



# The Society for Armenian Studies

Newsletter Volume XLVI No. 1, 2022

## President's Message

*Bedross Der Matossian, SAS President*



Fall 2021 has been a very productive year for SAS. We continued with our activities on all fronts. As part of the SAS Graduate Travel and Research Grants, we awarded six grants to graduate students in the field of Armenian Studies who are conducting cutting edge research within a variety of disciplines including history, sociology, archeology, and gender studies. This year we have also awarded the SAS Barlow Der Mugrdechian Outstanding Book Award to Dr. Richard Antaramian (USC). Dr. Vazken Khatchig Davidian (Oxford University) received the SAS Distinguished Dissertation Award (2017-2018). Congratulations to both scholars! I would also like to congratulate Natalie Kamamjian (UCLA) and Jennifer Manoukian (UCLA) for receiving the Best Conference Paper Award (2019-2021).

We continued our cooperation with academic institutions in Armenia and Artsakh. In October of 2021 we signed an agreement of cooperation with Artsakh State University (ArSU) aimed at cooperating on different academic projects to advance the field of Armenian Studies. As part of our continuing cooperation with the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) we donated more than 130 books in the fields of Armenian Genocides, comparative genocides, and Holocaust Studies to the Museum with the aim of strengthening its library collection.

The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS) has also been making great new strides. Thanks to the Editor-in-Chief Dr., Tamar Boyadjian (Michigan State University) and the Reviews and Reconsiderations Editor, Dr. Rachel Goshgarian (Lafayette College), as well as an excellent editorial board, JSAS has become one of the most prestigious academic journals in the field. In 2021 JSAS issued Volume 28.1 on the theme of Performance Part I with excellent and interdisciplinary articles on the topic.

In the past four years, the SAS has dramatically extended its activities in the U.S., Armenia, and Artsakh. In order to keep pace with all of our activities, we decided to hire a part-time SAS Executive Secretary. After interviewing a few candidates, we appointed Katarina Terzyan, a graduate of USC to the position. This was possible due to a generous donation by long-time SAS member, Mr. Dean Shahinian.

## SAS Member News and Publications

**Arlen, Jesse Siragan** (*Zohrab Information Center; Fordham University*)

Published the book chapter “Armenian” in *Eastern Christianity: A Reader*, edited by J. Edward Walters, Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2021, 143–199. He presented the paper “The Making of a Monastic Academy: Intellectual and Ascetic-Mystical Education at the Monastery of Narek” at Oxford’s Forgotten Christianities Seminar in June 2021 and the paper “The Reply of Armenian Theological Doctors to Byzantine Polemics during the Tenth-Century Byzantine Expansion Eastwards” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in May 2022. He gave a two-semester long public lecture series through St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, entitled “An Immortal Memorial for You and the Generations to Come: An Introduction to the Classical and Medieval Armenian Historical Tradition, Fifth to Eighteenth Centuries.” The recordings of the eleven lectures are available to view on [YouTube](#).

**Berberian, Houri** (*University of California, Irvine*)

Co-authored with Grigor, Talinn (University of California, Davis) on the article, “Pictorial Modernity and the Armenian Women of Iran,” appeared in *Iranian Studies* 55, no. 2 (2022): 463–500 (doi:10.1017/irn.2021.18) and her single-authored chapter, “Gendered Narratives of Transgressive Politics: Recovering Revolutionary Rubina,” appeared in *Age of Rogues: Rebels, Revolutionaries and Racketeers at the Frontiers of Empires*, edited by Ramazan Hakki Oztan & Alp Yenen (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021). Her in-person and online presentations during this period include “FROM BOGEYMAN TO HAY KIN: Representations of Armenian Women in Modern Iran,” with Talinn Grigor, “First

Annual Vartan Gregorian Memorial Lecture”, NAASR, 4/28/22, [Youtube](#); “Gendered Narratives of Transgressive Politics: Recovering Revolutionary Rubina,” Book Panel: *Age of Rogues: Rebels, Revolutionaries, and Racketeers at the Frontiers of Empires*, Turkey Studies Network in the Low Countries, 3/10/22 and 10/27/21, UCI Center for Armenian Studies, [Youtube](#); “Bogeymen and Birch Brooms: Pictorial Modernity, Satirical Newspapers, and the Armenian Women of Iran, 1920–58,” Alan Templeton Colloquium in Art History: Of Satire and Bigotry: Press Culture, Women’s Rights, and Liminal Modernity in West Asia, 2/25/22, UC Davis; and, *Roving Revolutionaries, Ottoman Borderlands: Administration, Violence And Knowledge Production Workshop*, Freie Universität Berlin, 9/30-10/1/21.

**Bertram, Carel** (*San Francisco State University, Emerita*)

*A House in the Homeland, Armenian Pilgrimages to Places of Ancestral Memory*, has been published by Stanford University Press (April, 2022.) Four recent talks highlight different substantive, methodological and theoretical aspects of this work: "How Pilgrimages Allow Homeland and Diaspora to Map Each Other" (NAASR), "How Rituals Emerge to Give Spiritual Rewards" (UCLA Promise Armenian Institute), "The Encounter with Turkish Citizens with Armenian Heritage" (UC Berkeley, Armenian Studies Program) and for AHARA, "The Importance of “The House” in the Homeland" (AHARA). [Click here](#) to find more information regarding each talk.

### Cox, Claude (*McMaster Divinity College*)

“The Septuagint and the Secondary Versions,” in *T&T Clark Handbook of Septuagint Research* (eds. W.A. Ross and W.E. Glenny T&T Handbooks; New York: Bloomsbury, 2021), 175–91.

This focuses on the Armenian version and draws on examples from Armenian Job. I am currently working on a critical edition of the Armenian translation of Deuteronomy. My doctoral dissertation produced a diplomatic edition that was published by Scholars Press (1981). The *REArm* article was an invited paper given at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in 2019.

“The Armenian Translation of the Bible,” *Bible Review Journal* 8, 2 (Fall, 2021), 15–27. The Armenian Version and the Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible,” *REArm* 40 (2021), 19–31.

### Dadoyan, Seta B.

Received the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) Lifetime Achievement Award in Recognition and Appreciation for her Outstanding Service and Contribution to the field of Armenian Studies (November 6, 2021).

### Grigor, Talinn (*Chair and Professor of Art History at the University of California, Davis*)

Co-authored with Hourii Berberian, “Pictorial Modernity and the Armenian Women of Iran,” in the journal of *Iranian Studies* 55/2 (April 2022). She co-presented the inaugural Vartan Gregorian Memorial Lecture for National Association for Armenian Studies and Research on April 28th

entitled “From Bogeyman to HAY KIN: Representations of Armenian Women in Modern Iran.” On February 25, she organized the Alan Templeton Annual Colloquium, entitled *Of Satire and Bigotry: Press Culture, Women’s Rights, and Liminal Modernity in West Asia*, at the Manetti Shrem Museum, Davis, California. She also contributed three entries on Irano-Armenian female architects, Nektar Papazian Andreeff, Emma Hakopian Grigorian, and Victoria Ohanjanian to *Bloomsbury Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture*, eds. Lori Brown and Karen Burns (Oxford: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022). With Berberian, she will be preparing the manuscript for their forthcoming co-authored book, *Picturing the Silences: Minoritarian Modernism and the Armenian Women of Iran* (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

### Haidostian, Dr. Berj H.

2022 Annual Distinguished Lecture, "Performing the Archive: A Conversation on Art, Engagement, and Armenianness." Arsinée Khanjian, actress, performer, producer, and civil rights activist and Marie-Aude Baronian, Associate Professor, at the University of Amsterdam Germany. A tremendous effort was made by award-winning Artistic Director of the Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin, Shermin Langhoff to commemorate the centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The forty-day artistic program titled “It Snows In April,” included a production of Franz Werfel’s 40 Days of Musa Dagh, a musical theater piece about Komitas and countless other shows, readings, exhibitions and installations.

Among the performances, was a performance developed by Arsinée Khanjian especially for the program titled: “Auction of Soul: Performing Memory.” The performance written and directed by Arsine Khanjian, acted by herself and Elmira Bahrami, Taner Şahintürk, and Jesse Jonas Kracht, is based on and dedicated to the life of Armenian genocide survivor and early American cinema actress, Aurora Mardigian (1901–1994).



Copies of the film and archival materials had disappeared just like Aurora, who died penniless and forgotten in Los Angeles at the age of 92. But still, it was the remaining traces and fragments that would allow Khanjian to expose the complexity of survival, memory, and the impossibilities of history. The powerful performance of *Auction of Souls: Performing Memory* was recorded and for the first time screened in the U.S. by the Center of Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Following the screening, Arsinée Khanjian, in conversation with visual theorist and Film Studies expert Marie-Aude Baronian, discussed the genesis of *Auction of Soul: Performing Memory* and its various interpretative layers. Baronian and her colleague Erica Biolchini prior to this public lecture had initiated a conversation with Khnajian in 2020, that led to a publication in the *Journal for Armenian Studies*'s recent special issue on performance titled:



"Performance, Memory, and the Archive: A Conversation with Arsine Khanjian." The performance Khanjian notes, while of course seeking to give Aurora a voice, "is a creation, a construct, an effort to give voice to and revive, through the telling of Aurora's story, every and all the stories which have been maligned by the indifference of history."

As such woven together and performed with great conviction, *Auction of Soul*, Marie Baronian writes, "touches upon wider current social, ethical, and geopolitical issues such

as other massive and violent displacements, persecutions, civil wars, and oppressive regimes that are still taking place and that we are witnessing today.” Straddling memory, history, and theatric performance, the conversation ultimately stressed the necessity of elaborating and including artistic practices in Armenian studies.

The Dr. Berj H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lectureship was established by the family of the late Dr. Berj Haidostian, a prominent and devoted physician in Michigan. The annual lecturer is selected jointly by the Armenian studies faculty and the Haidostian family from among internationally recognized experts on Armenia and Armenians. The event was co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies.

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### **Kozák, Vratislav (Charles University, Czech Republic)**

Presented a paper titled, "The Kingdom of Urartu: a long-forgotten and still surprising cradle of Armenian civilization" at the public conference for Armenology.

### **Manoukian, Jennifer (University of California, Los Angeles)**

Had her article, “Literary Translation and the Expansion of the Ottoman Armenian Reading Public, 1853-1884,” appear in *Book History* 25, no. 1 (2022): 128-171. She explored similar themes from a different angle in an illustrated piece for *Houshamadyan*, entitled “The Dedeyan Publishing House of Smyrna, 1853-1892.” She also contributed five entries to the *Encyclopedia of Romantic Nationalism in Europe*, which detailed the life and work of Ghevont Alishan, Nahabed Rusinian, Madteos Mamourian, Dzerents and Garabed Utujian.

### **Marsoobian, Armen T. (Southern Connecticut State University)**

Was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities-Mellon Foundation Fellowship for the 2022-2023 academic year for a project entitled, “A Virtual Exhibition of Ottoman Era Anatolian Armenian Vernacular Photography, 1880s - 1920s.” The exhibition will be launched in late 2023 in conjunction with an on-ground exhibition during the Thessaloniki Photo Biennale organized by Greece’s National Museum of Photography. He was the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies, Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies, at Columbia University in the spring of 2022, offering a graduate course entitled, “The Resilience of Memory: Literary and Visual Responses in the Aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.” During his fellowship he will continue at Columbia University as a Visiting Scholar.

### **Peroomian, Rubina**

Is an independent scholar, author/researcher, who has lectured via Zoom on Hakob Karapents as a second generation survivor of the Armenian Genocide in the 32nd online lecture series of “Blog,” on March 30th. She presented, Յակոբ Կարապենց իբր Յեղասպանութիւնը վերապրած երկրորդ սերնդի ներկայացուցիչ Հայերէն Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան դասաւանդումը ամերիկահայ կրթական հաստատութիւններում Գաղափարից գործողութիւն եւ զարգացում

Teaching about the Armenian Genocide in Armenian Educational Institutions, from Conception to Action and Beyond at the AGMI Conference on “Challenges of Armenian Genocide Education in the 21st Century,” April 20-22, 2021, Yerevan. She presented her chapter, “Atrpatakan as a Bastion in Armenian Liberation Movement” in *Armenian Communities of Iran, History, Trade, Culture*, (edited by Richard G. Hovannisian) at the Book Launch event at the Society of Los Angeles Armenians on April 28th. Her paper on Karapents, "Մեծ ոստանների թոհուրոհի մեջ բռնուած յաւիտենական արտորականը"

The eternal exile, caught in the commotion of the big cities was published in *Հակոբ Կարապետ, Միջազգային գիտաժողովի զեկոյցներ [Hakob Karapents, Conference Proceedings]*, (Yerevan: Hamazkayin, 2022), pp. 278-304. Her article titled, "Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան դասաւանդման մարտահրաւերները 21-րդ դարում", was published in the April 24th special issue of *Asbarez*. Upon a contract with the National Library of Armenia, Perroomian's books and textbooks are now digitized and available for [online access](#).

### **Shemmassian, Vahram (California State University of Northridge)**

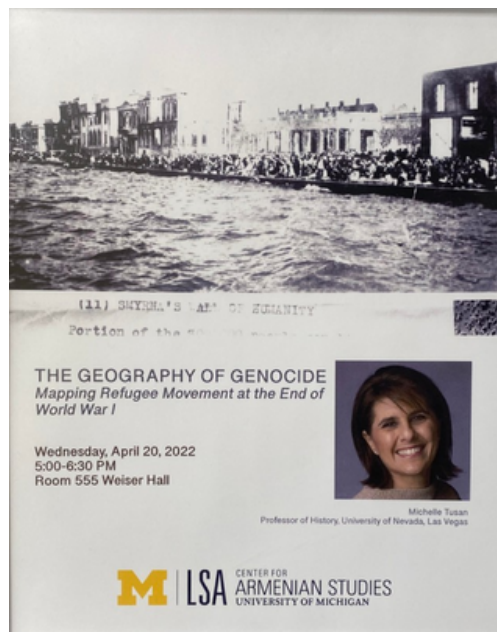
Has published the following articles: “The Population, Setup, and Administration of the Armenian Refugee Camp of Port Said, Egypt 1915- 1919,” in Antranik Dakessian, ed. *Armenians of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia/1: Proceedings of the Conference (12-13 April and 29-30 May 2018)* (Beirut: Haigazian University Press, 2022), pp. 241-262;

“The Repatriation of Armenian Refugees from Iraq to Soviet Armenia, 1921-1925,” in Antranik Dakessian, ed., *Armenians of Iraq: Proceedings of the Conference (29-31 May 2017)* (Beirut: Haigazian University Press, 2021), pp. 247-266; “Rev. Aharon A. Shirajian and the "British Friends of Armenia Hostel in Aleppo for Female Genocide Survivors,” in H.T. Marutyan and N.V. Margaryan, eds., *The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East in 1915-1923: International Conference Proceedings November 8-9, 2019* (Yerevan: Armenian Genocide Museum Institute Foundation, 2020), pp. 198-224; “Armenian Genocide Survivors in Damascus at the End of World War I,” *Haigazian Armenological Review*, vol. 40 (2020): 95-124. Shemmassian on September 28, 2021 was interviewed by the Pazgerag (pulse) TV program of the CivilNet Broadcasting and Media Company, Yerevan, Armenia on his new book, *The Armenians of Musa Dag: From Obscurity to Genocide Resistance and Fame, 1840-1915*.

### **Tusan, Michelle (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)**

Michelle Tusan's new work "The Geography of Genocide: Mapping Refugee Movement at the End of World War I" maps the Armenian Genocide refugee crisis to render visible the human geography of total war. For those stuck in the no man's land between war and peace in the Ottoman Empire, World War I did not end with the signing of the 1918 armistices or the 1919 Treaty of Versailles. Instead, Tusan argued

it continued beyond the signing of the 1923 Lausanne Treaty and produced the world's largest refugee crisis to date while leaving a legacy of political instability that continues to plague the region. Deep maps – rendered using ARC- GIS technology and data from official documents, institutional records, and diaries of aid workers, refugees, and other non-combatants – reveal how refugee routes and war relief infrastructure reconfigured the landscape. The refugee experience of those fleeing genocide took form in the desert, the camp, and on the road during a protracted and seemingly unending war that had important consequences for minorities in the postwar Middle East.



Michelle Tusan is a professor of History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her publications include “The British Empire and the Armenian Genocide” (2017/2019), “Smyrna’s Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide and the Birth of the Middle East” (2012), and articles in the *American Historical Review* and *Past and Present*. She is working on a book provisionally entitled, “The Last Treaty: The Middle Eastern Front and the End of the First World War,” which rewrites the final years of the war as a story of humanitarian crisis and failed diplomacy.

Tusan’s lecture drew a sizable online and in-person audience. For a more detailed report of the lecture please see Harry Kezelian’s report “Michelle Tusan Maps Armenian Genocide With Innovative Technology” in the *Mirror Spectator*.

## News from the Chairs and Programs

### Armenian Studies Program, Fresno State (2021-2022) Activities

The Armenian Studies Program celebrated another successful year at Fresno State with the 34th Annual Armenian Studies Program Banquet held at the Fort Washington Country Club on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Fresno State students, faculty, administrators, parents, donors, and community members came together to share a delicious dinner and celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Program. As this was the first Banquet held in three years, everyone was enthusiastic to celebrate the Program's achievements and to recognize students who had been awarded scholarships and those students who graduating with a Minor in Armenian Studies. Many campus and community leaders were in attendance for this highly anticipated event. Among the guests were Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval; Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr. Xuanning Fu; Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Dr. Honora Chapman; and



Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Dr. Sergio La Porta, and ASP faculty member Dr. Hagop Ohanessian. Rev. Fr. Gomidas Zohrabian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in Fowler, gave the invocation. Prof. Barlow Der Mugardechian, Berberian Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program, hosted and organized the wonderful evening.



### Armenian Studies Program Scholarships

The Armenian Studies Program awarded scholarships to fifty students from thirty-four different endowment or scholarship funds for a total of \$88,000 for the academic year 2021-2022. In addition to providing needed financial support, the scholarships encourage students to pursue Minors in Armenian Studies and to enroll in the various course offerings.

We ask our students and our supporters to tell their friends and relatives about the Armenian Studies Program Scholarship Program and to encourage them to apply for the 2022-2023 academic year (application period will open in October of 2022).





## Allakhverdayn Concert

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, clarinetist Boris Alkakhverdyan and his wife Alin Allakhverdyan performed as part of the “Celebration of Clarinet Featuring Boris Allakhverdyan & Alin Allakhverdyan Piano Concert” held at the Fresno State Concert Hall. The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State was a co-sponsor of the event.

The concert was held as part of the “Celebrating 35 Years of Clarinet” activities at Fresno State, organized by Fresno State Music Professor Miles M. Ishigaki, which included lecture performances, presentations, masterclasses, and concerts by Allakhverdyan and by Ricardo Morales, Principal Clarinet of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Boris Allakhverdyan was appointed as Principal Clarinet of Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2016 and served previously as the Principal Clarinet in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He is a founding member of the Prima Trio, a grand prize and gold medal winner of the 2007 Fischhoff National Chamber music competition and has appeared as a soloist throughout the United States, Canada, Russia, and Armenia.

Alin Allakhverdyan, is a prize-winning pianist who began her piano studies at the age of four in Southern California. Currently a music director of the American Contemporary Gallery, she collaborates with dancers and musicians in contemporary and classical pieces and has collaborated with many renowned musicians.



## Yerevan State University Delegation Visits Fresno State

A delegation of Yerevan State University (YSU) administrators and faculty, headed by YSU President Dr. Hovhannes Hovhannisyán, visited the Fresno State campus on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Accompanying Dr. Hovhannisyán were Dr. Alexander Markarov, Head of the International Cooperation Office of YSU and Dr. Vahagn Aglyan, Director of the American Studies Center at YSU. The group was hosted at Fresno State by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program.

The delegation was visiting several universities that have cooperative agreements with YSU, including Arizona State University and California State University, Northridge. At Fresno State the

delegation held several productive meetings with administrators and faculty. Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez- Sandoval, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities Dr. Honora Chapman, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities Dr. Sergio La Porta, and Prof. Der Mugrdechian greeted the guests at the Haak Center Boardroom in the Fresno State Library.



### Attorney Karnig Kerkonian Speaks on the ICJ Decision

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules against Azerbaijan on all counts! Armenia won a landmark victory in a hearing brought before the ICJ on the basis of urgency and the need for immediate relief. The court made three orders to secure the safety of Armenian prisoners of war, the cessation of hate speech and violence by Azerbaijan, and the destruction of cultural heritage by the same.

Karnig Kerkonian is a renowned international litigator, presenting regularly on issues of human rights before the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. He is currently working on the case of Armenia v. Azerbaijan before the International Court of Justice and presented what progress his team

has made on the case as well as the road ahead to Armenian Studies students here at Fresno State.

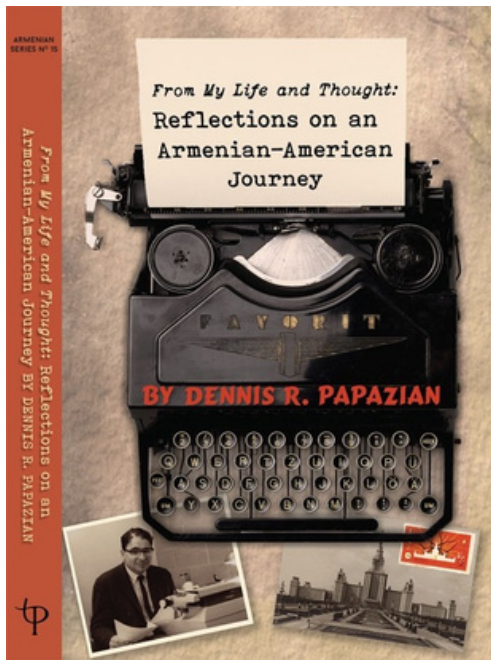
Kerkonian gave his presentation, “Armenia v. Azerbaijan in the International Court of Justice: An Overview of the Case and the Order on Provisional Measures,” on Thursday, February 17, 2022. He spoke via Zoom in a lecture streamed on YouTube and Facebook and was introduced by Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian. Kerkonian, a member of the Armenian delegation to the International Court of Justice, provided Armenian Studies students with an overview of the case itself, the context surrounding the litigation, and the decision reached by the International Court of Justice, or ICJ, on December 7, 2021.



Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno

### “From My Life and Thought: Reflections on an Armenian-American Journey” by Dr. Dennis R. Papazian Volume 15

Born ninety years ago in the pre-WWII, pre-civil rights American South of Armenian immigrant parents from Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Dennis Papazian



reflects on a quintessentially twentieth-century American life shaped by the challenges of the immigrant experience, his family's struggle to create a life in a new land, and his determined efforts to secure an education that would ensure a life of security and the promise of the American dream.

Dennis pursued a Ph.D. in Russian history, becoming one of the first American students to study in the then Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War. Not only did this experience open the world to him, it also placed him in the center of major geopolitical events, teaching him nuance and perspective that would lead him to become a highly sought analyst as the Soviet Union broke apart decades later. Upon his return to Michigan, Dennis went on to live a life of contribution and service and became a key leader in the emergence of an Armenian-American community just finding its footing fifty years after the 1915 Armenian genocide. Dennis's journey is a classic American immigrant tale.

Through it all, he shares his wit, resilience, keen sense of perception, and vision, as well as the memorable characters he meets along the way, as he reflects on his consequential, eventful, and at times surprising life. It is a story that will inspire and give hope to all who join him on his journey.

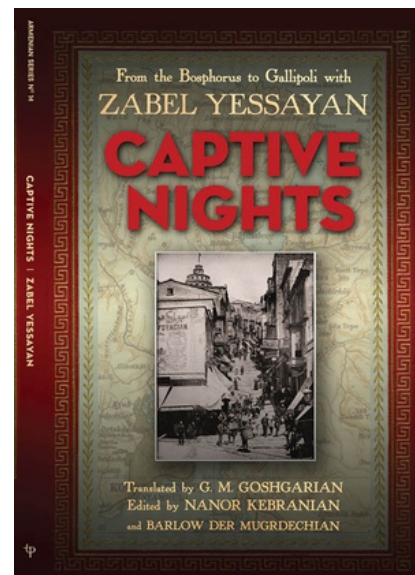
### About the Author

Dennis R. Papazian, Professor Emeritus of History and founding Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. During a long career as a professor and administrator at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, he was known for his many contributions to the Armenian community.

*From My Life and Thought: Reflections on an Armenian-American Journey*; (9 inches x 6 inches, 328pp., \$20.00, paper, ISBN: 978-0-912201-757). Volume 15 in the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno in English. General Editor of the Armenian Series: Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

### “Captive Nights: From the Bosphorus to Gallipoli with Zabel Yessayan”

#### Volume 14



*Captive Nights* presents three of Zabel Yessayan's short stories, brought together for the first time in English translation by G. M. Goshgarian. *The Veil* was published in 1914, on the eve of World War I; *Enough!* followed in 1922; and *Meliha Nuri Hanum* appeared six years later in 1928. The three stories "share a common theme of women – both Armenian and Turkish –struggling against adverse social, political, and cultural circumstances, as they also examine questions of identity and marginalization. Nanor Kebranian's insightful introduction situates Yessayan and the stories in the context of larger issues affecting Turkish society. In her support of anti-authoritarian resistance, Yessayan has now become a symbol of progressive social movements in Turkey. While, as Kebranian states, she was "erased out of Turkish culture and history through a sustained program of state- imposed amnesia and post-genocide denialism," Yessayan currently enjoys public renown in Turkish mainstream discourse. *Captive Nights* may reanimate a bygone world but its narratives of social justice are as resonant today as they were a century ago.

*Captive Nights: From the Bosphorus to Gallipoli with Zabel Yessayan*; (9 inches x 6 inches, 104pp., \$20.00, paper, ISBN: 978-0-912201-740). Volume 14 in the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno. In English. General Editor of the Armenian Series: Barlow Der Mgrdechian.

## Tufts University

Studying East of Byzantium VIII: Material Culture is a three-part workshop that intends to bring together doctoral students studying the Christian East to reflect on how to study the material world of the Christian East, 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.

"But script is ink, and images are materials." This was the riposte of Vrt'anēs K'ertogh, a seventh-century Armenian theologian, to iconoclasts who venerated the Gospel but despised matter. Scholars of material culture would agree: what indeed is the divide between textual and material phenomena?

The poster features a background image of ancient stone architecture. At the top, a golden crown icon is positioned above the text "EAST OF BYZANTIUM". Below this, the speaker's name "Kate Franklin" is listed with her affiliation "Birkbeck, University of London". The main title "COSMOPOLITANISM AS HOSPITALITY" is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. Underneath, the subtitle "CHRISTIAN CHARITY AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE MEDIEVAL SILK ROAD IN ARMENIA" is written in smaller text, followed by "An East of Byzantium Lecture". The date and time "TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, 12:00PM-1:30PM" are shown, along with a note "LECTURE BEGINS AT 12:00PM". A registration link "WWW.EASTOFBYZANTIUM.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS" is provided. At the bottom, the poster identifies the partnership between the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art at Tufts University and the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture at Hellenic College Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. It also states that the lecture "explores the cultures of the eastern frontier of the Byzantine Empire in the late antique and medieval periods." Logos for the Mary Jaharis Center and the Arthur H. Dadian & Ara Oztemel Chair are at the bottom.

## SAS Podcast Series

The Society for Armenian Studies continues its exciting podcast series, interviewing authors of new books and other scholars about their recent work. Look for our podcast on whichever platform you regularly use to listen to podcasts!

### SAS Podcast #59 – Bedross Der Matossian



**Prof. Bedross Der Matossian** (University of Nebraska, Lincoln), *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2022)

Interviewed by [Michael Bobelian](#).

[Released June 13, 2022]

Link to the podcast on the website: [Podbean](#)

### SAS Podcast #58 – Satenig Batwagan Toufania



**Prof. Satenig Batwagan Toufania** (Professeur de philosophie chez Ministère chargé de l'Éducation nationale), *Rendez-vous à Madras* (Ed. Thaddée, 2020) and Dileep Karanth (Illinois Wesleyan University, translator of the novel into English)

Interviewed by Lucine Batwagan.

[Released March 23, 2022]

Link to the podcast on the website: [PodBean](#)

### SAS Podcast #57 – Vera Sahakyan

**Vera Sahakyan (PhD Student and Researcher at Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts-Madenataran),**

Մշոյ Բուլանըք գաւառի հայաբնակ գիւղերն ըստ Մկրտիչ Ա. Խրիմեան կաթողիկոսին ուղղուած նամակների (The Armenian Populated Villages of the District of Bulanik in Mush according to the Letters sent to Catholicos Mgrditch A. Khrimian) (Yerevan: Madenataran, 2021)

Interviewed by Arpik Sahakyan

[Released November 2, 2021]

Link to the podcast on the website:

[Podbean](#)

## SAS Awards and Grants

### Grants to Graduate Students for Fall 2021

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 for the Fall of 2021. 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 2021 group of applicants was chosen by a selection committee composed of members of the SAS Executive Council.

### Haley Zovickian (Columbia University)

Haley is an M.A. student in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University, NY, working on Armenian-American identity as seen through critical race theory.



“I am so grateful to the Society for Armenian Studies for their support of my research on critical race theory and Armenian racialization. Thanks to the Society, I will be able to bring the experiences of the Armenian community into academic discourse on race in the United States. I am truly humbled and honored to receive this generous opportunity,” said Haley.

### **Daniel Ohanian (Univeristy of California, Los Angeles)**

Daniel is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) working on dissertation titled: “Church of Armenia, Church of Rome: Faith, Print, and Power in Ottoman-Armenian History, 1688–1717.”



“I am pursuing a PhD in history from UCLA, where my dissertation is supervised by Dr. Sebouh Aslanian. The SAS Graduate Research Grant is helping me fund a three-month research trip to France, where I will be investigating Ottoman-Armenian history in various archives and libraries.

Specifically, I will be looking into the Armenian and French missionaries who worked to spread Roman Catholicism among Ottoman Armenians around the year 1700 and the various reactions to their work. French institutions are home to some of the richest collections of letters and reports about this history, and I am grateful to the Society for Armenian Studies for helping me access them,” said Daniel.

### **Aram Khoogasian (Princeton University)**

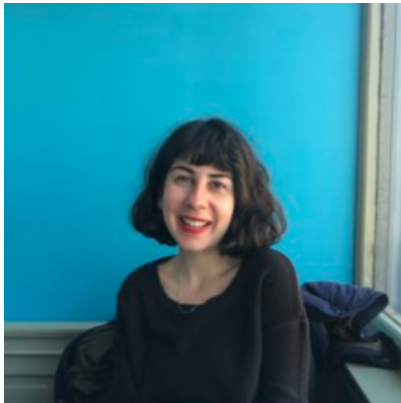
Aram is a doctoral candidate at the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University working on the reading culture across the Armenian world in the mid-nineteenth century.

“The grant from the Society for Armenian Studies will allow me to visit the Mardigian, Boyadjian, and Demirjibashian libraries in the Greater Boston area this coming spring. My work in these institutions will contribute to my dissertation research on the effects of the industrialization of printing on Armenian language and culture. I am incredibly grateful for the SAS’s support – especially coming off a year in which travel was difficult and uncertain – for my own work and that of other early career scholars in the field,” said Aram.



### **Hazel Ozdemir (Northwestern University)**

Hazel Ozdemir, is a doctoral student in the Department of History at Northwestern University. Her dissertation explores Armenian circular mobility between the Ottoman Empire and the United States between 1896-1908.



“It is a great honor to be a recipient of the SAS Grant. The generous assistance of the SAS will enable me to travel to Paris. Due to this significant grant, I can carry out research in the AGBU Nubar Library for my dissertation project, titled “They Vowed to Never Return: Photographic Documentation and Ottoman Armenian Mobility at the End of Empire.” Financial support of the SAS is very important for graduate students to pursue their academic goals,” said Hazel.

### **Ruben Davtyan (International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia)**

Ruben is doctoral candidate at the International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) working on the impacts of the Near East and Eurasian nomads in the South Caucasus and the representation of local elites during the Middle Iron Age.

He was awarded the Nina G. Garsoian Graduate Research Grant for Ancient and Early Medieval Armenian History.



“I would like to thank the SAS for supporting my research. My Ph.D. thesis focuses on the Iron Age tombs of the well-known necropolis of Lori Berd, in the north of Armenia. Kings of Urartu waged several military campaigns against Etiuni, an administrative confederation, which Lori Berd presumably belonged to. I examine the impact on the material assemblage from burial context, where not only separate objects of Urartian repertoire did reach Lori Berd, but also items and even practices of Urartian origin were locally imitated. These phenomena were, however, limited to the obviously large and rich burials. Since the majority of the objects are not published, my work will contribute to the archaeology in Armenia of Urartian period,” said Ruben.

### **Lori Pirinjian (University of California, Los Angeles)**

Lori is a doctoral student in the Department Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles working on how Armenia’s “anti-gender” movement uses national rhetoric as a stage for the struggle for regional political power between the Russian Federation and the West.



“It is an honor to receive the SAS Travel Grant. I will be putting the funds toward my upcoming summer travel to Armenia in order to gain valuable face-time with my research constituents. These types of in-person, on the ground interactions are an irreplaceable part of my research, and it is thanks to the generosity of the SAS that I will be able to see this through,” said Lori.

### Grant Information

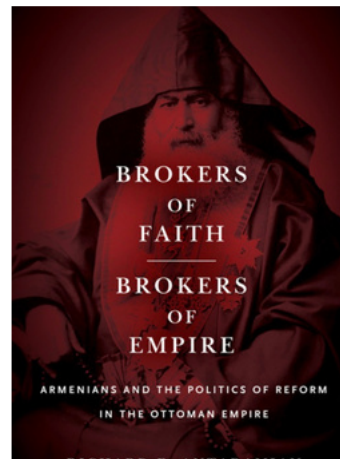
“This year we had the largest pool of applicants. Due to our tight budget, we were not able to support all of them. The awardees are conducting novel research in the field of Armenian Studies in the general understanding. We are extremely happy that we are able to support our graduate students in these difficult times” noted SAS President 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, 2022.

The SAS Graduate and Research Grant was made possible through the generous institutional support of the Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, University of California, Irvine;

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

### SAS Outstanding Book Awardee



The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announced that Richard E. Antaramian’s *Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire: Armenians and the Politics of Reform in the Ottoman Empire* (Stanford University Press, 2020) has been chosen as the recipient of this year’s Der Mgrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award. An honorable mention has been awarded to Stephen Badalyan Riegg’s *Russia’s Entangled Embrace: The Tsarist Empire and the Armenians, 1801-1914* (Cornell University Press, 2020) and Harry Harootunian’s *The Unspoken as Heritage: The Armenian Genocide and the its Unaccounted Lives* (Duke University Press, 2019).



Established in 2015, the Der Mugerdechian 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 Mugerdechian, 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, *Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire: Armenians and the Politics of Reform in the Ottoman Empire* demonstrated substantive knowledge and an overall high level of scholarship. The Book Award covered works published in the period of May 1, 2019, to April 30, 2021. Dr. Antaramian will receive a \$1,000 monetary award from SAS and a certificate of recognition.

SAS President Bedross Der Matossian commented on the awards stating, “I would like to congratulate Antaramian for this great achievement. This year we received more than half 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 selection committee who rigorously examined all of the books.”

*In Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire*, Antaramian presents a revisionist account of Ottoman reform, relating the contention within the Armenian community to broader imperial politics. Reform afforded Armenians the opportunity to recast themselves as partners of the state, rather than as brokers among factions.

And in the course of pursuing such programs, they transformed the community’s role in imperial society. As the Ottoman reform program changed how religious difference could be employed in a Muslim empire, Armenian clergymen found themselves enmeshed in high-stakes political and social contests that would have deadly consequences.

Richard E. Antaramian is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern California. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2014.

Thanking the Society of Armenian Studies and the selection committee, Dr. Antaramian commented: “Please accept my most sincere gratitude for selecting my book, *Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire* as a recipient of the Der Mugerdechian Armenian Studies Book Award. Armenian Studies has experienced tremendous growth over the last several years. The quality of our scholarship is greater; our debates are more sophisticated; and our interventions into discussions in adjacent fields more significant. To receive this award—named after one of the most dedicated stewards of our field—is an honor and I am humbled that my name will now appear alongside those of past winners.”

### **SAS Outstanding Dissertation Award**

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announces that Dr. Vazken Khatchig Davidian has been chosen to receive the SAS Distinguished Dissertation Award (2017-2020) for his dissertation “The Figure of the Bantoukhd Hamal of Constantinople: Late Nineteenth-Century Representations of Migrant Workers from Ottoman Armenia.”

The SAS Award is accompanied by a \$1,000 prize. Dr. Hrag Papazian's "Contesting Armenianness: Plurality, Segregation and Multilateral Boundary Making among Armenians in Contemporary Turkey," received an honorary mention.

Davidian's thesis examines late nineteenth century visual representations of the subaltern figure of the bantoukhd (migrant worker) from Ottoman Armenia, synonymous – in both Russian Armenian and Ottoman Armenian contemporary popular imaginations – with the iconic hamal (porter) of Constantinople. The period under scrutiny spans the two decades loosely bookended by the immediate aftermath of the Russo-Ottoman War of 1877-1878 and the Armenian Massacres of 1894-1897, a significant historical period that experienced, among others: the internationalization of the so-called Armenian Question; the fraying of the relationship between the Ottoman State and its Armenian population; the unprecedented increase in labor migration from Ottoman Armenia to Constantinople; the advent of a social-reformist intellectual movement, the so-called Constantinople Realists; and the spearheading of notions towards the 'salvation' of Ottoman Armenia as a cause by Russian Armenian intellectuals.

Dr. Davidian commented on the award, "I am deeply honored and sincerely moved by the recognition conferred upon my dissertation by the Society of Armenian Studies and the Selection Committee. The dissertation was a labor of love by a mature student, arriving to academic pursuits later in life, and was driven by a desire to engage with the contexts and complexities of the Ottoman Armenian past, and especially some of its more neglected aspects. Using art and social history as a prism, my work has sought to identify artists as central figures of a late

nineteenth-century Ottoman Armenian intellectual milieu and actors in the movement for social and political reform.

I am grateful to be part of a new generation of scholars who are constantly building upon and pushing the boundaries of the pioneering work of those who established Armenian Studies."

### Honorary Mention

Papazian's dissertation deals with the ways in which Armenianness in Turkey in the past three decades witnessed an unprecedented process of diversification. Whereas members of the Christian-Armenian minority had traditionally been the sole representatives of Armenian identity in Turkey, they now find themselves next to two other groups of Armenians: first, officially Muslim and hence 'non-Armenian' citizens of Turkey who, drawing on their Armenian ancestors Islamized or Alevised decades or centuries earlier, have started to publicly identify as Armenians; second, citizens of neighboring Armenia who engaged in a labor migration towards Turkey after the independence of their country and its sinking into a political, economic, and energy crisis in the early 1990s. Going beyond the official categorization of Armenians in Turkey, limited in scope and imposing a particular interpretation of Armenianness, his ethnographic research studies the various people self-identifying as Armenians in today's Turkey. It examines the often-differing meanings, productions and experiences of Armenianness among the Christian Armenians, the Muslim/Alevi Armenians, and the migrant Armenians.

Upon receiving the title of honorary mention, Papazian said, “Please accept my deepest gratitude for selecting my doctoral dissertation for this honorary mention. I am delighted that “Contesting Armenianness: Plurality, Segregation and Multilateral Boundary Making among Armenians in Contemporary Turkey” is appreciated by scholars in our growing and diversifying field of Armenian Studies.”

### Best Conference Paper Award Recipients for 2019-2021

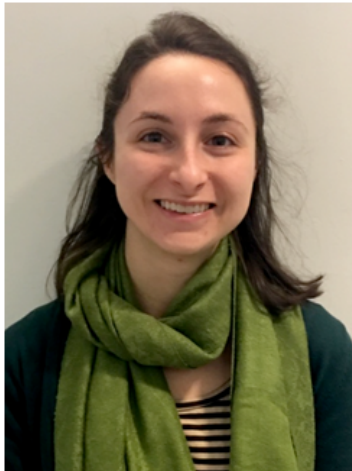
The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) recently announced the recipients of its 2019-2021 “Best Conference Paper Award.” The two recipients were Natalie Kamajian, for her paper “Performing Paradox: Balleticized Bodies and Soviet Cultural Hegemony in Armenia Stage Dance,” and Jennifer Manoukian, for her paper “The “Discovery” of the Rural Ottoman Armenian: Ethnography, Linguistic Legitimacy and the Making of a Modern Literary Language.” Each of the winning recipients will receive a \$500.00 prize awarded by the Society.

Kamajian’s paper studied the legacy of *bemakan par* or “stage dance,” arguing that the ballet-centric genre, which belongs to a Western European hegemonic mode of artistic production, marginalizes Armenian vernacular aesthetics. Armenian vernacular dances are “removed from their cultural contexts and relegated to a representative “essence” of an untouched Armenian past that can simply be choreographed over for the proscenium stage.” By using an interdisciplinary methodology, Kamajian looks at how *bemakan par* depicts in the body the phenomenon of Western/Soviet Russian dominance over Armenian indigenous heritage.

Kamajian is a current PhD candidate in the Department of World Arts & Cultures/Dance at the University of California, Los Angeles. After presenting in her first conference, the UCLA Armenian Studies Graduate Colloquium, 2021, Kamajian looks forward to continuing to share her work in the coming years. She commented on receiving the award by adding, “Exploring Armenian identity formation through the lens of dance has been such a rich point of study for me and I hope my research and findings will help to fill the lacuna on Armenian dance scholarship in both Armenian studies and dance studies.”



Manoukian delivered her paper at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (March 13, 2021). Her paper explores the shifting understandings of linguistic authenticity and legitimacy in the final half-century of Ottoman Armenian intellectual life. Additionally, it examines how intellectuals across the Empire took advantage of the new scholarly valorization of spoken language to challenge the supremacy of Classical Armenian. By utilizing dictionaries between 1890 and 1915 as prescriptive tools, Manoukian looks to understand the “extent to which the valorization of spoken Armenian had an actual impact on the codification of the written standard known today as Western Armenian.”



Manoukian is a current PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (Armenian Studies) at the University of California, Los Angeles and second time awardee of the Best Conference Paper Award. Prior to her studies at UCLA, Manoukian attended Columbia University where she received her M.A (2014) in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. In continuing to further her research, Manoukian added, “As I begin to expand this paper into a dissertation chapter, it is encouraging to know that the topic and preliminary findings were of interest to the prize committee. This thought will certainly be energizing in the long months of writing ahead.”

## SAS Partnerships

### Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) and Artsakh State University (ArSU) Sign Agreement on Cooperation

As part of its new policy to strengthen ties with academic institutions in Armenia and Artsakh, the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) signed an Agreement on Cooperation on October 25, 2021, with Artsakh State University (ArSU). The Agreement aims at cooperating on different academic projects that would be beneficial to both parties and to advance the field of Armenian Studies.

The scope of the cooperation includes, but is not limited to, exchange of mutual information on academic activities carried out by both parties; exchange and loans of books relevant to both parties; exchange of knowledge and expertise with respect to Armenian Studies; sharing of advice, educational consultation, and research Armenian Study; and cooperation through local and international conferences, symposia, and lectures to advance the field of Armenian Studies.

Artsakh State University President Prof. Dr. Armen Sarkisyan commented saying: “I consider this Cooperation Agreement as an extremely important development for Artsakh State University. The role of the Society for Armenian Studies in developing Armenian Studies in the Diaspora has been crucial. The mission of the Society in strengthening the academic ties between the Diaspora and the homeland is a noble one. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.”

Artsakh State University is the oldest and largest university in Artsakh. Over the course of its nearly fifty-year history, Artsakh State University has produced over 20,000 graduates in sixty fields of study. Currently, the university prepares specialists in thirty-one areas.

## SAS Donates Large Number of Books to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute

As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI), the Society for Armenian Studies donated around 130 academic books to the Museum in aiming to strengthen its library collection. The academic books included topics pertaining to the Armenian Genocide, late Ottoman history, comparative genocide, and the Holocaust. The collection totaled \$2000.00 and included the latest scholarship published within fields which would otherwise not be accessible to scholars in Armenia. The project was initiated by the SAS a few months ago and included active participation from its members.

On November 7, 2021, Prof. Dr. Harutyun Marutyan, the Director of AGMI sent a letter of appreciation to the SAS in which he thanked the Society for their latest venture.

Marutyan expressed his appreciation, “Thanks to the SAS, the library of AGMI has been completed by books pertaining to the Armenian as well as other genocides, Ottoman history, and memoirs of survivors. We value this phenomenon as the best example of the “scholars for scholars” motto. Each of these books are essential for the researchers of the institute. We are sure that the cooperation between our organizations is an example of the cooperation between Armenia and the Diaspora. We are filled with hope that this useful cooperation will result in the implementation of new and novel research.” Marutyan continued to thank all members of the SAS who participated in the campaign, “We would like to thank all the individuals who donated books to the library and the care that they demonstrated towards the Institute.”

The AGMI awarded SAS a Certificate of Acknowledgment for the conceptualization of this project.



The project was made possible through book donations from the SAS as well as from non-SAS members. Special thanks to: Victoria Abrahamyan, Jesse Arlen (Zohrab Information Center), Anahid Asadorian, Nora Avetyan, Nvair Beylerian, Tamar Boyadjian, Aline Donabedian, Davit Donabedian, Harout Ekmanian, Mischa Geracoulis, Salpi Ghazarian (USC), A. Keochekian, Varak Ketsemanian, Nancy Kricorian, Igor Kotler, Marc Mamigonian (NAASR), Armen Markarian, Vartan Matiossian, Bedross Der Matossian, Dave Moughalian, Sato Moughalian, Barlow Der Mgrdechian, Ani and Tom Odjakjian, Anna Ohanyan, Rolland Parker, Nardo Poy, Lusya Shmavonian Schinelli, Linda Shahinian, Harold Takooshian, and Kirsti Zitar (on behalf of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights).

## Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS)

### SJSAS Releases Volume 28.1 on the Theme of Performance

The Society for Armenian Studies announces the release of Volume 28, Issue 1 (Spring 2021) of the Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS), edited by Tamar M. Boyadjian (Michigan State University) and Rachel Goshgarian (Lafayette College) the Reviews and Reconsiderations Editor. This volume of the JSAS includes four articles, one film review, one museum review, the newly created Matenadaran Review of Books, seven book reviews, and one article in the newly created On Graduate Studies section.

The articles within this volume are centered around the theme of performance by examining the cultural and social engagements of Armenians, the positionalities of these performers, and how they produce change through the arts and humanities. Topics found within this issue include theater, film noir, music in the Armenian diaspora, liturgy and ritual, and the individual's inner world.

The volume begins with Ayşe Kadioğlu's study of the departure of Eliza Binemeciyan, a prominent Armenian star of the theater, from Istanbul. Kadioğlu's article, *Leaving a Life Behind: Eliza Binemeciyan's Encounter with "the Banality of Evil,"* details the decline of cosmopolitanism and the rise of nationalism and Turkification policies in Istanbul. By shifting the attention from Binemeciyan's absence to her presence, Kadioğlu highlights the impact that the actress had in creating and sustaining Istanbul's theaters at the turn of the 20th century.



Kadioğlu's article is followed by Sylvia Angelique Alajaji exploring making music in the Armenian diaspora in the *The Soundscapes of Our Elsewheres*, a conversation with ethnomusicologist Lara Sarkissian. As a music composer, filmmaker, sound artist, and producer, Sarkissian delved into her Armenian experience and examined the ways in which it came to shape her art. Sarkissian discussed music and identity, "I don't see this as visible or put out there, so why don't I put this out there for my Iranian Armenian family and stories and see who that connects me to or who finds that also familiar to them."



Kaveh Askari provided an in-depth study of crime films directed by Samuel Khachikian in *Samuel Khachikian and the Crime Thriller in Iran*. Askari discussed the mixed feelings brought on by the crime film genre in Tehran, Iran in the late 1950s and early 60s by dissecting Khachikian's work.

The small film community of midcentury Iran took part in constituting the global vernacular of film noir where one could according to Askari, “engage the promise of cinema, sometimes with playful enthusiasm about its possibilities and sometimes with a cynicism or anxiety about broken promises.”

In following a deep dive into an artist’s work, Greg Levonian explores the many forms of home, which permeate William Saroyan’s works. In *William Saroyan’s Dream of Home*, Levonian looks through Saroyan’s works including, *Hello Out There*, *The Time of Your Life*, *The Beautiful People*, and *The Cave Dwellers* to showcase hope for the hopeless and adrift. By analyzing Saroyan’s depictions of home in his works, Levonian depicts hope to symbolize fresh beginnings and possibility – factors which make our existence worthwhile.

Arto Vaun recounts visiting the The Parajanov Museum in Yerevan in, *A Museum, a World, a Poem: The Parajanov Museum as an Answer to Disorientation*, where Vaun embraces the artwork of Parajanov and draws deeper connections to his personal experiences and current affairs in Armenia. Sergei Parajanov’s inner world could be seen through his collages displayed in the museum – where his mind was free to roam past his immediate imprisonment and the rules of social realism dictated by the Soviet Union. The Parajanov Museum is one that is the most “soulful and sublime space” for Vaun, who depicts his countless visits to the colorful and full-of-life museum as a comforting space during difficult times. In finding meaning and reason within Parajanov’s art, Vaun adds, “Remember, before anything else, you are simply a human being! Don’t take yourself too seriously, and definitely don’t take others too seriously!” Vaun concludes his article by sharing a poem written at a young age on *Parajanov’s Self-Portrait with Haghpat in the Background*, 1963.

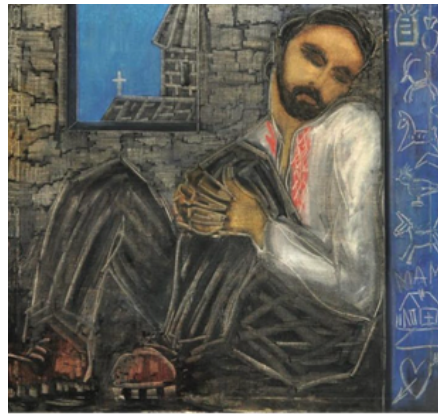


FIGURE 6 Sergei Parajanov, *Self-Portrait with Haghpat in the Background*, 1963  
REPRODUCED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE G. PARAJANOV MUSEUM, YEREVAN

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The final full-length article includes, *Performing Ritual, Ritualizing Performance: Objects that Act* by graduate students Elena Gittleman (Bryn Mawr College) and Erin Piñon (Princeton University). Gittleman and Piñon comment on the role of performance in their work and provide a theoretical framework for understanding objects in ritual. In one-part Gittleman and Piñon examine Lenore Tolegian Hughes’s, *A Pictorial Guide to the Badarak or Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church*, which serves to inform and guide children by providing clear liturgical cues. In continuing their discussion, Piñon and Gittleman show, “the necessity, but also the difficulties, of bridging art history with theology, linguistics, anthropology, and performance studies – fields once considered tangential, or even well beyond it.”



RE 1 Opening pages of *A Pictorial Guide* showing children, including Tolegian Hugh daughter at the center, at the door of Saints Joachim and Anne Armenian Apostolic Church, Palos Heights, Illinois  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LENORE TOLEGIAN HUGHES

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Additionally Hayk Hambarzumyan, Head of Publishing of the Mesrop Mashtoc' Institute of Ancient Manuscripts shared the article, *The 2020 Publications of the Mesrop Maštoc' Institute of Ancient Manuscripts at the Matendaran in Yerevan, Armenia*, which provided a summary on books published in 2020 by the Institute. Books included in the summary and those from prior years could be read on the digital library section of the Matenadaran website: [www.matenadaran.am](http://www.matenadaran.am).

In addition to these articles, Volume 28, Issue 1 also contains the following film review: Dana Sajdi's review of *Zeynep Dadak's Invisible to the Eye (Ah Gözel İstanbul)*. Traditional book reviews included: Tara L. Andrews' reviews of translations by Robert Bedrosian of various texts from Classical Armenian; Kate Franklin and Ani Honarchian's review of David Zakarian's *Women, Too, Were Blessed: The Portrayal of Women in Early Christian Texts*; Vigen Galstyan's review of Tigran Amiryanyan's *Firdus: The Memory of a Place*; Vazken Khatchig Davidian's review of *Gabriella Belli and Edith Devaney's Liberating the Artist or Controlling the Narrative? A Review of Arshile Gorky 1904–1948*; Joseph A. Kéchichian's review of George A. Bournoutian's *From the Kur to the Aras: A Military History of Russia's Move into the South Caucasus and the First Russo-Iranian War, 1801–1813*; Sosy Mishoyan Dabbaghian's review of Hagop Ayvaz's *My Stage Friends [in Armenian]*; and Christopher Sheklian's review of Lerna Ekmekçiöglü's *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey*.

The journal concluded with final words from Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) in the passage, *In Memoriam, Dr. George Bournoutian (1943–2021)*. Der Matossian shared the loss of Professor George Bournoutian, one of the most prominent figures in the Society for Armenian Studies who had been a member since its inception. Bournoutian had played a key role in contributing to the development of modern Armenian history in the West. In speaking of Bournoutian's legacy, Der Matossian described his scholarship as one that is essential for today and added, "Professor Bournoutian has departed but has left a major legacy, a legacy that future generations will cherish."



[Click here](#) to access the table of contents for JSAS 28 (1).

[Click here](#) to read the full press release on the JSAS 28 (1).

## New Executive Secretary

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) is pleased to announce that Katarina Terzyan has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the SAS. The appointment comes at a time when SAS has dramatically expanded its activities in the United States, Armenia, and Artsakh. Since 2018, SAS membership has doubled, and its projects have multiplied in all dimensions in the field of Armenian Studies, from its prestigious journal the Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS) to its Podcast Series and from its cooperation with chairs and directors in the U.S. to its joint projects with academic institutions in Artsakh and Armenia.



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



### 2022 SAS Executive Officers:

**President: Bedross Der Matossian**

(bdermatossian2@unl.edu)

**Vice President: Christina Maranci**

**Treasurer: Shushan Karapetian**

**Secretary: Varak Ketsemanian**

**Advisors: Rachel Goshgarian, Tsolin Nalbantian, and Christopher Sheklian**

**Executive Secretary: Katarina Terzyan**

(execsecretary.sas@gmail.com)