

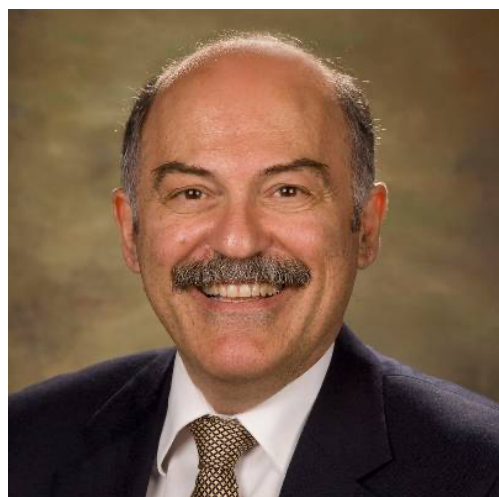


# The Society for Armenian Studies *Newsletter*

Volume XLIX/1, 2025

## President's Message

Barlow Der Mugrdechian,  
SAS President



Dear Member,

I would like to extend my appreciation to each member of SAS for your support. As SAS President, I feel a deep responsibility to maintain the excellence of my immediate predecessors, Bedross Der Matossian and Christina Maranci, and to thank them for their dedication to the SAS and for the leadership that they have provided.

The success of the SAS depends on our collective efforts. Last year, SAS held its productive 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference at Harvard University and NAASR, celebrating the achievements of SAS and its members. A diverse group of scholars

participated in the conference, attesting to the promise of the SAS.

We now look forward to building on that success for the next fifty years. Through our collective efforts Armenian Studies will continue to flourish and to encourage a new generation of scholars to bring their talents and contributions to the field. The SAS provides that encouragement through graduate research and conference grants, through the publication of the *SAS Newsletter*, by sponsoring and co-sponsoring events, by mentorship, and by maintaining ties between members.

The *Journal of the Society of Armenian Studies*, under the leadership of co-editors Houri Berberian and Talinn Grigor and book review editor Tsolin Nalbantian, is entering a new era with its cooperation with the University of Nebraska Press. Volume 30 of the JSAS will be published in 2025 and Volume 31 will be published in 2026. The JSAS will continue as the premier academic journal dedicated to Armenian Studies in the Western Hemisphere.

The SAS will also maintain its close connection to colleagues in Armenia and across the globe. Our mutual collaboration will lead to a stronger field of Armenian Studies.

The SAS Executive Council welcomes input from you. We would like to hear from you about new ideas or concerns. We would like you to be an engaged member of the Society and to participate in formulating the direction of SAS.

I look forward to working together with members to constantly improve our Society.

## SAS Member News and Publications

### Victoria Abrahamyan

Since the fall of 2024, Victoria Abrahamyan has been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Geneva, where she is conducting research on the First World War as part of the project “Mass Death, Science and Medicine: Handling the Corpses of War in Modern Europe (1850-1960),” funded by the Swiss National Scientific Foundation. She is also serving as a Visiting Research Fellow at the London School of Economics from January to June 2025.

Dr. Abrahamyan was awarded the Society for Armenian Studies Outstanding Dissertation Award for the period 2020-2024.

#### Recent publications:

“Loyalty on Stake: Armenian Refugees and the Syrian Great Revolt,” in *Microhistories in Armenian Studies*, eds., Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Ümit Kurt, Ara Sarafian (Fresno: The Press at California State University, 2025).

“Rumours, Imperial “Humanitarianism” and the Destruction of the Armenian Refugee Camps in Syria and Lebanon, 1918-1926” in *Refugees and Population Transfer Management in Europe 1914-1920s*, ed., Kamil Rusała (New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2024).

“Extraordinary Cooperation between Ordinary Ottomans: Creation of the First Armenian Settlements in the Syrian Jazira, 1918-1926,” *Journal of Contemporary Levant* 9, no. 2 (March 2024): 169-185.

### Houri Berberian

Houri Berberian recently published *The Armenian Woman, Minoritarian Agency, and the Making of Iranian Modernity, 1860–1979* (Stanford University Press, 2025) with coauthor Talinn Grigor, with whom she also took up the co-editorship of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. Berberian chaired the Society for Armenian Studies 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Academic Committee, which was successfully held in September 2024.

Her article on Armenian women’s transimperial connections and revolutionary activism in Iran appeared in Turkish in *Tarih ve Toplum Yeni Yaklaşımlar* 24 (Autumn 2024) and her coauthored (with Talinn Grigor) “Ties That Bind: The Armenian Diaspora of Modern Iran” appeared in *The Armenian Weekly*’s 125th-anniversary special issue (June 2024).

In addition to multiple presentations of *The Armenian Woman* on the West Coast and East Coast, she also presented “The Role of Armenians and Georgians in Caucasian-Iranian Connections” at The Idea of Iran on the Cusp of Modernity conference in London and “Of Feminist Interventions in Irano-Armenian Diaspora-in-Motion: Informality of Oral Histories,” at the Armenian Diaspora(s) in Motion Colloquium in Paris, both in Spring 2024.

### Nazlie Doghramadjian

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10502-024-09468-4>

In her paper, titled “An Archival World Turns: Armenian Women’s Recordkeeping Practices in Southeast Michigan,” Doghramadjian interrogates archival silences and

the dissonance between how little Armenian women's voices are represented in institutional archives and the important roles they have historically played as memory-keepers in their communities. Thus, what are the personal recordkeeping practices of Armenian women and what is the significance of these practices in preserving collective memory? Interviews with 13 Armenian women in southeast Michigan revealed that they see personal archives as the generational wealth of their families, especially in the wake of genocide. They see their children and descendants as the institution most suited to preserve their family's archives. This piece reveals the hidden world of Armenian women's archiving outside of the institution, and their invaluable knowledge production work that must be seen as such.

## Mischa Geracoulis

<https://www.routledge.com/Media-Framing-and-the-Destruction-of-Cultural-Heritage-News-Narratives-about-Artsakh-and-Gaza/Geracoulis/p/book/9781032833439>

In her new book, *Media Framing and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage: News Narratives about Artsakh and Gaza*, Geracoulis argues that accurate reporting is critical particularly when vulnerable populations face mostly tendentious actors among international governmental and non-governmental bodies unwilling to acknowledge endangered heritages on indigenous lands.

*Media Framing and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage* examines the media coverage, language, and discourse surrounding two key situations—the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh and that of Palestinian cultural heritage in Gaza—and explores the ways media coverage has succeeded or failed in accurately illustrating

the destruction of cultural heritage as a human rights violation.

This book will be of interest to students and scholars of media, journalism, and cultural studies, as well as media professionals, human rights advocates and legislators interested in the role and influence of media framing and narratives on war, conflict, human rights, and humanitarian response. *Media Framing and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage* is available for purchase through Routledge.com and Amazon.com.

Geracoulis is a human rights journalist and critical media literacy expert. She is Managing Editor at the media watch and education organization “Project Censored” and its publishing imprint *The Censored Press*. Mischa is a contributor to Project Censored's *State of the Free Press* yearbook series, a Project Judge and also serves on the editorial board of *The Markaz Review*. Her journalistic and educational work focus on the intersections among critical media and information literacy, human rights education, civil liberties, and democracy and ethics, while prioritizing issues on truth in reporting, press and academic freedom. Mischa's work can be found at Project Censored and independent news outlets, including *Common Dreams*, *Consortium News* and *CounterPunch* and academic publications, such as the *International Journal of Human Rights Education*.

## Talinn Grigor

Talinn Grigor recently published *The Armenian Woman, Minoritarian Agency, and the Making of Iranian Modernity, 1860–1979* (Stanford University Press, 2025) with coauthor Houri Berberian with whom she also took up the co-editorship of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. Grigor has published “Ties That Bind: The Armenian Diaspora of Modern Iran” appeared in *The Armenian Weekly's* 125th-anniversary special issue (co-authored with Berberian, June 2024) and

“Leisure Architecture and the Aesthetics of the Pahlavi ‘Modern Middle Class’” in *Political, Social and Cultural History of Modern Iran* (Edinburgh University Press, 2025).

In addition to multiple presentations of *The Armenian Woman* on the West Coast and East Coast, she also presented “Of Feminist Interventions in Irano-Armenian Diaspora-in-Motion: Suitcase Artifacts as Depository,” at the *Armenian Diaspora(s) in Motion* Colloquium in Paris; “Trans-imperial Strategies of Artistic Patronage: From New Julfan Merchants to Parsi” at the *Armeno-Indica* conference in Yerevan; “Description of Persia’s Notable Edifices and the Diasporicity of Armenian Art History” at SAS 50th Anniversary Conference at Harvard Univ./NAASR; “The Hyphenated Architect: Armenian Agency in Iran’s Modern Movement,” at the 10th Seminar on Armenian and Eastern Christian Art, Ca’ Foscari University in Venice; and “Circulating Irano-Armenian Architects & the International Style in-n-out of Modern Iran” at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan. Grigor’s current book project, *The Hyphenated Architect: Armenians and a Global Microhistory of the Modern Movement*, traces the network and impact of diasporic architects and artists at the height of the artistic Modern Movement.

## Polina Ivanova

Polina Ivanova’s article “Non-Professional Expertise: On the Early Modern Transformations in Armenian Manuscript Production Viewed from Ottoman Tokat and Crimea” will appear in the *Diyâr Journal of Ottoman, Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies* (Issue 1, 2025). Another article, “When Sultan Bayezid Met St. Nicholas: Reconsidering Post-Conquest Amasya through the Prism of Armenian Memory Literature,” is forthcoming in the volume *Remembering the Ottoman and Spanish*

*Imperial Expansions* (University of Amsterdam Press, 2025). In July 2025, she will begin a new four-year research project titled “Sa‘ad’s Valley: Palimpsest Landscapes and Contested Heritage of the Early Modern South Caucasus (15th–18th Century),” based at the Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

## Dikran Kaligian

(Managing Editor, *The Armenian Review*)

Later this year, the I.B. Tauris *Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire: History and Legacy* will be published containing Dr. Kaligian’s chapter entitled: “The 1908 Young Turk Revolution: Enthusiasm and Realities.” The handbook is edited by Hans Lukas Kieser and Khatchig Mouradian. Dr. Kaligian served as a lecturer at the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute in Yerevan for the 2024 Teacher Fellowship Program of The Genocide Education Project. For the third consecutive year the program brought 15 American high school teachers (from 15 states) to Armenia to hone their expertise on multiple aspects of the Armenian Genocide, including its current day ramifications. The social studies and language arts teachers then conducted Professional Development workshops for fellow teachers upon their return to the U.S.

## Jennifer Manoukian

Jennifer Manoukian published an article entitled “Forbidden Attraction: Ottoman Armenians and the Turkish Language in the Age of Nationalism” in the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*. She also published two illustrated essays, one entitled “A Princely Ploy: Inside the Ruse of a French-Armenian Scammer” in *Public Domain Review* about Ambroise Calfa’s decades-long impersonation of a Lusignan prince and another entitled “Young Armenians in 1930s America Speak” in *The Armenian Weekly* about the politics of language in early Armenian-



American communities. Finally, she translated four poems in *Modern Poetry in Translation* by the French-Armenian poet and anti-Nazi resistance fighter Missak Manouchian.

### Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach's new book is entitled, *A German General and the Armenian Genocide: Otto Liman von Sanders Between Honor and State* (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2025). This biographical study, based mainly on previously unpublished documents from several state and family archives, puts together the story of the Prussian general who, as head of the German Military Mission in Constantinople from 1913, led Ottoman forces in the successful defense of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli in 1915. His role in the Young Turks' genocide against the Armenians and other Christian minorities has been the subject of controversy; after the war, he was unlawfully arrested by the British and incarcerated in Malta for 8 months, falsely accused of complicity in, if not primary responsibility for, atrocities against Armenians and Greeks. A century later, historians reopened debate about the role of Imperial Germany in the genocide perpetrated by its wartime Ottoman ally, and in 2015 officials lifted the honor status accorded Liman's grave in Darmstadt. The historical record shows, on the contrary, that in 1916-1917, Liman repeatedly and successfully countermanded orders from Interior Minister Talaat and War Minister Enver, thus saving thousands of Armenians and Greeks, as well as numerous Jews in Palestine in 1918. The narrative traces the Kafkaesque drama of Liman's imprisonment, exploring the behind-the-scenes machinations of the British (and French). It also addresses the fundamental issue of whether or not Germany or other powers could have stopped the genocide and examines the ideological tenets of Prussian culture and values.

### Levon-Leonidas Ntilsizian

Levon-Leonidas Ntilsizian is a post-doctoral researcher at Panteion University (Athens, Greece) in the scientific field of Greek-Armenian Studies. In 2024 the doctoral thesis of Dr. Leonidas Ntilsizian was published by the Crete University Press under the Greek title "Αρμένιοι και Ελληνικό κράτος στον Ψυχρό Πόλεμο, Από τον «διωγμό» στην «αναγνώριση» (1945-1991)" [Armenians and the Greek state in the Cold War. From "persecution" to "acknowledgement" (1945-1991)]. The book is based on Armenian and Greek primary sources; it presents the "repatriation" of Armenians to Soviet Armenia, Armenians' movements from Greece to Argentina and Canada, along with a number of special issues concerning the Armenians in Greece during the Cold War era.

During the months of October-November 2024, Dr. Ntilsizian was awarded a scholarship from the French Government to carry out his post-doctoral research about the Armenians in Greece in the Centre d'études russes, caucasiennes, est-européennes et centrasiatiques (CNRS-EHESS, UMR8083).

In February 2024, he participated in the colloquium "2024 Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies" at the University of California (Los Angeles), where he presented aspects of Greece's state policy towards the Armenian community in Greece. In November 2024, he participated in the Conference "Déplacés, exilés. Penser et faire l'Europe à travers l'expérience de l'exil et du déplacement (XXe siècle - XXIe siècle)"; at the University of Clermont Auvergne (Clermont-Ferrand, France) where he made an announcement on aspects of Armenians' displacement, migration and exile within Europe.

Since September 2024, Dr. Ntilsizian conducts scientific research about the

history of the Armenian community of Dedeagats-Alexandroupolis (Northern Greece, Thrace).

## Ara Sanjian

Ara Sanjian continued to research “Armenians and the Cold War” and “Armenians in the political history of modern Lebanon,” in addition to a few other related topics in Soviet Armenian history. He shared his interim findings through an online lecture (<https://youtu.be/C6Q7RhQ0DNA?si=D1oE2qQGMvY9G4x1>) and a podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn9mF9eUBsY>) on the Cold War era, as well as interview on Armenian internecine killings on the fringes of the 1958 Lebanese Civil War (<https://youtu.be/46a4q8W2Zwo?si=JnXZ57ZkHetUU84V>).

In June, he conducted three seminars at the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University on issues of theory and methodology as they may apply to the contemporary challenges of writing Armenian history. A fourth public lecture on an interrelated topic was hosted by the university’s Center for Continuing Education. He served as member of the advisory board created by the Gulbenkian Foundation to publish two separate – Armenian and English – volumes on the 2020 War in Nagorno-Karabakh, contributing in the process to the editing of two chapters in the English version. At the invitation of the ARPA Institute, he moderated the online panel, “New Armenian History Textbooks: Objective and Challenges” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_X27Nyh\\_pPU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_X27Nyh_pPU)).

He reviewed the first-year Armenian history textbook for Armenian community schools in Lebanon and elsewhere, prepared under the auspices the Hamazkayin Cultural Association. In the next two years, he will

serve as the international consultant to a team of young researchers at Yerevan State University, led by Tigran Ghanalanyan, which secured a research grant from the Higher Education and Science Committee in Armenia to study “The Choices of Staying Put, Emigrating, and Repatriating in the Contemporary Armenian Diaspora,” particularly Lebanon and South America.

## Christopher Sheklian

Christopher Sheklian joined the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Mississippi State University as an Assistant Professor of Religion in the Fall of 2024. He published the article “Stational Liturgy and the Minority Right to the City” in the journal *City & Society* (<https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12494>).

In the months before moving to Mississippi, he conducted research with the Armenian community in Marseille, France. This work was supported by a Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies and a National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) & Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies Research Grant in Armenian Studies. Initial findings from this research were presented at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion, where he gave a paper, “Holy Vengeance: Stateless Armenian Genocide Survivors in 1920s Marseille.”

He was also a Lilly Scholar-in-Residence at the Library of Congress. This residency culminated in the talk “Calendars and Communities: Armenian Temporal Texts in the Library of Congress Collection,” available on the website of the Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-11363/>).

## Armine Tigranyan

On March 28, an event titled “Identity Transformation and the Destruction of

Armenian Monuments in Artsakh” was held in Athens, Greece, organized by the Armenian Embassy and the Armenian-Greek Friendship Association.

Dr. Tigranyan, cultural heritage expert and lecturer at Yerevan State University, presented on Azerbaijan’s systematic destruction and appropriation of Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh and its implications on cultural rights. She emphasized that cultural heritage is not merely about monuments—it is intertwined with identity and collective memory.

Dr. Tigranyan stressed that since the 2020 war, Azerbaijani policies have included the targeted destruction of churches, *khachkars* (cross-stones), historic cemeteries, and museums, constituting violations of the Armenians’ right to participate in cultural life, access heritage sites, and transmit cultural knowledge to future generations.

She highlighted the multi-faceted nature of Azerbaijan’s actions: erasing spiritual, historical, and commemorative heritage; destroying symbols of independence, victory, and memory; and denying Armenians of Artsakh their cultural authorship.

Also speaking at the event were Armenia’s Ambassador to Greece, Tigran Mkrtchyan, and Antonis Pavlidis, President of the Greek-Armenian Friendship Association.

## Viken Tufenkjian

In January 2025, under the direction of Viken Tufenkjian, Ph.D., Hamazkayin Canada’s Levon Shant Armenological Course entered its fifth year. The college-level course consists of a series of thirteen weekly lectures, offered annually in the winter and the fall. Lectures cover topics and issues in Western Armenian language and literature, as well as diverse fields of Armenian culture. They are presented each week either by a guest lecturer or by Dr.

Tufenkjian. Following the lecture, students engage with the topic in a workshop environment, directed by the speaker. Guest lecturers in the past have included Dr. Hagop Gulludjian (UCLA), Dr. Marc Nishanian (Lisbon), Dr. Talar Chahinian (University of California, Irvine), Dr. Rubina Perroomian (CA), Dr. Vartan Matossian (NJ), Dr. Lisa Gulesserian (Harvard), Raffi Ajemian (Quebec), Haroutioun Berberian (Quebec) and Vahe Berberian (CA); in 2024, Dr. Sevan Deyirmendjian (Istanbul), Vehanoush Tekian (NJ), Dr. Khatchig Mouradian (Columbia), Dr. Myrna Douzjian (University of California, Berkeley), and Zakar Keshishian (Beirut) all accepted invitations to come to Montreal to teach at the LSA Course.

The LSA Course has twice been awarded grants by the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The current grant runs through 2026.

In 2024, Dr. Tufenkjian was the recipient of the Hamazkayin “Medal of Honour,” for “having fostered the realization of Hamazkayin’s objectives via his contributions to the Armenian public, organizational, educational, cultural, and literary spheres.”

## Kevin Vogelaar

Kevin Vogelaar contributes a chapter on Mamikonean claims of Chinese ancestry to a volume on sanctification and hagiography in narratives of warfare. This chapter recontextualizes the Chinese ancestry claims in their wider Persianate and Central Asian political and cultural milieu and identifies their rhetorical and conceptual importance to accounts of the 451 CE Battle of Avarayr. The volume is under contract with Trivent Medieval and is currently in the early editing phase.

### Upcoming Publication, late 2025:

“Locating the Xi’an Stele on the Four-Hundredth Anniversary of its Discovery,” in *Visual Cultures in Medieval Syriac Traditions*, ed. Emily Chesley. Sense, Matter, and Medium (De Gruyter).

### Past and Upcoming Conference Presentations, 2024-2025:

“Jerusalem is Where You Make It: Liturgical Performance and Depictions of Jerusalem’s Sacred Topography in Three Syro-Armenian Triumphal Entry Images”; 49th St. Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, St. Louis University (10-12 June 2024),

“Accidental Recognition? The Paiza as Pilgrim Badge in the Account of Rabban Šawma,” *Divergence and Interconnectivity: Global Premodernity in Five Objects*, MARC, NYU and The Metropolitan Museum of Art (1-2 May 2025),

“Zvart’nots’ Cathedral and Armenian Architectural and Liturgical Responses to the Islamic Conquest of Jerusalem”; *Armenian Society under Caliphal Rule II*, SCORE, Universität Hamburg (8-9 December 2025).

### Alan Whitehorn

New Book Publication from Edizioni Ca’ Foscari, Venice University Press, 2025

*Poems from the Diaspora: An Armenian Odyssey* | Poesie dalla Diaspora: un’odissea armena Alan Whitehorn, edited by Sona Haroutyunian

The literary writings of Alan Whitehorn, distinguished emeritus professor and award-winning Armenian-Canadian poet, have been translated under the supervision of Professor Sona Haroutyunian, who edited the 270-page bilingual poetry collection. Amongst the important themes explored are the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the long and complex struggles of genocide survival, the challenges of Diaspora

identity, the Nagorno-Karabakh wars, existential travels to the ancestral homeland of Armenia and the ongoing issues of war and peace in the South Caucasus.

The book is available online in open access at the following link: <http://doi.org/10.30687/978-88-6969-894-1>.

The first presentation of the volume will be in Venice during the prestigious international literary festival “Incroci di Civiltà”, co-sponsored by Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, with the participation of the author Alan Whitehorn and editor Sona Haroutyunian.

Alan Whitehorn is an internationally-known genocide scholar and poet. Sona Haroutyunian is a distinguished associate professor at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.

### Boghos Levon Zekian

#### Publications:

*Gregorio di Narek, Il Libro della Lamentazione – Narek*, traduzione e note di Boghos Levon Zekian, Introduzione di Boghos Levon Zekian e Claudio Gugerotti, con una presentazione di Divo Barsotti, (Il Calamo, Teologia 39), Marcianum Press, Venezia, 2024 (Second expanded edition, including the translation of fifty-eight bans), pp. 406.

“Selamlama Konuşması” [Greeting Speech], in: *Küreel Bağlamda Osmanlı İmparatorluğu ve Ermeniler – Kültür ve Ekonomi*, ed. by Boğos Levon Zekian, Yıldız Deveci Bozkus, Buğra Payraz, Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık, Ankara, 2024, pp. 1-10.

“Takdim. İstanbul’un gizemleri arasında gezinirken,” [Presentation. Walking among the Secrets of Istanbul], to: Sedat Bornovali, Surp Yerrortutyun Katolik Ermeni kilisesi, [Holy Trinity, the Armenian Catholic



Church. A Worship Place at Beyoğlu over 300 Hundred Years], Yeditepe, İstanbul, 2025, pp. 7-11.

**Participation in conferences:**

“Pensando all’Armenia ne segno della globalità”, at Armenia: Una civiltà in pericolo?, Vittorio Veneto, Aula Civica Museo della Battaglia, Dec. 6, 2024.

**Publications and Activities in Honor of Prof. B. L. Zekiyan:**

Presentation of *Mélanges en l’honneur de Boghos Levon Zekiyan*, édités par Benedetta Contin, Aldo Ferrari, Paolo Lucca, *Revue des Etudes Arméniennes*, tome 41, Peeters, 2022, at Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia, Aula Baratto, June 17, 2025.

Presentation of “Miscellanea S.E. Boghos Levon Zekkyan,” *Orientalia Christiana Periodica*, volumen 89, fasciculus, II,

2023, at Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Aula Magna, 27 Nov. 2024.

Լեւոն Չեքիյան 80, ՀՀԳԱԱ Պատմության Ինստիտուտ, ՀՀԳԱԱ Արտասահմանեան Անդամ, Վենետիկի Գիտությունների, Գրականության եւ Արուեստի Ակադեմիայի Իսկական Անդամ, Գերաշնորհ Տէր Լեւոն Արքեպիսկոպոս Չեքիեանի, Ծննդեան 80-ամեակին նուիրուած հանդիսաւոր նիստի (2023 թ. Հոկտեմբերի 25) Չեկուցումներ, Երեւան, 2024.

## News from the Armenian Studies Chairs and Programs

### The Armenian Genocide Research Program (AGRP) of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA

The Armenian Genocide Research Program (AGRP) launched the Armenian Genocide Looted Art Research Project to support research on Armenian cultural objects and sites that were looted, destroyed, or transferred in conjunction with the Armenian Genocide. In line with this goal, two major conferences were organized in 2023 and 2024. The most recent, held on February 10, 2024, was titled “Armenian Genocide Looted Art and Restitution.” It focused on the role of cultural heritage and importance of provenance research for cultural objects. To coordinate ongoing efforts, an executive committee—composed of scholars, historians, and lawyers—was formed, with its primary task being to organize and advance provenance research. As part of this initiative, a documentary was produced and directed by filmmaker Carla Garapedian exploring the possibility of building an Armenian Genocide reparations movement in the post-recognition era. So far, the AGRP has co-hosted several screenings of the documentary, including one co-hosted by the Chapman Law Review at Chapman University on February 13, 2025. The film is available for screenings, and interested schools, educators, and community organizations are encouraged to contact the AGRP to schedule a showing. Throughout the year, the AGRP also organized multiple book talks and lectures on a wide range of topics—from mobility

restrictions in the late Ottoman Empire to sexual violence against Armenian women in the 19th century.

### UC Irvine Center for Armenian Studies

In January 2025, the UCI Center for Armenian Studies held its inaugural Translating a Stateless Language workshop, organized by Talar Chahinian and Jennifer Manoukian. A group of local translators and scholars of translation studies gathered at UCI on Saturday to discuss the intricacies of translating into and from Western Armenian, across multiple domains, such as literary publications, personal memoirs, oral histories, archival and curricular material. The workshop aimed at giving its participants an opportunity to share best practices and learn from each other’s expertise. The center intends to continue this initiative by creating a platform for translators to gather, develop a centralized inventory of resources, exchange opportunities, develop standards, workshop works-in-progress, and hear from experienced translators.



In March, to mark International Women's Day and in honor of the legacy of Armenian women, the Center celebrated the book launch of Houri Berberian and Talinn Grigor's *The Armenian Woman, Minoritarian Agency, and the Making of Iranian Modernity, 1860-1979* (Stanford University Press, 2025). The book talk, which attracted around 70 people from the campus and the broader community, was followed by a lively reception and book signing.



## Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA

The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA and the Fowler Museum at UCLA hosted a full-day conference on Saturday, February 8, 2025, titled "Armenian Cultural heritage: Past, Present, and Future."

The symposium featured presentations by scholars from around the world on the current state of Armenian cultural heritage sites, ongoing preservation efforts, and initiatives aimed at monitoring, documenting, and protecting such sites amidst a complex, ever-changing geopolitical environment. Keynote addresses were delivered by Lori Khatchadourian, associate professor of archaeology at Cornell University and co-founder and co-director of Caucasus Heritage Watch (CHW), and Yeghishe Kirakosyan, then-head of the Office of The Representative on International Legal Matters for the Republic of Armenia.

Rounding out the event was a captivating mini-lecture and oud performance delivered by Antranig Kzirian, and an overview by Sona Tatoyan on her moving storytelling piece, AZAD (the rabbit and the wolf).



The UCLA Promise Armenian Institute hosted its second annual Kerr Family Endowed Lecture, titled "'The Very Limit of Our Endurance': Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian and his Network of Resisters during the Armenian Genocide."

This lecture was delivered on Friday, October 18, 2024 by Dr. Khatchig Mouradian of Columbia University and the US Library of Congress, with pre-recorded introductory remarks by Dr. Antranik Dakessian of Haigazian University. Dr. Mouradian's lecture explored the role of Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian and his associates in creating an underground network of humanitarians, missionaries, and diplomats who coordinated in resisting the destruction of the Armenian people during the Genocide. Dr. Dakessian's introduction



provided the historical context for the efforts of these dedicated individuals.

Mr. Martin Eskijian and Pastor Nancy Eskijian (Rev. Eskijian's grandchildren) also offered remarks at the event, and the Promise Armenian Institute gave special recognition to Mrs. Maggie Goschin, long-time Director of the Ararat Eskijian Museum.

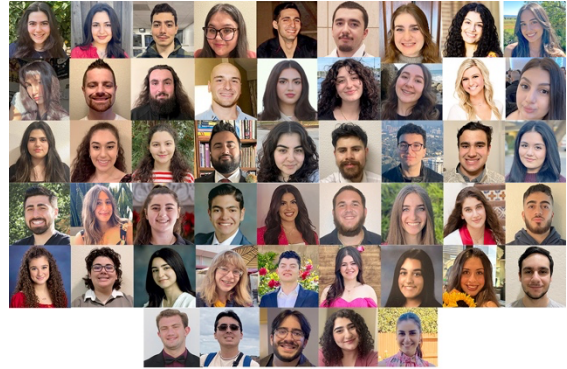


## Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno

### Armenian Studies Banquet 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet

The Armenian Studies Program held its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 16, 2025, with over 280 people in attendance. Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval attended the Banquet, which recognized Dr. David Zakarian as the newly appointed Haig & Isabel Berberian

Professor of Armenian Studies. More than 50 student awardees of Armenian Studies scholarships were in attendance. In 2024-2025, 52 students were awarded more than \$110,000 in Armenian Studies scholarships.



Five graduating seniors who received Minors in Armenian Studies were recognized. Armenian Studies Program director Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian was recognized for his forty years of service at Fresno State.



### Students at the Armenian Genocide Monument

Students from the Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School visited the Armenian Genocide Monument on the campus of Fresno State on October 25, 2024. Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program spoke to the students and faculty about the history of the Genocide Monument. Students were actively engaged in the discussion.





### Dr. David Zakarian Lecture

“My work attempts to build this narrative that we have another story, we have a real story, we have the original story that we could and should bring to the surface,” said Dr. David Zakarian, the newly appointed Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, in his lecture titled “The Portrayal of Women in Early Armenian Literature,” given on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Dr. Zakarian’s lecture was part of the Armenian Studies Program Fall Lecture series and was supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

In his presentation, Dr. Zakarian discussed the role of women in the Christianization of Armenia, the canons, or “rules” of ancient Armenia, and the position of women in the church today. At the end of the lecture, Dr. Zakarian opened the discussion to the audience, who were encouraged to ask questions and make comments.



## Armenian Research Center in Dearborn

During the academic year 2024-2025, the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn continued to enhance its special collection through acquiring and cataloguing new books and other resources on different aspects of Armenian history, society, and culture in Armenian and other languages. These newly added resources are visible on the university’s Mardigian Library online catalog and WorldCat. Moreover, Dr. Vahe Sahakyan contributed numerous new or updated records to the Library of Congress Name Authority File. He also remains active on the Executive Board of the International Association of the Armenian Librarians and Archivists (IAALA) and contributes to IAALA’s Documentation and Cataloging committees.

The Center published online “[St. John Armenian Apostolic Church Community Study Report](#)” which it had carried out the previous year at the request of the latter’s parish council. On March 2, Dr. Sahakyan and Ms. Arus Khcheyan Movsesyan (PhD Candidate in Education at UM-Dearborn) presented in person the findings of this study before the St. John’s annual Parish Assembly.

Finally, the Center organized public lectures by Dr. Nzhdeh Yeranyan (History Museum of Armenia) and Dr. Inna Mirzoyan (Wayne State University). Yeranyan discussed from an anthropological viewpoint the challenges of preserving cultural heritage in post-Soviet Armenia, while Mirzoyan explored the renewed transnational connections among Armenian-American youth after the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

## **SAS Grants and Awards**

### **SAS Awards Graduate Research and Conference Grants to Students in the Field of Armenian Studies**

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) announces the recipients of its Spring 2025 Graduate Research and Conference Grants. The five recipients are Annika Topelian, for her research that investigates the acquisition of Western Armenian by children living in diaspora communities, Lori Pirinjian to present her paper entitled “Caught Between Two Powers: Gender, Nationalism, and Armenia’s Domestic Violence Law” at the 29th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Anoush Sargsyan for her research on the adaptation of the Zodiac Man diagrams in the Armenian manuscript tradition, Hayarpi Hakobyan for her research on medieval Armenian book production and illumination in the Lake Van region, also known as Vaspurakan, from the last quarter of the thirteenth to the mid-fourteenth century, and Başak Yağmur Karaca for her research analyzing the role of the Amiras, in the urbanization and functioning of the city, across imperial, communal, and spatial levels. Each of the winning recipients received a \$1,000 grant awarded by the Society.

SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian congratulated all the awardees. “We are proud to fund such excellent graduate students,” said Der Mugrdechian. “The nature and the depth of their work demonstrates the multi-disciplinary aspect of Armenian Studies as a field of inquiry. I would like to encourage all those who are interested in the activities of SAS to support us so that we can support such promising young scholars to achieve their goals.”

**Annika Topelian**



“I am extremely grateful to the Society for Armenian Studies for sponsoring this award and selecting me as a recipient. These funds will allow me to complete my dissertation research on the acquisition of Western Armenian in diaspora communities and fulfill the requirements for my Ph.D. in Linguistics. As an aspiring Armenian Studies scholar, it is incredibly encouraging to receive support from an organization which does so much to promote and further the field. It is my hope that the research this award supports will also serve the greater Armenian community by contributing to current and future maintenance efforts for the Western Armenian language in the diaspora.”

**Lori Pirinjian**



“Having the support of SAS as part of my academic endeavors has been invaluable. It is through SAS’s generosity that I am able to travel across the country to present research, publicize my work, and meet potential future collaborators. SAS has

played no small part in my continued academic growth, and, for that, I am incredibly grateful.”

### **Anoush Sargsyan**



“The SAS Graduate Research and Conference Grant enabled me to participate in an exceptional international workshop on tables and diagrams in Middle Eastern manuscript traditions, organized by the ERC project ZODIAC at Freie Universität Berlin (Mathieu Ossendrijver), in co-operation with the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (George A. Kiraz, Sabine Schmidtke), and the renowned independent scholar Sonja Brentjes. Presenting my research on Armenian manuscript diagrams alongside leading scholars in the field was a deeply enriching experience that will significantly shape the future direction of my work.

I was genuinely surprised by the strong interest in the Armenian material, as these diagrams and tables are virtually unknown and have never been systematically studied before. Since many of these visual elements were copied and circulated like stencils, I was able to identify shared features across neighboring cultural traditions—an approach that deepened my understanding of their transmission and transformation.”

### **Hayarpi Hakobyan**



“In the context of my research on manuscripts produced in the Lake Van region before 1350, the collection of the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice holds particular importance. It represents the second most significant corpus after the Matenadaran. A brief research stay in Venice will allow for essential first-hand examination of key manuscripts. This visit marks a crucial step toward the completion of my dissertation. I am deeply grateful to SAS for their generous support, which has made this phase of my work possible.”

### **Basak Yağmur Karaca**



“I truly appreciate the research grant from the Society of Armenian Studies (SAS). This wonderful support will allow me to dive deeper into my archival research on the significant impact of Armenian money-lenders in shaping the urban landscape and infrastructure of Istanbul during the 19th century. I appreciate SAS for their financial support in promoting scholarship in Armenian studies.”

The Society of Armenian Studies is an international body, composed of scholars and students, whose aims are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, and social, political, and economic questions; to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world; and to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The SAS Graduate Research and Conference Grants were made possible through the generous institutional support of the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair of Armenian Genocide Studies, Clark University; the Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, University of California, Irvine; 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, the UCLA Promise Armenian Institute; the Armenian Studies Program, University of California Berkeley; and the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies, Harvard University.



## Looking Ahead: What is Coming up Later in 2025

As we approach the second half of the year, the Society for Armenian Studies is pleased to share an overview of upcoming opportunities and activities for our members:

- **Executive Committee Elections:** SAS members will vote to elect candidates for three open positions on the Executive Committee. Candidate nomination information and voting procedures will be shared in the coming months.
- **Newsletter 49/2:** The second volume of our bi-annual *SAS Newsletter* will be released in Fall and feature recent publications, conference reports, member achievements, and announcements across the field of Armenian Studies.
- **Second Round of SAS Graduate and Conference Grants for M.A. and Ph.D. students:** Applications will open in September for the second round of SAS Research and Travel Grants.
- **The Nina G. Garsoïan Graduate Research Grant for Ancient and Early Mediaeval Armenian History:** Applications will open in September for the Nina G. Garsoïan Research Grant.
- **Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding Book Award:** In the Fall of this year submissions and nominations will open for the Der Mugrdechian SAS Outstanding

Book Award. 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.

- **Best Graduate Conference Paper Award in the Field of Armenian Studies:** Nominations will be accepted for the Best Graduate Conference Paper Award, recognizing outstanding scholarship presented at a conference in the field of Armenian Studies.
- **Annual Membership Meeting:** Our annual meeting will provide members with updates on SAS initiatives, and an opportunity to engage in discussions about society's future.
- **JSAS Volume 30:** A new volume of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS)* will be published later this year, featuring peer-reviewed articles advancing research in Armenian history, culture, and society.

We encourage all members to stay engaged and take advantage of these upcoming opportunities. More information and deadlines will be communicated via email and on the [SAS website](#) in the coming months.

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



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