

The Armenian Research Center

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN




International Academic Conference



ARMENIA AND ITS DIASPORA:
Institutional Linkages
and Cross-Border Movements




October 15 - 16, 2010



*H*omeland and the Diaspora have come to be accepted as two inseparable components of the Armenian people ever since the drastic geopolitical and demographic changes that affected the latter during and immediately after the First World War, namely the Armenian Genocide, the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia, the subsequent emergence of an independent republic in the Eastern (Russian) sector of Armenia and its sovietization, the shattering of Armenian nationalist aspirations for a Free, Independent and United Armenia, and the establishment of an Armenian Diaspora with a clearly stated irredentist political agenda. Ever since, three different political regimes have succeeded one another in the homeland, while the Diaspora has also undergone a predictable, not to say natural, evolution. Moreover, a relatively ‘new’ Diaspora has emerged in the last twenty years, this time because a new wave of mass emigration from the homeland, driven by economic hardship. Rather than try to plot an overall trajectory of the respective evolutions which have occurred since 1918 both in the homeland and the Diaspora and the way these have affected bilateral relations between these two entities, the present conference will confine itself to exploring in some depth a number of specific episodes in the history of Armenia-Diaspora relations over the past nine decades. The episodes selected fall into two categories: choices made by Diasporan individuals, especially when they decided to cross international borders by either migrating to or emigrating to the homeland, and policies followed by state institutions in the homeland or organizations in the Diaspora as they dealt with their counterparts in different epochs and political circumstances. The organizers of the conference at the Armenian Research Center in the University of Michigan-Dearborn hope that the papers delivered during this conference and the ensuing discussions among the participants and members of the audience will help scholars form a clearer picture of the past and raise new questions to take research in this specific field forward.

The Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn was established in 1985. Its mission is to document and publish materials in the field of Armenian studies. Its library has grown considerably in the past few years and it now comprises about 18,000 volumes, of which around half are in the Armenian language. It is also continuously expanding its collection of periodicals in Armenian and other languages. The Center has also published a number of books and is in the process of establishing a specialized Michigan Armenian Studies publication series. It sponsors the teaching of Armenian language courses on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, while its outreach activities encompass members of the Dearborn campus community, academics and students in the USA and worldwide, the Armenian-American community, members of the press, theater and arts companies, and officials and human rights organizations interested in Armenian issues. Holding public lectures and other events constitute an important element in this outreach program.





Armenia and Its Diaspora: Institutional Linkages and Cross-Border Movements

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First Session

Friday, October 15, 2010, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
1500 Social Science Building

Chair: Kevork Bardakjian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Armenia – “Independent,” “Greater,” and “Soviet”: The Evolving Attitudes of the periodical Hay Kin (Istanbul), 1918-1922

Karen Khachatryan (Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)

Խորհրդային Հայաստանի առաջին ղեկավարի աւանդը Հայաստան-Սփիւռք կապերի եւ հայրենադարձութեան կազմակերպման գործում [The Contribution of Soviet Armenian Leaders to the Strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora Relations and the Launching of Repatriation]

Amatuni Virabyan (National Archives of Armenia)

1920-30-ական թուականներին հայրենադարձուած մտաւորականների ճակատագիրը [The Fate of Armenian Intellectuals Who Repatriated to Soviet Armenia in the 1920-30s]



Second Session

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 180B, Fairlane Center South

Chair: **Ara Sanjian** (University of Michigan-Dearborn)

Talar Chahinian (University of California, Los Angeles)

Post-Second World War Literary Monopolies: The Writers’ Union of Soviet Armenia and the Question of Affiliation for Diaspora’s Writers

Vartan Matiossian (Armenian National Educational Committee, New York)

Gostan Zarian: Turning and Returning Between Homeland and Diaspora

Taline Ter Minassian (Institut national des langues orientales, Paris)

Earthquake and Politics: The Council of Ministers and Humanitarian Intervention in Soviet Armenia, 1988-1989





Lunch Break

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Room 180C, Fairlane Center South

Reservations Required

See “Other Dining Options” Page



Third Session

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Room 180B, Fairlane Center South

Chair: **Dennis Papazian** (University of Michigan-Dearborn)

Asbed Kotchikian (Bentley University)

Relations with the Diaspora and the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1998-2008

Vicken Cheterian (CIMERA, Geneva)

“I came to listen to you”: The Turkey-Armenia Protocols and Serge Sargsyan’s Visit to Diasporan Communities

Jean-Robert Raviot (University of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense)

The Union of Armenians of Russia: Its Relations with the Republic of Armenia



Coffee Break

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 4:30-4:45 p.m.

Room 180C, Fairlane Center South



Fourth Session

Discussion: Future Directions in Researching Armenia-Diaspora Relations

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Room 180B, Fairlane Center South

Chair: **Khachig Tölölyan** (Wesleyan University)



Gala ARC 25th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

The Henry (formerly Ritz-Carlton), 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn MI 48126





Conference Participants

Biographies

Kevork Bardakjian is the Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Currently he is also the president of the Society for Armenian Studies. He obtained his first degrees at Yerevan State University, and his D. Phil. from Oxford. Between 1974 and 1987, he taught at Harvard, before becoming the first occupant of the Marie Manoogian Chair at Ann Arbor. His latest book is entitled *A Reference Guide to Modern Armenian Literature, 1500-1920, With an Introductory History* (2000).


Talar Chahinian is a Lecturer in the Department of Comparative Literature at UCLA, where she received her Ph.D. Her dissertation, “The Paris Attempt: Rearticulation of (National) Belonging and the Inscription of Aftermath Experience in French Armenian Literature between the Wars,” examines the work of a group of Armenian writers, who gathered in Paris as *Menk*, and launched their literary movement in 1931. Her research interests include Armenian Diaspora Literature, Twentieth-century French and Francophone Literature, Transnational Studies, Trauma Studies, and Politics of Literary History.

Vicken Cheterian is a Geneva-based researcher, working at CIMERA. He has worked as correspondent in the Middle East and, later, in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Russia and the Ukraine, reporting for leading European papers. His research interests include security, conflicts, peace-building, nationalism, transition, democratization and the environment. He is the founder of the Caucasus Media Institute in Yerevan, which he directed from 2002 to 2005. He holds a Ph.D. from The Graduate Institute, Geneva. His latest book, *War and Peace in the Caucasus: Russia’s Troubled Frontier*, was published by Hurst (2008) and Columbia University Press (2009).

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu is a Simone-Manoogian postdoctoral fellow in the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She recently completed her Ph.D. in the joint program of History and Middle Eastern/ Islamic Studies at New York University. Her dissertation is entitled “Improvising Turkishness: Being Armenian in Post-Ottoman Istanbul, 1918-1933.” She is also, together with Melissa Bilal, the co-editor *Bir Adalet Feryadı, Osmanlı’dan Cumhuriyet’e Beş Ermeni Feminist Yazar* (1862-1933) [A Cry for Justice: Five Armenian Feminist Writers from the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic] (2006).

Karen Khachatryan is the Deputy Director of the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia. He is a graduate of the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University (1993). He works at the Institute of History since 1995, and, since 2009, he is also the Chairman of the Department of History and International Affairs at the Graduate Program at the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia. He is the author of *Velikii drug armianskogo naroda: N. I. Rhyzhkov* [N. Ryzhkov: The Great Friend of the Armenian People] (2004) and *Hay-rusakan haraberutyunnere 1920-1922 tt.* [Armenian-Russian Relations, 1920-1922] (2007).

Asbed Kotchikian is a lecturer at the Global Studies Department at Bentley University, where he teaches courses on the Middle East and former Soviet Union. During the last 10 years, he has traveled extensively and lived in the Middle East and the former Soviet Union. He has written, lectured, presented at and organized conferences on the foreign policies of small and weak states, national identity, and regional developments in the Middle East and Eurasia. He is currently also the editor of *The Armenian Review*.





Vartan Matiossian is the executive director of the Armenian National Educational Committee (New York). He holds a Ph.D. in history from the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia. Formerly of Argentina, he relocated to New Jersey in 2000. A scholar with wide interests in Armenian history and literature, he is the author of several books, among them *Kostan Zareani shurj* [On Kostan Zarian] (1998), *Harawayin koghmn ashkharhi: Hayere Latin Amerikayi mej skizben minchew 1950* [The Southern Side of the Earth: Armenians in Latin America from the Beginnings to 1950] (2005) and *Grakan-banasirakan usumnasirutiwinner* [Studies in Literature and Philology] (2009).

Dennis R. Papazian is Professor Emeritus of Russian and Soviet history and Founding Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. While teaching at the university for 45 years, he also served as department chairman, dean, director of graduate studies, and associate Provost. Among several other scholarly posts, he served as president of the Society for Armenian Studies and editor of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* and was a member of several academic societies. He is a noted international lecturer and has been a frequent radio, TV, and newspaper commentator. He has published numerous studies, articles, and reviews in academic journals and encyclopedias, as well as having been Principal Investigator of the Armenian Assembly oral history project and director of AID relief program for Armenians in Lebanon.

Jean-Robert Raviot is a Doctor and Professor in Political Science, specializing in Russian and Post-Soviet politics, at the University of Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense and at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Among his recent publications are *Qui dirige la Russie?* [Who Governs Russia?] (2007) and *Démocratie à la russe* [Democracy Russian Style] (2008). He is currently working on a Franco-Russian editing project on the *Political Geography of Contemporary Russia: Federalism, Ethnic Diversity and Regional Government in the Russian Provinces*.

Ara Sanjian is Associate Professor of Armenian and Middle Eastern History and the Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. His research interests focus on the post-World War I history of Armenia, Transcaucasia, Turkey and the Arab states of Western Asia. He is the author of *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact* (2001), as well as a monograph and a number of scholarly articles.

Taline Ter Minassian is professor of Russian and Caucasian history at the Institut National des Langues et des Civilisations Orientales (INALCO, Paris). She is the author of *Colporteurs du Komintern: L'Union soviétique et les minorités au Moyen-Orient* [Peddlers of the Comintern: The Soviet Union and the Minorities in the Middle East] (1997), *Erevan: la construction d'une capitale à l'époque soviétique* [Erevan: The Construction of a Capital in the Soviet Epoch] (2007) and, with Jean-Robert Raviot, *La civilisation soviétique de l'URSS à la Russie* [The Soviet Civilization from the USSR to Russia] (2006).

Khachig Tölölyan is Professor of English in the College of Letters at Wesleyan University, where he also teaches comparative literature, as well as cultural theory. He is the author of one book in Armenian, *Spurki Mech* [In the Diaspora] (1980) and the co-editor of another in English, also on the topic of diasporas. He has published over thirty scholarly articles on topics ranging from American literature and literary theory to Armenian terrorism and the Armenian diaspora. In Armenian, he has published a hundred and fifty journalistic columns and articles. He founded and co-edited *Pynchon Notes*, a journal devoted to the study of the novels of Thomas Pynchon. In 1991 he founded, and still edits, *Diaspora: a journal of transnational studies*, which is the world's leading scholarly journal in the field of diaspora studies.

Amatuni Virabyan is the Director of the National Archives of Armenia. He graduated from the Faculty of History at the State Pedagogical Institute of Kirovakan (now, Vanadzor) in 1977, and has worked in the domain of state archives in Armenia since 1980, becoming director in 2003. His doctoral dissertation was published as *Hayastane Stalinits minchew Khrushchov: Hasarakakan-kaghakakan kyank 1945-1957* [Armenia from Stalin to Khrushchev: Social-political Life] (2001). He has also authored, co-authored and edited a number of other studies and volumes of collected documents, all dealing with the twentieth century history of the Armenian people.

