects relating to race. The grant is designed to encourage and support scholarship in the field of Armenian Studies that focuses on racial matters. Open to scholars at any phase of their career, the SAS Executive Committee hoped to support projects that examine the impact of racial policies and racism on Armenian communities in the United States and/or projects that explore the relations and entanglements between Armenians and Black communities in the United States. For the inaugural grants, research projects by two graduate students were funded.

Lori Pirinjian

Lori Pirinjian, one of two recipients of the Grant on Race, is a Ph.D. Student at UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Her research examines decolonial reparations for the Armenian community, as well as historical comparisons of the Armenian and Native American communities.



“I am honored to receive the Society for Armenian Studies Fellowship on Race,” stated Pirinjian. “This award allows me not only to further my studies in important topics such as critical race theory and decolonial repara-

tions, but it also gives me the opportunity to bring Armenian Studies into these ongoing conversations. I look forward to continuing the dialogue thanks to this fellowship.”

Bedros Torosian

Bedros Torosian, one of two recipients of the Grant on Race, is a Doctoral student in History at the University of California, Irvine. His research utilizes the understudied early Armenian-American press to explore the question of American whiteness as it relates to these early Armenian-American communities. In this way, he seeks to fill a lacuna in existing Armenian Studies scholarship on the issue of race and contested whiteness in the early Armenian American community.

“I am honored to be a recipient of the SAS Grant on Race,” Torosian stated. “Receiving this fellowship truly means a lot for graduate students like myself who are ambitious to conduct research



as part of their studies but can hardly find adequate financial means to do so. As a rising young scholar, I would like to thank you for this opportunity which will surely contribute to the unearthing of often muted and dreadfully studied episodes of modern Armenian history and hence the advancement of the field of Armenian studies.”

Garine Palandjian

Garine Palandjian is a PhD Candidate in Educa-

tional Policy and Evaluation at Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. She is working on a dissertation entitled “Rethinking Borders and Identities in Armenian Education.” Prior



to the COVID-19 pandemic, Garine did fieldwork for her dissertation by conducting 39 interviews with current and retired educators in Yerevan, Tavush, and Shirak regions, as well as the Istanbul Armenian community. She

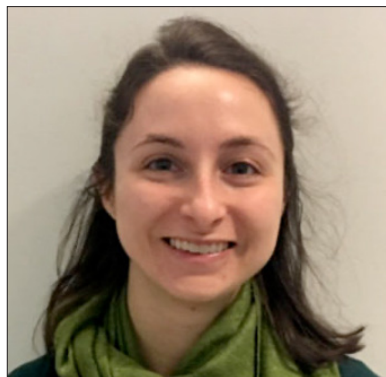
applied for an SAS grant to support her research on how borders – and memories of bordering practices and experiences – redefine education and identities.

”With the support of the Society of Armenian Studies fellowship,” Palandjian stated, “I plan to stay on track with my university graduate requirements and deadlines... and contribute to the field of qualitative research, educational policy, and Armenian Studies.”

Jennifer Manoukian

Jennifer Manoukian is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is writing her dissertation on the formation of a written standard for Ottoman Armenians in the nineteenth century.

“I am very grateful to the Society for Armenian Studies for awarding me this fellowship,” commented Manoukian. “I will be putting it toward covering digitization costs at archives in South Carolina, Sweden, and London, all of which I had planned to visit in person before the pandemic. The Society’s generosity has ensured that, despite the lockdown and travel restrictions, my doctoral research will proceed as planned.”



Sose Grigoryan

Sose Grigoryan is a PhD student at the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography. Her research, which is based on ethnographic fieldwork as well as archival research, explores the religious culture of Armenian Catholics and their everyday and cultural life in the South Caucasus, particularly in the Shirak, Tashir and Lori regions of Armenia and Georgia.



The SAS grant, stated Grigoryan, “is a great help and support for me, thanks to which I will be able to continue my field work in all Armenian Catholic villages, and finish my dissertation. Thanks to SAS financial support, I will be able to pub-

lish a comprehensive work on the religious culture of Armenian Catholics, which will provide valuable information on this large group of forgotten Armenians in history, present unexplored historical, cultural, and ethnographic episodes of History, Culture, Armenian studies and ethnography for next generations.”

Tatiana Anoushian

Tatiana Anoushian is a Master’s Candidate in Cinema Studies at the School of Cinema at San Francisco State University. She is also the President of their Cinema Studies Graduate Student Association. Her master’s thesis is inspired by questions around trauma and language in Armenian cinema, with a particular focus on the concept of untranslatability.

“This is a crucial time to support Armenian studies, Anoushian stated.” “Now, more than ever, I am grateful that organizations like SAS exist. As a recipient of this fellowship, I look forward to continuing my work on Armenian cinema. I am both honored and humbled to be recognized by the committee.”

“Despite COVID-19, we had a very good pool of

applicants this year. 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 Bedross Der Matossian. “I would like to specifically 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 in order to fund more graduate students.”



The next application cycle will have a deadline of April 15, 2021.

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; and AGBU Nubar Library, Paris.



Berberian's and Zeitlian Watenpaugh's Books Chosen as Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award Recipients

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announced that **Houri Berberian's** *Roving Revolutionaries: Armenians and the Connected Revolutions in the Russian, Iranian, and Ottoman Worlds* (Oakland: UC Press, 2019) and **Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh's** *The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice* (Stanford University Press) have been chosen as the recipients of the Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award for 2018-2019. An honorable mention has been awarded to James Barry's *Armenian Christians in Iran: Ethnicity, Religion, and Identity in the Islamic Republic* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Established in 2015, the “Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award” accepts nominations for works that advance knowledge and scholarship on Armenian society, culture, and history from ancient times to the present. Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno and a past President of SAS, has generously offered to sponsor the award for the next five years.

According to the selection committee, both *Roving Revolutionaries* and *The Missing Pages* demonstrated substantive knowledge and an overall high level of scholarship. The “Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award” covered works published in 2018 to 2019. Berberian and Zeitlian Watenpaugh will each receive a \$500 monetary award from SAS and receive a certificate of recognition.

SAS President Bedross Der Matossian commented on the awards stating, “I would like to congratulate Hourı Berberian and Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh for this great achievement. This year we received more than a dozen books for the award. All of them were excellent books from different disciplines in the field of Armenian Studies. The level of competition was very high and a testament to the fact that the field of Armenian Studies is evolving in a very positive manner. I would like to thank the four senior scholars of the selection committee who rigorously examined all of the books.”

In her book *Roving Revolutionaries*, Berberian probes the interconnected aspects of the Russian Revolution of 1905, the Iranian Revolution 1905-1911, and the Young Turk Revolution of 1908 and the role of the Armenian revolutionaries. The movements of these Armenians and their participation within and across frontiers provides us a unique global insight into the major transformations that shaped the modern period. Through extensive archival work, Berberian examines the circulation of revolutionary ideas, revolutionaries, and printed material. By doing so she provides a novel approach to our understanding of revolutions and revolutionary movements.



Houri Berberian is Professor of History, Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Irvine. She is the author of

a number of articles on Armenians and revolution, Armenian women and identity. She is the author of *Armenians and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911: The Love for Freedom Has No Fatherland* (Westview, 2001).

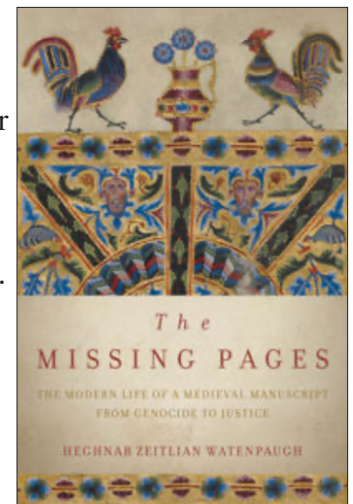
Thanking the Society of Armenian Studies and the selection committee, Prof. Berberian commented: “Please accept my most sincere gratitude for selecting my book, *Roving Revolutionaries*, as a co-recipient of the ‘Der Mugrdechian Armenian Studies Book Award.’ I am doubly delighted and honored that I share the recognition bestowed by the Society for Armenian Studies with my University of California colleague Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh. The award acknowledges the significance of studying Armenians within a broader regional



and global context and of engaging with theoretical approaches such as connected histories. Through their geographic and ideological boundary crossings, Armenians serve as ideal subjects who connect early twentieth-century revolutions. Please extend my thanks to the jury members and to the donor who made the prize possible.”

In *The Missing Pages* Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh reconstructs the life of the Zeytun Gospel from the medieval period until its final destination in the J. Paul Getty Museum. Though an analysis of the biography of the manuscript, she tells the larger story of the Armenians and the suffering they endured during the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath. Following the journey of the missing pages of the manuscript, Zeitlian Watenpaugh weaves together a beautiful story of an art work from resilience to the will to survive extermination against all odds.

Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh is Professor of Art History at the University of California, Davis. She is the award-winning author of *The Image of an Ottoman City: Architecture in Aleppo* (2004). Her writing has also appeared in the Huffington Post and the Los Angeles Times.



Thanking the Society of Armenian Studies and the selection committee, Prof. Zeitlian Watenpaugh commented, “I am honored to have received this award, and I am thrilled to be a co-winner with the brilliant scholar and my friend,

Professor Houri Berberian. That this award comes from the Society for Armenian Studies is deeply meaningful, as the members of the Society know first-hand the challenges and obstacles of researching Armenian topics. I am honored to be a member

of a Society that not only promotes excellence in research, but also fosters a supportive and convivial community of scholars from around the world. To me, this award celebrates Armenian art history in general, and the wonderful exhibitions and books on Armenian art that have appeared in the last couple of years. I hope this award inspires people to discover and re-discover medieval Armenian art, its astonishing beauty, and continued contemporary relevance.”

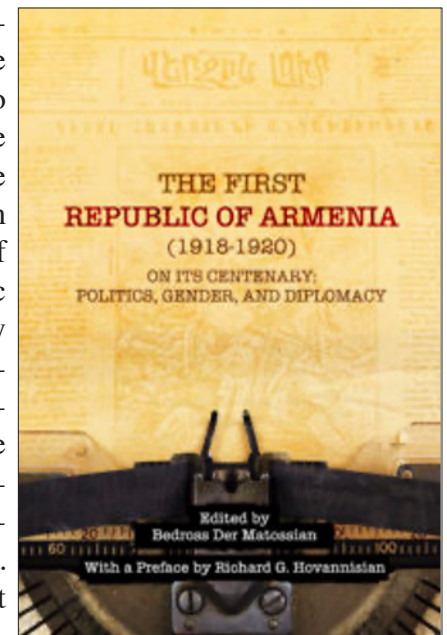
***The First Republic of Armenia
(1918-1920) on its Centenary:
Politics, Gender, and
Diplomacy Published***

An edited volume by Bedross Der Matossian, with a preface by Richard G. Hovannisian, titled *The First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) on its Centenary: Politics, Gender, and Diplomacy*, the second book in the newly launched Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) Publication Series published as part of the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno was published in 2020. Subvention for the publication of the book was provided by the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The volume is dedicated to Richard G. Hovannisian for his outstanding contribution to the field of Armenian Studies over the past half century.

The First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) was born from the ashes of the Armenian Genocide and war. In one of the most critical periods of modern Armenian history, the Republic was able to face a multitude of external and internal challenges. The Republic of Armenia was significant as the first independent Armenian state since the collapse of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia in 1375. This edited volume provides a multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach to studying the fascinating history of the Republic. Through an analysis of the politics, gender, and diplomacy of the period, the volume enriches our understanding of the short-lived Republic, which played a crucial role in guaranteeing the perseverance of Armenian identity, and ultimately laying the foundation for the modern Republic of Armenia.

“It was a profound honor to work on this project. This peer-reviewed edited volume discusses aspects

of the First Republic that have not been hitherto dealt with. The reader will see the extent to which the leadership of the First Republic worked diligently in the most difficult circumstances in order to save the Armenian nation from the ashes of Genocide. Indeed, without the First Republic, statehood today would be a page pertaining to past history,” said editor Der Matossian. “I would like to thank Barlow Der Mugerdechian, the general editor of the Armenian Series of the Press at California State University, Fresno, for his unconditional support in realizing the project.”



The list of contributors in the order of their contribution are Bedross Der Matossian, “Introduction”; Richard G. Hovannisian, “The Republic of Armenia: A Contextual Overview”; Houri Berberian, “From Nationalist-Socialist to National Socialist? The Shifting Politics of Abraham Giulkhandanian”; Ari Şekeryan, “Rethinking the Establishment of the First Republic of Armenia: Reactions of the Ottoman-Turkish and Armenian Press in Istanbul (May-October 1918)”; Seda D. Ohanian, “The Role of Women in the Social and Political Life of the Republic of Armenia (1918-1920)”; Rubina Peroomian, “The Subversive Activities of Armenian Bolsheviks: A Critical Factor in Yerevan-Moscow Negotiations (1918-1920)”; Vartan Matiossian, “The Recognition of the First Republic of Armenia in South America (1918-1920)”; Jakub Osiecki, “The Visit of Rev. Antoine Delpuch to the South Caucasus in 1919: An Attempt to Establish Diplomatic Relations Between the Holy See and Yerevan?”; Garabet K. Moundjian, “Domestic Politics in the Republic of Armenia, 1918-1920: A Flip or a Flop,”; and George Bournoutian, “The Unrealistic Territorial Demands of the Armenian Republic 1919-1920.”

The Armenian Studies Chairs and Programs Corner

University of California, Irvine Center for Armenian Studies

The newly established Center for Armenian Studies Center at the University of California, Irvine, held two virtual programs in Spring 2020, both of which were recorded and are available for viewing on the Center's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf-BpI7fY6h9QHbT5ctha0Q>.

The Center's first virtual event was an online conversation that took place on April 30, 2020, with David Gutman, Associate Professor of History at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY about his book, *The Politics of Armenian Migration to North America, 1885-1915: Sojourners, Smugglers, and Dubious Citizens* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019).



The second online conversation, *Probing the Silences: Reconstructing the History of Armenian Women in Iran*, took place between Professor Hourii Berberian (Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair of Armenian Studies and Director of the Center of Armenian Studies at UC Irvine) and Professor Talinn Grigor (Professor and Chair of Art History at UC Davis) on May 28, 2020 and was moderated by Dr. Talin Chahinian (Lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program and Research Associate in Comparative Literature at UC Irvine). Co-authors Berberian and Grigor recently signed a book contract for this project with Stanford University Press.

Tufts University

This year, the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara T. Oztemel Chair co-sponsored the ongoing East of Byzantium

workshop series. More information on the workshop series can be found here: <https://eastofbyzantium.org/past-events/studying-east-of-byzantium-vi/>

As part of this series, a virtual workshop was held on March 13th and 14th, 2020. *Studying East of Byzantium VI: The State of the Field* was a two-day workshop that brought together doctoral students in North America studying the Christian East to reflect on the state of the field across its many disciplines, to share methodologies, and to discuss their research with senior specialists in the field. The workshop continues the efforts of East of Byzantium, the partnership between the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture at Hellenic College Holy Cross and the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara T. Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art at Tufts University, to foster an interdisciplinary community of early career scholars engaged in the study of the diverse traditions of the medieval Christian East, including Syria, the South Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and Egypt. The workshop was led by Valentina Calzolari (Université de Genève, Département des langues et des littératures Méditerranéennes, Slaves, et Orientales) and Christina Maranci (Tufts University, History of Art and Architecture).

Additionally, Christina Maranci, the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara T. Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture and Chair of Department of the History of Art and Architecture gave talks in Yerevan, Rutgers, and Columbia on the Ani Cathedral fresco discoveries before lockdown set in.

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno hosted an international conference, "The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions," on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3, 2020. Six scholars participated in the international conference organized by Professor Barlow Der Mugrdchian and Dr. Ümit Kurt and co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies. University of California, Berkeley Professor Dr. Christine M. Philliou began the international conference on Friday, October 2 with a keynote address.



Top row, left to right: Dr. Christine Philliou, Dr. Ari Şekeryan, Dr. Talin Suciyan. Bottom row, left to right: Erdem Ilter, Dr. Ümit Kurt, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Dr. Christopher Sheklian.

She was followed by two speakers, Dr. Christopher Sheklian (Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center), who spoke on, “Armenian and the Problem Space of Secularism in the Early Turkish Republic,” and Erdem Ilter (UCLA), who gave a presentation on “The Ottoman Imperial Legacy on Turkish Nation Building: An Analysis of the General Inspectorates (1895-1945).”

On Saturday, October 3, the conference included three speakers: Dr. Talin Suciyan (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany), who spoke on “The Amorphous/Abstracted Peasant of Ottoman and Turkish Historiography”; Dr. Ümit Kurt (Polonsky Academy, Van Leer Institute of Jerusalem), who spoke on “History of a Local Republican Entrepreneur in New Turkey: Cemil Alevli,”; and Dr. Ari Şekeryan (Manoogian Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), who presented on “The ‘loyal citizens’ of the Republic: The Armenian Community During the First Years of the Republic of Turkey (1923-1928).”

The conference papers will be published in a book by the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno.

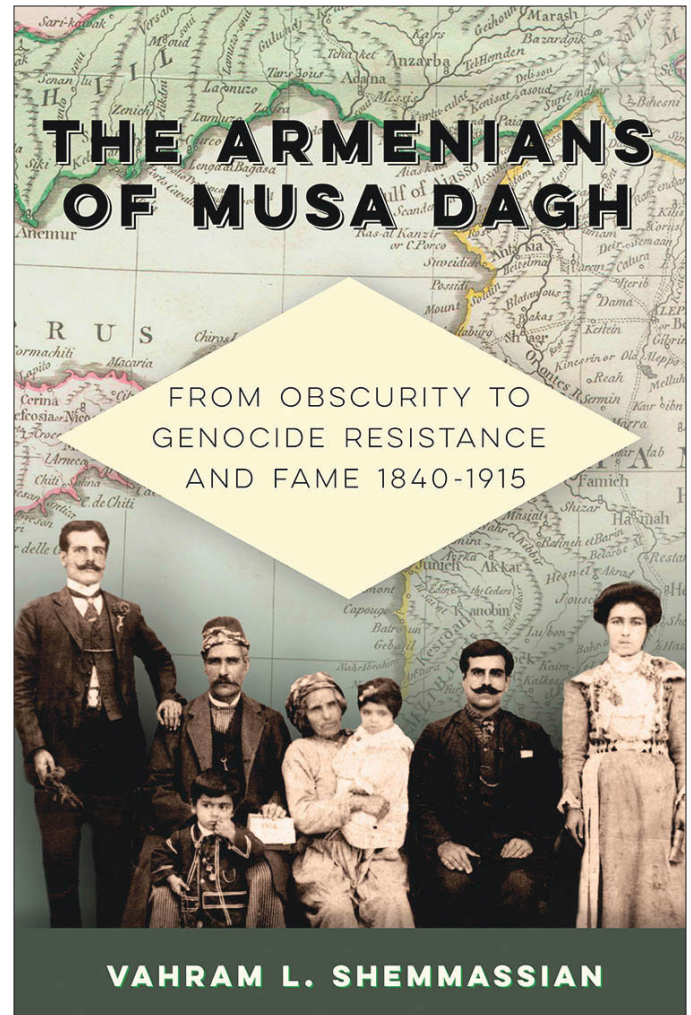
The Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno has published two books in 2020, under the general editorship of Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

The Armenians of Musa Dagh: From Obscurity to Genocide Resistance and Fame 1840-1915

by Dr. Vahram Shemmassian

Volume 11 in the Armenian Series

The Armenians of Musa Dagh is a comprehensive history of the people of Musa Dagh, who rose to prominence with their resistance to the Genocide in 1915. Dr. Shemmassian, has presented a thorough analysis of the social, economic, religious, educational, and political history of the six villages which constituted Armenian Musa Dagh. His work focuses on the important period of the mid-nineteenth to the



early twentieth century, offering the reader a previously unavailable insight into the people whose courage and persistence ultimately led to their successful self-defense.

The First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) on its Centenary: Politics, Gender, and Diplomacy

Edited by Dr. Bedross Der Matossian

Volume 10 in the Armenian Series, and

Volume 2 in the SAS Publication Series

This edited volume provides a multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach to studying the fascinating history of the First Republic of Armenia. Through

an analysis of the politics, gender, and diplomacy of the period, the volume enriches our understanding of the short-lived Republic, which played a crucial role in guaranteeing the perseverance of Armenian identity, and ultimately laying the foundation for the modern Republic of Armenia.

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

In November 2019, NAASR held the grand opening and ribbon cutting for its new headquarters in Belmont, MA, named the Vartan Gregorian Building, and celebrated this milestone as well as the organization's 65th anniversary with a gala at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, MA. The opening was attended by hundreds of NAASR members and friends who were the first to tour the three-story, state-of-the-art facility. At the gala, a fully packed ballroom heard master of ceremonies David Ignatius, speeches by NAASR Chairman Yervant Chekijian and Executive Director Sarah Ignatius, guest of honor Vartan Gregorian, philanthropist and NAASR Board Member Edward Avedisian who is the lead donor for the building, as well as musical performances by Isabel Bayrakdarian with the Borromeo String Quartet, and other features.



NAASR had begun holding events in the new building and reorganizing its Mardigian Library for visiting scholars when the pandemic hit, and closed its headquarters to the public in mid-March 2020. At that time, NAASR transitioned activities smoothly to a virtual space. During this time, NAASR created four new features to engage members and a worldwide audience during the pandemic:

1. Live Content on Zoom and YouTube. NAASR

has continued its regular programming by going online through Zoom, and broadcast live to NAASR's YouTube channel Armenian Studies, reaching thousands of people watching from throughout the U.S., as well as every continent (except Antarctica). It has continued its tradition of collaboration, working with many universities, community groups, and other entities including several partnerships with the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS). During the



war that started on September 27 and its immediate aftermath, NAASR featured scholars and analysts from across the globe, organizing or co-sponsoring eight programs on the war in Artsakh, the ceasefire, and the urgency of preservation of Armenian cultural heritage sites.

NAASR also held its first virtual (and 66th overall) Assembly of Members in October 2020. Short of the traditional luncheon, all of the usual necessary components of the assembly were present, including organizational reports, elections, and scholarly presentations; and in addition, the participation of members around the U.S. as well as overseas was facilitated by the online format. A highlight was the discussion under the title "Dynamism Worldwide in Armenian Studies Today," featuring Dr. Bedross Der Matossian and Dr. Valentina Calzolari with NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian as moderator. Dr. Der Matossian is a NAASR board member and a faculty member of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He is president of the Society of Armenian Studies (SAS). Dr. Calzolari is a faculty member in Armenian Studies at the University of Geneva and the president of the Association Internationale des Études Arméniennes (AIEA). Both are members of the NAASR Academic Advisory Committee.

All online public programs hosted by NAASR are

available on the NAASR YouTube channel.

2. Treasures of the Mardigian Library. NAASR highlights important and often little-known holdings in its 31,000 volume, rare book Mardigian Library. As of December 2020, 14 “Treasures” features have been assembled by NAASR Library Curator Ani Babaian and Marc Mamigonian and posted online, on topics including Franz Werfel’s Forty Days of Musa Dagh, the Kharpert Armenian writer Tlgadintsi, the unexpected story of William Saroyan and Ross Bagdasarian’s “Come on-a My House,” vintage Armenian textbooks and grammars, and literature translated into Armenian, to name a few. In addition, regular library activities such as cataloguing have continued, with more than 2000 books and other items processed during 2020, and NAASR continues to fulfill research requests from scholars around the world.

3. Book Beat. Monthly, this features new arrivals and surprising finds in the NAASR Bookstore, including both academic and popular works. NAASR currently operates the Bookstore online-only, ordered through the NAASR website with books mailed or held for sidewalk pickup.

4. Event Videos Blog. Periodically, NAASR highlights insightful programs from the past, drawing on 65 years’ worth of audio and video recordings of programs, viewable on NAASR’s YouTube channel. During the second half of 2019, NAASR and the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies received the largest ever number of requests and issued the most grants to scholars around the world since the beginning of their partnership in 2007. (In 2019 as a whole, the organizations issued 39 grants combined.) In 2020, particularly from March onwards, the quantity of grant applications has diminished, with, for instance, travel for research and to attend conferences virtually at a halt; we expect this to rebound once the pandemic comes under control. For information about grants visit <https://naasr.org/pages/grants-academic-outreach>.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor The Center for Armenian Studies

Even though last semester was marked with cancellations and disappointments as we missed much of our rich intellectual engagement and scholarly community due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to make significant progress towards our goals

of promoting and advancing the study of all things Armenian. First, we are now able to announce that our long record of excellence and the fantastic work by our previous director Dr. Kathryn Babayan, in terms of graduate student education and programming, earned us full university support to transform the Armenian Studies Program into the University of Michigan’s Center for Armenian Studies. This is a tremendous achievement that has been long in the making and highlights the growth of our mission to promote the study of the history, language, and culture of Armenia and Armenians. It will be able to offer many more opportunities to students and our



Directors and Former Directors of the Armenian Studies Program (now Center for Armenian Studies) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (from left): Kevork Bardakjian, Melanie S. Tanielian, Gerard Libaridian, Kathryn Babayan, and Ronald G. Suny.

community in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit, and expand the available resources for a new generation of scholars in the field. The promotion of the program into the Center for Armenian Studies will serve as a powerful magnet for focusing university-wide academic activity related to Armenian Studies, increase visibility, and further signal the serious intellectual commitment of the center in advancing new directions in the field in the future. The center, of course, will continue its existing program that has attracted a cohort of excellent international scholars with the intention of expanding its reach and visibility abroad, especially in Armenia.

Second, we received a sizeable gift from the family of Edward Hagop Noroian and Jane Plasman to endow a named student merit scholarship, awarded to an incoming undergraduate student who will minor in Armenian Studies, as well as a named-endowed lecture series to support bringing renowned

scholars of Armenian art, language, culture, history, and politics to Ann Arbor. We are most grateful for the Noroian-Plasman family's support and are looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership. Third, before the pandemic restricted our ability to hold in-person events, we had launched a series of "Garj" talks in Southfield, MI. The talks were aimed at introducing the work of visiting scholars and the Manoogian Post-Doctoral fellows to a broader Armenian public. These were a great success, and we are hoping to restart these once it is possible. In addition, we had a rich webinar series that covered topics from translations of the Alexander Romance into Armenia, to Ruinations of Soviet Industry in post-Cold War Armenia, to a policy discussion of the war in Artsakh.

**University of California, Los Angeles
Promise Armenian Institute of UCLA (PAI)**

The newly-formed Promise Armenian Institute of UCLA held the following events in 2020:

Nagorno Karabakh/Artsakh and the Palimpsests of Conflict, Violence, and Memory
October 31, 2020

Lecturers: Melissa Bilal, Armine Ishkanian, Gayane Shagoyan, Nona Shahnazarian, Ronald G. Suny, Stephen Badalyan Riegg, Vicken Cheterian, Anna Ohanyan, Gerard Libaridian, Emil Sanamyan, Elizabeth Tsurkov

Keynote Guest and Discussants: Cornel West, Yevgenya Jenny Paturyan, Razmik Panossian, Kate Mackintosh

Description: The recent premeditated initiation of war by Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh has led to hundreds of deaths to date, including many civilians, as well as the destruction of homes and cultural monuments. The war has also triggered the fabrication of false and misleading narratives on social media and by media outlets themselves regarding the conflict's origins, causes, and possible future directions. Organized by the Armenian Studies Center at UCLA's Promise Armenian Institute, this zoom-held international conference on the region's troubled history seeks to raise critical awareness of the complex and variegated history behind the current violence. The gathering will be the first of its kind to frame the conflict around its

"deep" history, revealing its Soviet, Ottoman, and more recent geopolitical layers. It brings together scholars and seasoned experts to explore different dimensions of the conflict from Soviet nationality policy to the place of the late Ottoman Empire in the region's history and its lingering contribution to the recent violence. The renowned American philosopher Dr. Cornel West will deliver a special address titled "Words in Solidarity" at the beginning of the conference.

Cemal Pasha's Role in the Armenian Genocide
October 22, 2020

Lecturer: Taner Akçam

Discussant: Ronald G. Suny

Abstract: One popular view of Cemal Pasha among non-historians has emphasized his role as one of the "Three Pashas" (along with Talat Pasha and Enver Pasha) who were largely responsible for the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide (1914-1923). Yet in scholarly writings, many historians have argued that, although Cemal Pasha was very harsh in his treatment of Arabs and Jews, he opposed the annihilationist policies directed toward the Armenians. In fact, the prevailing view has been that Cemal Pasha not only tried to treat Armenians well but actively worked to rescue them, to the extent that his efforts opened a serious rift between him and the Unionist government in Istanbul. The testimonies of some survivors of the Armenian Genocide appear on the surface to support this latter view. According to new research by Professor Akçam, neither oft-repeated view of Cemal Pasha is entirely accurate. There were no major disagreements between the authorities in Istanbul and Cemal Pasha over Armenian policy; rather, they were in nearly complete accord. Indeed, in many aspects the latter's policies can be seen as more radical than those of his collaborators in Istanbul. In his talk, Professor Akçam will present a reevaluation of Cemal Pasha's role in the Armenian Genocide in light of recently discovered Ottoman documents.

When Was the Decision Made to Annihilate the Armenians?

September 14, 2020

Lecturer: Taner Akçam

Discussant: A. Dirk Moses

Abstract: In this presentation, Professor Akçam in-

roduces some newly unearthed documents from the Ottoman archives in Istanbul that indicate that the first decision to exterminate Armenians was taken on December 1, 1914, well before most scholars in the field ever suggested. In these documents, the Turkish term for extermination [imha] is openly used by local governors who were directly involved in the decision-making process to exterminate the Armenians. Akçam will also introduce a letter dated March 3, 1915, written by Bahaettin Şakir, the head of Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa (aka the Special Organization) and one of the main architects of the Armenian Genocide. This letter conveys that the Central Committee of Union and Progress had already decided to exterminate the Armenians, giving the government wide authority to implement this plan. The scholarly world has long ignored or declined to cite this letter due to allegations that it was fake. Drawing on newly available documents, Akçam shows the authenticity of this letter and argue that the question of the decision(s) for the extermination of Armenians and the role of governors should be revisited.

Psi Chi—the International Honor Society in Psychology



On 20 August 2020, despite Covid, Professor Hrant Avanesyan of Yerevan State University coordinated an international ceremony with Dr. Ani Kalayjian in the USA, to install at YSU a chapter of Psi Chi—the International Honor Society in Psychology—the very first chapter among 100 colleges in the Transcaucasian region.

You can read more about it here:

www.y-su.am/news/hy/The-YSU-branch-of-Psi-Chi-has-been-founded

Calfa

Calfa is involved in different digital projects of digitization and armenian handwritten archives processing with the Nubar Library (Paris), the Bib-

liothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC, Paris) and Mekhitarists of Venice.

The Musée arménien de France (Paris)

The Musée arménien de France (Paris) announces that its 32 Armenian manuscripts and single leaves have now been fully digitized and are available at this link: <https://bvmm.irht.cnrs.fr> (Search for “musée arménien de france” using the search box in the upper right corner).

The link is also available through the Museum’s website: <https://www.le-maf.com/s> and clicking on “actualités” (on the right of the home page) -> “musée” -> “articles récents” -> “Numérisation de la collection des manuscrits.”

This work has been made in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche et d’Histoire des Textes (IRHT) and with the help of the scanning services of the CNRS in Orléans. Jean Pierre Mahé, a member of the board of the MAF, raised funds to enable the scanning and thus save this knowledge for posterity.

Note that the Musée arménien de France is still closed due to an ongoing and serious dispute concerning its location, where it has been for decades. The collection is consequently at grave risk of deterioration.

For further details please see this link:

<https://www.le-maf.com/en/petition-en/> and sign the petition if you agree. Newspaper and magazine articles about the situation are available here: <https://www.le-maf.com/news/medias/>.

**Society for Armenian Studies
Web Page**

societyforarmenianstudies.com

SAS Member News and Publications

Sebouh David Aslanian (*University of California, Los Angeles*) published

“‘The Quintessential Locus of Brokerage’: Letters of Recommendation, Networks, and Mobility in the Life of Thomas Vanandets‘i, an Armenian Printer in Amsterdam, 1677-1707,” *Journal of World History* 31, 4 (2020): 655-692.

He also has prepared the following forthcoming publications:

Early Modernity and Mobility: Port Cities and Printers Across the Armenian Diaspora, 1512-1800 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2022, forthcoming)

“‘A Ship with Two Rudders’? Gregario di Ghirach-Mirman of Venice, Global Armenian Trade Networks, and Religious Ambiguity in the Age of Confessionalism,” forthcoming to a companion volume of the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit on Armenia! (2021)

“From Mount Lebanon to Little Mount in Madras: Mobility and Catholic Armenian Alms-Collectors Networks during the Eighteenth Century,” in *The Mechanics of Mobility in the Early Modern Period* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, forthcoming). From Mount Lebanon to Little Mount in Madras: Mobility and Catholic Armenian Alms-Collectors Networks during the Eighteenth Century,” in *The Mechanics of Mobility in the Early Modern Period* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, forthcoming).

“A Life Lived Across Continents: A Global Microhistory of an Armenian Agent of the Compagnie des Indes Orientales, 1666-1688,” *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales* (2021): 19-54. (This is the English original of French translation that appeared in 2018).

Arlen, Jesse (*University of California, Los Angeles*) received an Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship for Research on Minorities in the Middle East & North Africa for AY 2020–21. He was awarded the North American Patristics Society Graduate Student Paper Prize in May 2020 for his paper “Reading Evagrius at the Monastery of Narek.” His articles “The Urban/Rural Divide in the Early Modern Period: A Microhistorical Study of an Episode in Joseph Emin’s Life and Adventures” appeared in *JSAS* 27 no. 1 (2020): 70–84 and “Ընկերութիւն, սէր եւ գրելու մղումը Քրիստիան Բատիկեանի

Մետաղէ երազներ վէպին մէջ” appeared in *Pakine* 59 no. 1 (2020): 70–80.

Baran, Hasmig (*California State University, Northridge*) published “The Syrian Armenian Rural Community of Ayn El-Arous,” in Antranik Akessian, ed., *Armenians of Syria: Proceedings of the Conference* (24-27 May 2015). Beirut: Haigazian University Press, 2018. Pp. 395-414 and “The Role of Ethnic Culture in work-Family Balance among Armenian Women in Leadership Position in Higher Education in the United States,” *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. 40 (2020); 539-562. She presented lectures including “Soft Skills,” organized by the Ministry of Education of Armenia and ARPA, and both the “The Status of Day Schools in Southern California” and “Teacher Training for the 21st Century” at the Biannual Diaspora-Armenia Conference held on August 2-6, 2018 in Aghveran, Armenia. She also moderated a panel at the conference “Armenian Statehood Reborn; Achievements and Reflections.”

Boulgourdjian, Nélide Elena (*University of Buenos Aires and University of Tres de Febrero*) published an article, “Political Uses of Religion in Complex Contexts: the Soviet Republic of Armenia and the Armenian community in Argentina during the beginning of the Cold War”, at *Rivista di Storia del’800 e del ’900, Contemporanea, Il Mulino, Año XXII, N° 3/2019* (ISSN 1127-3070), pp. 363-383. She presented a paper “Child transfer during the Armenian genocide and the Argentine military dictatorship. A Comparative perspective” at the conference “Genocide in the Modern era. Perspectives and Challenges of its Study” dedicated to the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Holocaust, November 5- 7 202 organized by the UNESCO Chair on Education and Prevention of Genocide and Atrocity Crimes at the Institute for Armenian Studies of Yerevan State and the paper “The Armenians in Argentina: forced Immigration and the Reconstruction of the Community Associations” at the conference “Narratives of Forced Migration in the 20th and 21st Century,” held at the University of Stirling, September 16-18, 2019. Boulgourdjian is the compiler and author of two articles of the book *Negacionismo del Genocidio armenio. Una visión desde el presente*. Buenos Aires, UNTREF-PROMETEO, 2020, 473 pages, ISBN 978-987-8331-25-6.

Calzolari, Valentina (*University of Geneva*)

Valentina Calzolari was elected corresponding member of the Institut de France (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres). She received a grant for a project on “The Armenians and their contribution to late medieval Middle Eastern History” (with R. Amitai). In 2019-2020, she presented several papers at the universities of Boğaziçi, Harvard, Laval, Regensburg, Strasbourg, Tufts (as a respondent), at the INALCO, the Matenadaran-Gandzasar, and, virtually, for NAASR, the University of Basel, and the Freie-Universität. Her most recent activity was the organisation of a round table on “Le Haut-Karabakh: mise en perspective historique et enjeux actuels”, at the University of Geneva:

She published pieces, including the article “Stefano il protomartire e i Padri della Chiesa: su alcune omelie greche e siriane tradotte in armeno e un Encomio di santo Stefano attribuito a Basilio di Cesarea”, *Adamantius* 25 (2019) [2020]: 229-254; the book chapters: “Women’s Emancipation and Armenian Literature in the Ottoman Empire at the Dawn of the 20th Century”, Introduction to S. Dussap, *Mayda. Echoes of Protest* (Boston: AIWA Press, 2020), p. XV-XXXVII; “Mary and Eve. The Permanence of the First Mother in Armenian Apocryphal Infancy Gospels”, in C. Gislou Dopfel, A. Foscati & Ch. Burnett, eds., *Pregnancy and Childbirth in the Pre-modern World. European and Middle Eastern Cultures, to Late Antiquity to the Renaissance* (Cursor Mundi. Viator Studies of the Medieval and Early Modern World 36, Turnhout: Brepols, 2019), p. 193-212; “Notes sur le Martyre de Barthélemy arménien inédit conservé dans le ms. 7753 du Matenadaran”, in L. DiTommaso, M. Henze & W. Adler, eds., *The Embroidered Bible: Studies in Biblical Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha in Honour of Michael E. Stone* (Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha 26, Leiden & Boston, Brill, 2018), p. 301-320; “Eve, the Foremother, in the Nativity Scene in Armenian Apocryphal Literature and Illuminations”, in C. Gislou Doppler, ed., *Pregnancy and Childbirth. History, Medicine, and Anthropology* (Saint Mary’s College of California & Steuben Press, 2018), p. 56-62, pl. p. 164-165; the encyclopedia articles “Armenian Christianity and Islam (Late Antiquity and Middle Age)”, in J.L. Esposito, ed., *Oxford Islamic Studies Online* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018) (in coll. with H.-L. Kieser for the modern era); “Arme-

nian”, in D. Gurtner & L.T. Stuckenbruck, ed., *T & T Clark Encyclopaedia of Second Temple Judaism*, vol. 2 (London, New York, Oxford, New Delhi, Sydney: t&t clark, 2019), p. 75-76; and the book reviews, *Review of Magnalia Dei. Biblical History in Epic Verse by Grigor Magistros. Critical Text with Introduction, Translation and Commentary. By Abraham Terian* (HUAS 14, Leuven - Paris - Walpole, Mass.: Peeters, 2012), in *Cahiers de civilisation médiévale* 232bis (2019): 551-553; *Review of New Testament Apocrypha. More Noncanonical Scriptures, volume 1. Edited by Tony Burke & Brent Landau* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016), in *Le Muséon* 3-4 (2018): 469-472.

Review of Boris Adjemian, La fanfare du négus. Les Arméniens en Éthiopie (XIXe-XXe siècles), (Collection “En temps & lieux” 47, Paris: Éditions de l’EHESS, 2013), in *Aethiopica. International Journal of Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies* 21 (2018): 257-262; and *Review of Muriel Debié, L’écriture de l’histoire en syriaque. Transmission interculturelle et constructions identitaires entre hellénisme et islam. Avec des répertoires des textes historiographiques en annexe* (Late Antique History and Religion 12, Leuven: Peeters 2015), in *COMST Bulletin* 4/2 (2018): 257-264. She also gave the “*Fugufuü junup*” [Opening speech], in “Proceedings of the International Conference ‘Armenian Eastern Parts (Artsakh, Utik): History and Culture’ (August 26-27, 2019, Gandzasar, Artsakh)”, *Banber Matenadaranani* 29 (2020), p. 215-217.

“Gabriella Uluhogian, un grand-maître de l’arménologie italienne (1934-2016)”, *Revue des Études Arméniennes* 38 (2018-2019) [2019], p. VI-XI.

Contin, Benedetta (*Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna, Austria*)

published “The Problem of Evil and the Theory of Contraries from Alexandria and Athens to Armenia in Late Antiquity,” in *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* 69/2 (2019), 59-98. DOI: 10.1553/joeb69S59 and “Intertwining Aristotelian Ontology and Logic with Theology: The Early Armenian Non-Chalcedonian perspective: the ‘Book of Beings’ and the ‘Questions Addressed to the Heretical Diophysites’,” forthcoming in *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* 70/1 (2020). She presented the papers “The Voluntary Being and the Non-Voluntary Being.

Some Considerations on the Problem of Evil and the Theory of the *Contra* in Late Antique Armenian Philosophy and Theology” at the 1st Annual Vienna Colloquium in Byzantine Philosophy, 24th-25th May 2019, University of Vienna, Dept. of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies; “The Late Antique Debate on Evil in the 6th-7th century Armenia: The ‘*Contra Manicheos*’ Attributed to Gregory of Nyssa and its Alleged Armenian Version Attributed to David the Philosopher,” at the Celtic Conference in Classics, Transition and Transformation: The Early Reception of the Greek and Roman Inheritance (3th-8th cc. CE), Panel 10, 26th-27th June 2019, University of Coimbra, Portugal; and organized the international conference “Discontinuity Revisited. Intellectual and Scientific Activities in 7th-8th Centuries Byzantium and Armenia” at University of Vienna, Institute of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, 3rd-5th October 2019, with Prof. Dr. Christophe Erismann. She received grants to work within the ERC Project 9SALT “Reassessing Ninth Century Philosophy. A Synchronic Approach to the Logical Traditions” led by Prof. Dr. Christophe Erismann and based at the Dept. of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna, Austria and will be the principal investigator from November 2020-October 2022 of the FWF (Austrian Science Fund) Lise Meitner Project “Invisible Philosophical Traditions: Aristotle in Armenia (12th-13th cc.)”, Dept. of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, University of Vienna.

Dadoyan, Seta B (*Independent scholar*) published the article “The Armenian Ghurans 1680-2014”, *Le Muséon* 133(2020)1-2, 165-205 and has a forthcoming book in press, *Islam in Armenian Literary Culture. Texts, Contexts, Dynamics*. Louvain: Peeters, CSCO Subsidia Series, 2020/1.

Darbinyan, Asya (*Clark University*) completed her Ph.D. in History from the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, in December 2019 and received the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative’s Vartan Gregorian Scholarship in March 2020. She organized and lectured at the 105th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at Stockton University in April 2020. Darbinyan presented a paper, “Recovering Refugee Voices: Armenian Refugees of the War & Genocide in Transcaucasia,” at the 7th Global Conference on Genocide of the Inter-

national Network of Genocide Scholars (Oct. 2020). It was revised into an article “Recovering the Voices of Armenian Refugees in Transcaucasia: Accounts of Suffering and Survival,” which appeared in the Fall-Winter 2020 issue of the *Armenian Review* vol. 57, n.1-2: 1-35. Her book chapter, “Humanitarian Crisis at the Ottoman-Russian Border: Russian Imperial Responses to Armenian Refugees of War and Genocide, 1914-15,” appeared in the edited volume *Aid to Armenia: Humanitarianism and Intervention from the 1890s to the present*, Laycock, Jo, and Piana, Francesca eds., (Manchester University Press, 2020), 66-83.

Kiremitlian, Onnik (*Scientific Collaborator, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve*) currently working in preparing a critical edition with an English translation of the unpublished Armenian works of the Syriac Church Father Marutha of Tagrit that will appear in the CSCO series of the Catholic University of Louvain.

Merian, Sylvie L. (*Morgan Library & Museum*) presented a paper “Don’t Forget About the Silver Covers!’: Newly-Identified Silverwork by the Armenian Silversmiths of Kayseri, 17th-18th century” at an International Colloquium in Paris, Dec. 2019, *A La Memoire de Sirarpie Der Nersessian (1896-1989)*. Her article, “Reproducing the Resurrection: From European Prints to Armenian Manuscripts,” appeared in *Toward a Global Middle Ages: Encountering the World through Illuminated Manuscripts* (Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Museum, 2019), pp. 148-155. She also contributed six essays and 26 catalogue entries for *Armenia: Art, Religion, and Trade in the Middle Ages*, the catalogue for the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s 2018 exhibition, *Armenia!*

Ohanian, Daniel (*University of California, Los Angeles*) continues to work toward his PhD. His dissertation is tentatively titled “Church of Armenia, Church of Rome: Faith, Print, and Power in Ottoman-Armenian History, 1688–1717,” and it is being written under the supervision of Sebouh Aslanian. His article co-authored with Mehmet Başkurt and Erdem Kabadayı, titled “An Historical Geographic Information System for Ottoman Studies: The c. 1907 Ottoman Census and Armenian Settlement in Istanbul,” appeared in the 2020 edition of *Turcica*.

It is the product of a research project (2016–2018) funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and hosted at Istanbul Bilgi University.

Peroomian, Rubina (*University of California, Los Angeles*) conducted an online seminar on July 31, 2020, organized by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, for teachers in Armenia on new methods of teaching the Armenian Genocide. She presented the paper, “Survivor Memoirs – A Multifaceted Source, A Less-employed Field of Inquiry for Genocide Studies” at the international Conference on “Genocide in the Modern Era, Perspectives and Challenges of its Study,” organized by UNESCO Chair on Education and Prevention of Genocide and other Atrocity Crimes, Yerevan State University, November 5-7, 2020. She contributed a chapter titled “The subversive Activities of Armenian Bolsheviks: A Critical Factor in Yerevan-Moscow Negotiations (1918-1920),” in *The First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920) On the Centenary: Politics, Gender, and Diplomacy*, Bedross Der Matossian ed. (Fresno: The California State University Press, 2020), pp. 133-153. Finally, she received the “Special Award” in the literary contest organized by Eurasia Partnership Foundation – Armenia on the topic of Stalinist persecutions in Armenia for the book «Թաւրիզից ստալինեան Գուլագ, Ընդհատուած պատմութիւն» (From Tabriz to Stalin’s GULAG, An interrupted story), the Armenian version of *My Father, A Man of Courage and Perseverance, A Survivor of Stalin’s GULAG*. August 30, 2020.

Sahakyan, Vahe (*University of Michigan-Dearborn*) published two reports in the *Armenian Diaspora Public Opinion* (1): *Armenian Diaspora Survey, 2019*, H. Tchilingirian (ed.), London: Armenian Institute, 2020, titled “Identity: Family, Language and Culture are Defining Constituents of Hyphenated Armenianness” (pp. 11-15) and “Language and Culture: Majority of Armenians Keep Language and Culture Vital, High-Quality Armenian Schools are in Demand” (pp. 23-27). He presented two papers: “Diasporization Unpacked: (Im)migration, Transculturation, Diaspora” at *Transculturality in Eastern and Western Contexts* conference, at the University of Trier in Germany, and “Beyond Assimilation: From Migrant Liminality to Diasporic Permanence” at the *International Institute Conference on Migration* at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor.

Stone, Michael E. (*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*) was elected a Member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He gave the lecture “The Armenian Embroidered Bible: Mapping an Uncharted Territory,” at the annual General Assembly of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities on December 24, 2019. He received the Enoch Seminar Life Achievement Award (2020) and was elected an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*. Additionally, he has published the following books: Alexander Kulik, Gabriele Boccaccini, Lorenzo DiTommaso, David Hamidovic, and Michael Stone, eds., *A Guide to Early Jewish Texts and Traditions in Christian Transmission* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019); M.E. Stone, *Armenian Apocrypha : Relating to Biblical Heroes*. (SBLEJL 49; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2019) series vol. 5. He also published the following articles: “Chapter 7, Armenian,” in Alexander Kulik, Gabriele Boccaccini, Lorenzo DiTommaso, David Hamidovic, and Michael Stone, eds., *A Guide to Early Jewish Texts and Traditions in Christian Transmission* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), 139-64; M.E. Stone. “The Armenian Embroidered Bible.” *JSP* 29 (2019): 3-11; “The Armenian Embroidered Bible,” in Levon Khachikian. *Centenary: Proceedings of the Conference, 28-30 June, 2018*. Eds. Geōrg Ter-Vardanian, with Gohar Muradyan. (Erevan: Matenadaran, 2019). 381-391 [Armenian]; “Textual History of the Armenian Version of 4 Ezra,” in *Textual History of the Bible General Editor: Armin Lange*. Volume editors: Frank Feder and Matthias Henze. (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 503-13. M. E. Stone, Kh. A. Harutyunyan, *Armenian Inscriptions of the Church of Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Part 1. The Chapel of John the Evangelist and Its Inscriptions*, “VEM Panarmenian Journal”, no. 2 (70), April-June, 2020, 159-77 [Armenian]; M. E. Stone, Kh. A. Harutyunyan, *Armenian Inscriptions of the Church of Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Part 2. The Pillars of the Entrance to the Church and the Southern Wall*, “VEM Panarmenian Journal”, no 3 (71), July-September, 2020, [Armenian].

Suciyan, Talin (*Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, Institute of Near and Middle Eastern Studies*) has published with Deniz Yonucu, “From the Ottoman Empire to Post-1923: The Catastrophe as

Seen by the Angel of History” in *Critical Times*, August (2020) 3 (2): 300–311, and presented with Harry Harootyan the paper “Amorphous/abstracted peasant of Ottoman and Turkish Historiography” at the conference “The State of the Art of the Early Turkish Republic Period,” held on October 3, 2020. She has a manuscript under review with Syracuse University Press: Venia Legendi, “Eithe save us from this misery, or order our death” (Ya derdimize derman, ya katlimize ferman”: Tanzimat of the Provinces and a forthcoming article, “Testifying impotence, requesting divorce: Constantinople 1848, an Armenian woman’s appeal” in *Gender in Research and Politics: Developments, Intersections and Perspectives* ed. by Sibylle Lustenberger, Siran Hovannisyan, Andrea Boscoboinik, Gohar Shahnazaryan, Freiburg Studies in Social Anthropology, (Münster: Lit Verlag), 2021.

Takooshian, Harold (*Fordham University*) published the article “Armenian-Americans in the behavioral sciences” in *MIOPAP: Main Issues of Pedagogy & Psychology*, pages 7-9 (2020). <https://miopap.aspu.am/index.php/miopap>

Vidal-Gorène, Chahan (*École Nationale des Chartes-PSL, Calfa*) presented two papers about Armenian lexicography and Natural Language Processing (NLP) of Classical Armenian at the International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, and a paper about NLP for three Armenian dialects at VarDial 2020 (28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics), published in *Conferences proceedings*. He has co-organized the international conference, “Digital Armenian” (Inalco, 2019) dedicated to NLP and ongoing digital projects for Armenian, the proceedings of which will be published in 2021. Calfa was awarded the Télécoms Innovations 2019 prize for its Handwritten Text Recognition Engine for Armenian and Oriental Languages. He has published, with Decours-Perez Aliénor, “Languages Resources for Poorly Endowed Languages : The Case Study of Classical Armenian”. In *Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference*, 3145–3152, Marseille: European Language Resources Association (ELRA), 2020; with Kindt Bastien, “Lemmatization and POS-tagging process by using joint learning approach. Experimental results on Classical Armenian, Old Georgian, and Syriac”. In *Proceedings of LT4HALA 2020 - 1st Workshop on Language Technologies for Historical and An-*

cient Languages, 22–27, Marseille: European Language Resources Association (ELRA), 2020; with Khurshudyan Victoria and Donabédian-Demopoulos Anaïd, “Recycling and Comparing Morphological Annotation Models for Armenian Diachronic-Variational Corpus Processing”. In *Proceedings of the 7th Workshop on NLP for Similar Languages, Varieties and Dialects*, 90-101, Barcelona: International Committee on Computational Linguistics (ICCL), 2020; with Khurshudyan Victoria, and Donabédian Anaïd, “Modèles d’annotations morphologiques pour le traitement de données multivariées de l’arménien”. In *2èmes journées scientifiques du Groupement de Recherche Linguistique Informatique Formelle et de Terrain (LIFT)*, 72-82, Montrouge: CNRS, 2020; and with Decours-Perez Aliénor, “Le patrimoine manuscrit arménien à l’ère du numérique : enjeux d’une politique internationale de préservation”. In *De la pierre au papier, du papier au numérique*, edited by Jean-François Faiï, 161-175, Paris: Geuthner, 2020.

Watenpaugh, Heghnar (*University of California, Davis*) was named a fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar for 2020-21. Her book *The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice* (Stanford University Press, 2019), was a co-winner of the Der Mugardehian Book Award from the Society for Armenian Studies. It also won the book prize of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, and the Gold Medal in World History from the Independent Publisher Book Awards.

Publication:

“Hagia Sophia’s Status Change Threatens Cultural Rights,” Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, July 30, 2020.

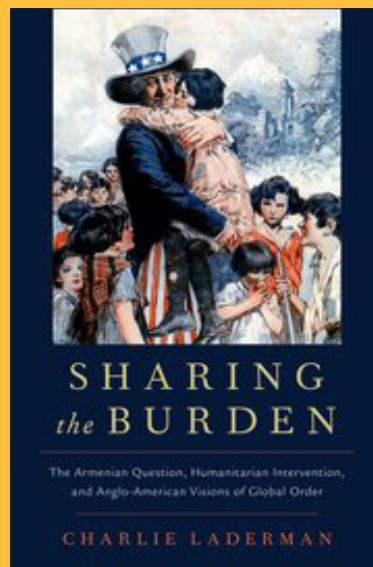
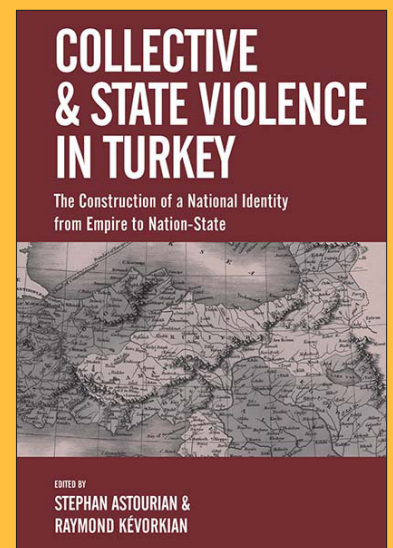
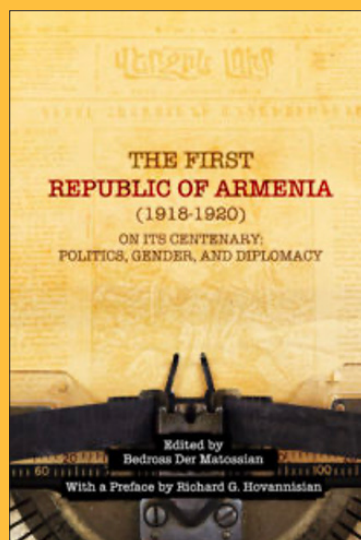
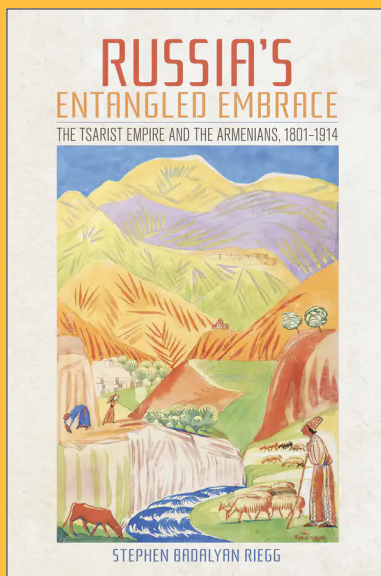
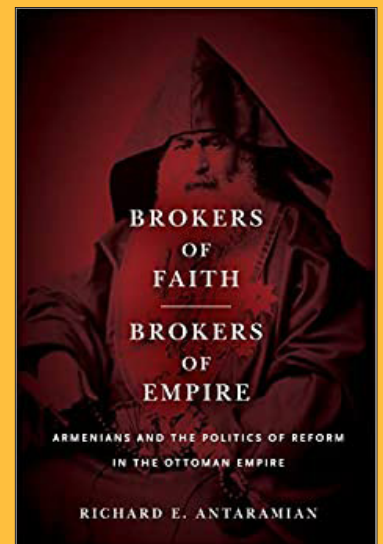
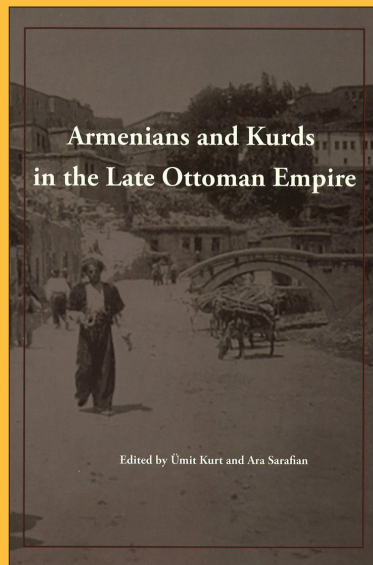
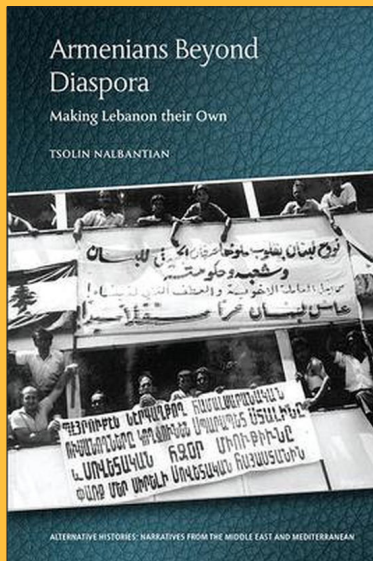
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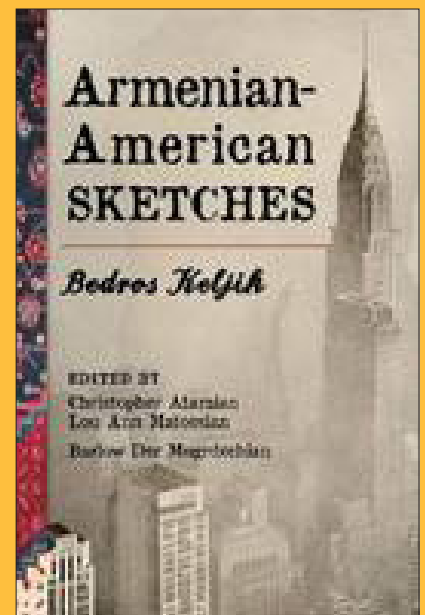
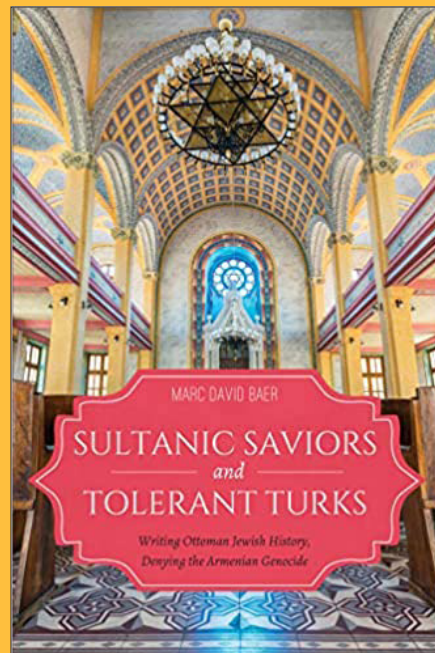
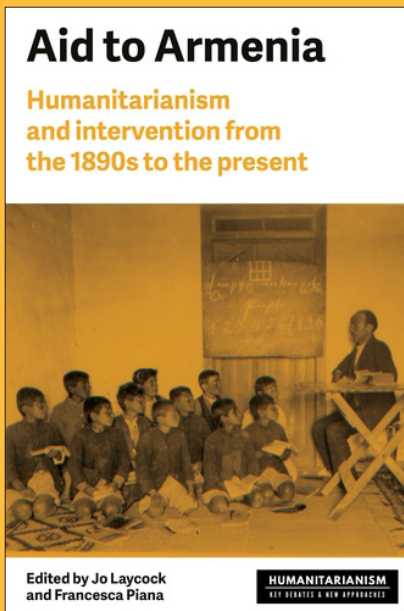
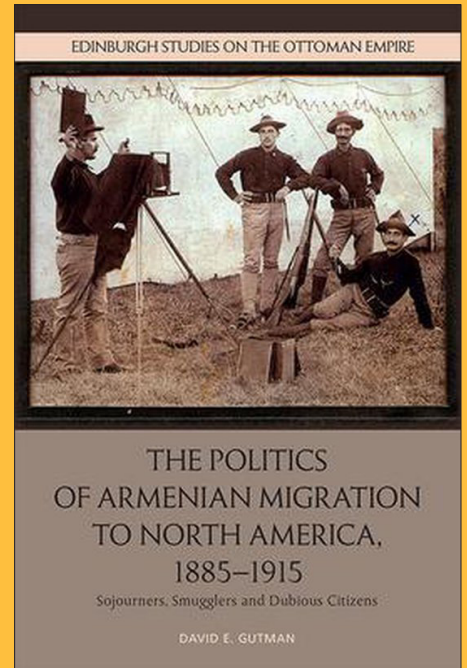
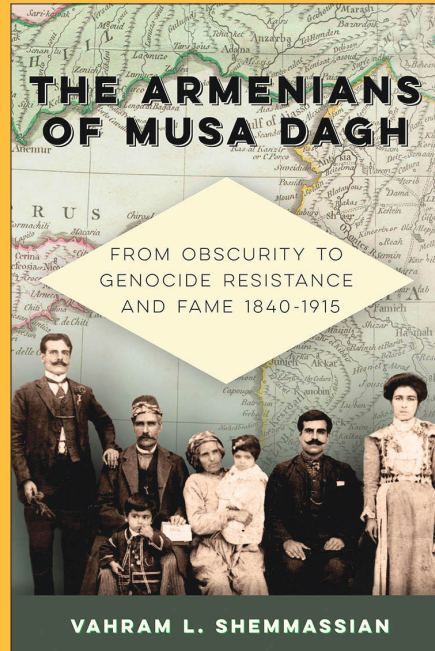
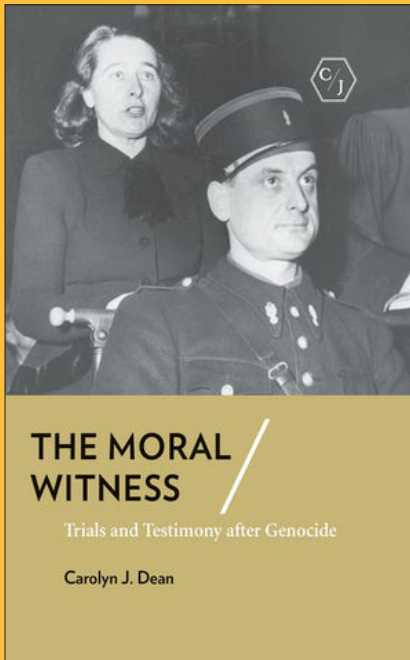
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