



**California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4  
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

## **Armenian Studies Program News Service**

**CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported in local,  
national, and international media.**

**Spring 2016**

**Vol. 31 Release #104  
January 2016-June 2016**



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Or, Altadena, CA  
SUBJECT: JSAS Vol. 24 Published

DATE: June 30, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies, Volume 24 released

The Society for Armenian Studies announces the release of Volume 24 of the Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies (JSAS), edited by Dr. Sergio La Porta. JSAS Volume 24 includes five articles, four communications, an addendum, a review essay, and three book reviews. The articles in this issue address topics in art history, the Armenian Genocide, Armenian identity, and contemporary church history.

The volume begins with an essay by Cristelle Baskins that analyzes the representation of the Armenian merchant Khoja Sefer in the Quirinal Palace in Rome. Based upon a wide array of archival documents, Baskins provides a vivid depiction of Khoja Sefer's travels to Italy as well as of the variety of identities he could embody.

In his article, Dickran Kouymjian investigates the book illuminations of the somewhat overlooked book artist, Grigor Marzvanec'i. Working in the first half of the eighteenth century, Grigor produced a number of large illuminated works that continued to be used and copied after the artist's death.

Khatchig Mouradian's examination of the Meskeneh concentration camp presents the camp as a case study of how prisoners collaborated with, appealed, manipulated, or resisted the system in order to survive. In doing so, Mouradian explores the dynamics of camp life and restores agency to the deportees who inhabited them.

In his essay, Daniel Fittante examines the theoretical debate surrounding the question of Armenian identity and argues that theorists of Armenian identity have borrowed the terminology of nationalists who often use rigid models of national

identity to describe a dynamic and fluctuating phenomenon.

In the first part of his two-part study of the last three catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Levon Petrosyan examines the policies of Vazgen I and Garegin I and how these two catholicos faced the challenges of the end of Soviet rule and of the early years of the Republic of Armenia.

In addition to these articles, vol. 24 contains four communications on a wide range of topics. The first, by Albert Stepanyan, is a reexamination of the famous passage in Plutarch's Life of Crassus that describes the defeat of the Roman general at Carrhae. The second by Smbat Hovannisyan is a reflection on how Braudel's theory of civilizations can be applied to Armenian early modern history. In his communication, Stefan Ihrig emphasizes the utility of German sources as evidence for the perpetration of the Armenian Genocide. In their study, Russell Kashian and David Luhrssen use the Armenian settlement in South Milwaukee as a case study to examine patterns of ethnic clustering and dispersion.

Vol. 24 also contains a review essay by D. Kouymjian on the recently published catalogue of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Detroit and three books reviews.

The Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies is a peer-reviewed journal and is published annually by the SAS. Copies of the latest volume, and back issues, are available by contacting the SAS Secretariat at 559-278-2669 or by email at [barlowd@csufresno.edu](mailto:barlowd@csufresno.edu). Copies may also be ordered online at [societyforarmenianstudies.com](http://societyforarmenianstudies.com).



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Ambassador Evans Speaks at Fresno State

DATE: May 5, 2016

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ex-Ambassador Who Lost Job over 'Genocide' Talk Speaks in Fresno

By Megan Ginise  
mginise@fresnobee.com

Former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, whose outspoken use of the phrase 'Armenian genocide' ended his Foreign Service career, appeared at Fresno State on Monday to talk about the mass killings and his decision to speak out.

"I felt the time had come to call a spade a spade, to use the term that 95 percent, if not 98 percent of historians believe is correct," Evans said in an interview. "At some point somebody had to stand up and say this isn't right."

Evans was in Fresno as part of an Armenian lecture series at Fresno State, and to promote his newest book "Truth Held Hostage: America and the Armenian Genocide — What Then? What Now?" The book explores Evan's historical research and the decision he was forced to make. Split into three sections, the last delves into what is next for the future of Armenians, Americans and Turks.

"We've had the 100th anniversary, we're now in 101 and 1 day, so where do we go now, what is the way forward, what can we all do?" Evans said.

Even though U.S. policy continues to refrain from using the term, Evans said the Obama administration has made significant



*Former U.S. Ambassador John Evans spoke at Fresno State on April 25, as part of an Armenian lecture series.*

*Megan Ginise mginise@fresnobee.com*

strides that no other president has done, from positively referencing former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Henry Morgenthau, who reported on the murders of Armenians, to Raphael Lemkin, the Polish-Jewish scholar who coined the word genocide.

"The 2009 proclamation on April 24 by President Obama was the high-water mark of American presidential statements on this issue," Evans said. "It did away with doubts about whether or not there was intent on the part of some to basically remove the Armenians of Anatolia, and that was one of the questions that some people had been making. He made that very clear."

When Evans used the term genocide in 2005, he had known what the State Department had wanted him to say, but he made the decision and stood by his words. Although he was forced to make an apology, he said he never retracted his statement. Evans said he knew that those above him wouldn't speak, and that those below him wouldn't dare, so in the end it came down to him.

"There are very few people in the U.S. government who in their hearts don't know the truth," Evans said. "They know that there was a genocide, they know what the facts are, and they simply don't want to complicate America's relations with Turkey."

Not since the Reagan administration has the U.S. recognized or used the term genocide, Evans said. Even though President Obama has made his remarks, the truth remains hidden.

"We know what is in his heart, but it's not on his lip," Evans said. "The truth is out there, but it's held hostage."

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA

DATE: April 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Ambassador Evans Speaks at Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 2

# Ex-Armenia envoy speaks in Fresno

John Evans, former U.S. ambassador to Armenia, was one of first major U.S. officials to use the word 'genocide'

Evans spoke at Fresno State promoting book on Armenian genocide

BY MEGAN GINISE  
mginise@fresnobee.com

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Even though U.S. policy continues to refrain from using the term, Evans said the Obama administration has made significant strides that no other president has done, from positively referencing former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Henry Morgenthau, who reported on the murders of Armenians, to Raphael Lemkin, the Polish-Jewish scholar who coined the word "genocide."

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SEE EVANS, 11A





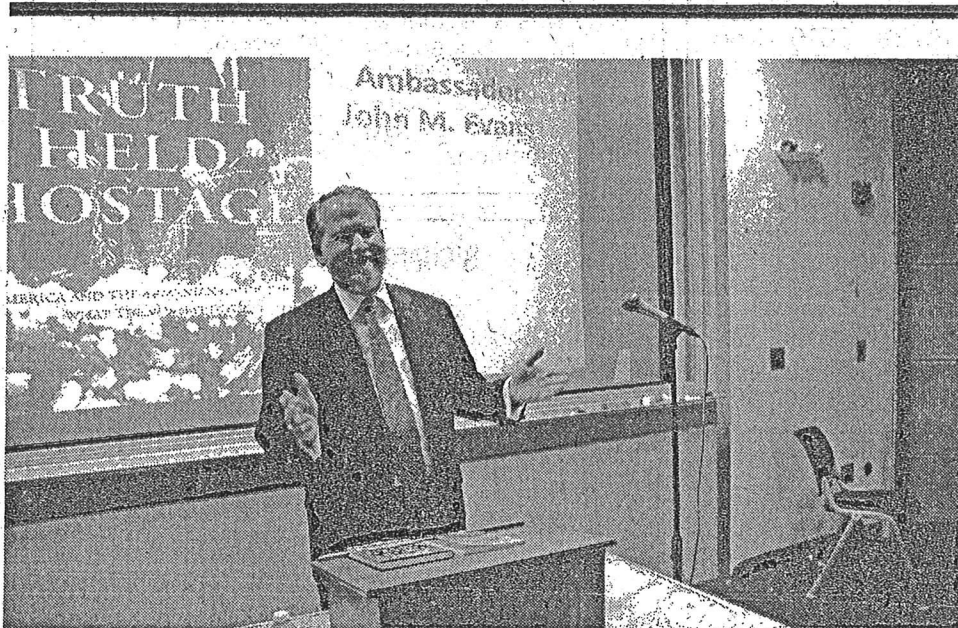
ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA

DATE: April 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Ambassador Evans Speaks at Fresno State

PAGE: 2 of 2



MEGAN GINISE mginise@fresnobee.com

John Evans, the former U.S. ambassador to Armenia, spoke at Fresno State on Monday as part of an Armenian lecture series.

FROM PAGE 10A

## EVANS

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*Megan Ginise:*  
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## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

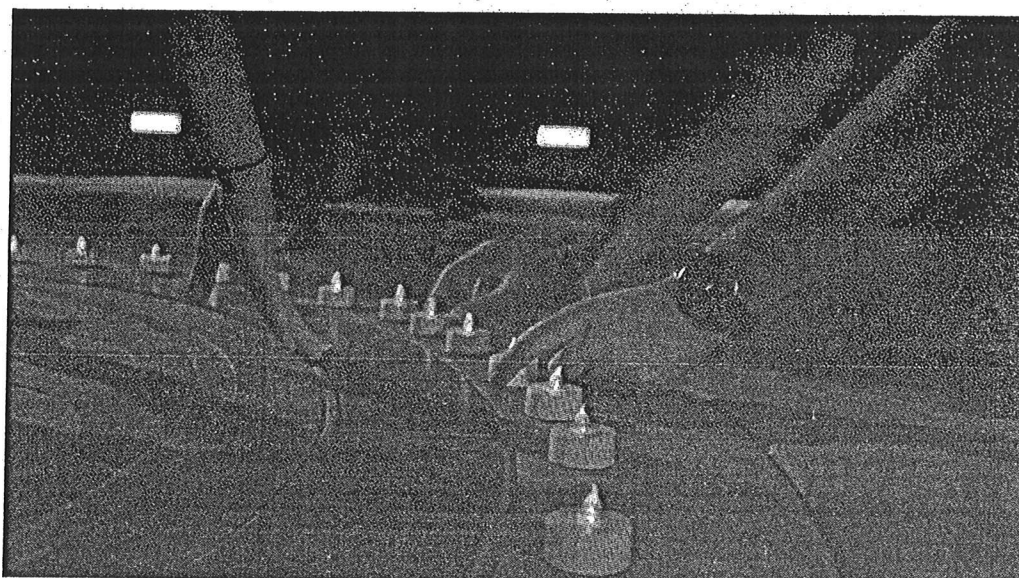
## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian, Fresno StateDATE: April 22, 2016SUBJECT: TThe Armenian Genocide RememberedPAGE: 1 of 2

ARMENIAN

# Remembering the Armenian Genocide

PAGE 3



Darlene Wendels • The Collegian  
*Fresno State students set candles down inside of the Armenian Genocide Monument to commemorate the 101 anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Wednesday, April 20, 2016.*

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SOURCE: The Collegian, Fresno State

SUBJECT: TThe Armenian Genocide Remembered

DATE: April 22, 2016

PAGE: 2 of 2

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

THE COLLEGIAN • NEWS

PAGE 3

# Fresno State honors the lost lives of the Armenian Genocide

By Jasmine Castrellon  
@TheCollegian

To commemorate the 101 anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Fresno State Armenian Student Organization (ASO) hosted a week full of activities.

A screening of "The Cut," a film about the genocide was shown Wednesday and was followed by a candlelit prayer vigil in front of the Armenian Genocide Monument.

People of all age groups walked in the dark with a candle in hand to the monument where all the candles were placed and a prayer was offered in remembrance of all of the lost lives.

Elena Sarnazian, executive public relations officer of the ASO, said this particular film was shown because it is a new film and explains the genocide well to non-Armenians.

"It's important to raise cultural awareness about the genocide because we are a growing community here in Fresno, and it's nice to see different people from different communities coming together," she said. "People need to understand that it was real. A lot of people don't know what the monument is for, and they should come and read

the information."

The ASO also has recognized the genocide on Monday by passing out pamphlets, selling shirts and speaking to other students in the Free Speech Area.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, coordinator for the Armenian studies program and director of the Center for Armenian Studies, said there were three questions his students always asked – "Why did it happen? How can such an event happen, and why did no one do anything about it?"

Mugrdechian said Armenian studies is significant for students at Fresno State.

"Armenian studies is very important because we are in the midst of a big Armenian community," Mugrdechian said. "More than that, it's history that tells about a group that many people don't know about, so that you can tell about all the different things they have gone through."

Michael Rettig, secretary for the ASO and a grad student studying history, said it's important to remember the legacy of the genocide.

"There is a big Armenian community here in Fresno, so I think it helps students understand each other and where we came from and our past and what our ancestors went through," Rettig said. "It's an important issue, and it's under the big umbrella of

human rights. When people get away with these kinds of violations, it makes it easier for it to happen again."

Rettig said he thinks the reason the Armenian Genocide is not taught in history book is due to politics.

"It's starting to change now, but a lot of it is the Turkish lobby," Rettig said.

Lucinae "Lucy" Ekezyan, president of the ASO, said that in President Barack Obama's campaign for president, he said that he would recognize the genocide, but the ambassador of Turkey told him not to, and threatened the U.S., so he didn't.

"The Jews have recognition of the Holocaust because Germany doesn't really have any relationship with America that has constant benefit, as where Turkey provides the U.S. with oil and a naval base," Ekezyan said. "So when you are talking about recognition for the Armenians, then you consider all the political aspects of it. You consider whether the United States is willing to do the right thing over what's going to give them the most capital gain."

Rettig said that because American history does not go into depth about all aspects in history, categories and subtopics are necessary.

"You kind of need categories because if you don't have Armenian studies separate

from the rest, it's going to get one line in the book and be forgotten," Rettig said.

Ekezyan said Hitler used the genocide as justification for his mass murders.

"The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. It also created leeway for the Second World War, as Hitler justified his genocide on the Jewish people who today speak of the Armenians," Ekezyan said. "He kind of justified what he was doing as OK because no one ever cared about what happened to the Armenians, so why would you care about what's happening to the Jews? Why would you would care about what's happening today [with] Boko Haram? Why would you care about the Rwanda Massacre?"

Ekezyan said that not having recognition for the genocide could be used to justify other immoral acts.

"It's raising this issue that justice does not exist today and that we need to fight for it," Ekezyan said. "Why are the Armenians less deserving of something that the Jews were granted, the slaves were granted? We just want our wounds to heal."

Rettig said events like this help bring awareness to the Armenian Genocide, and Ekezyan said that knowing that there are people from every ethnicity taking notice and speaking on their behalf is uplifting.



## ARCHIVE

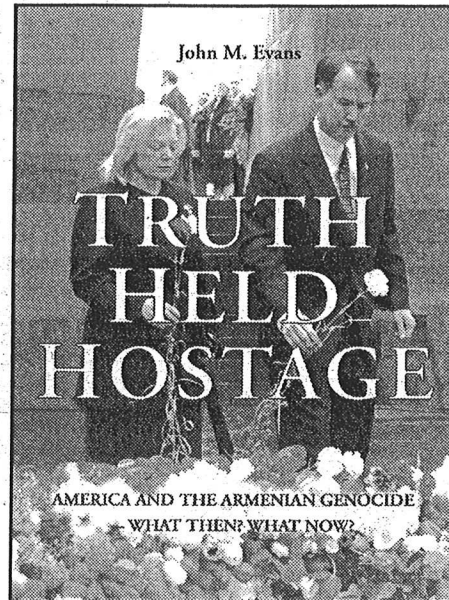
SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, CADATE: April 16, 2016SUBJECT: Ambassador Evans to Speak at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans to Speak at Fresno State

FRESNO -- John M. Evans, former United States Ambassador to Armenia, will be the guest of the Armenian Studies Program for a special evening talk on his new book "Truth Held Hostage: America and the Armenian Genocide—What Then? What Now?" at 7:30PM on Monday, April 25, in the Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center Auditorium (in the Student Recreation Center, next to the SaveMart Center), on the Fresno State campus.

Ambassador Evans, who recognized the Armenian Genocide while U.S. Ambassador, was dismissed from his post by the State Department. In his talk, an unrepentant Evans will discuss his new memoir, which gives a blow-by-blow account of his understanding of the Armenian issue, why he criticized United States policy in 2006, and why he still thinks the State Department should change its position on the Armenian Genocide. Truth Held Hostage promises to reframe the Armenian Genocide debate in the United States and has already been praised as the most important work about the Armenian Genocide by a U.S. diplomat since Henry Morgenthau's groundbreaking Ambassador Morgenthau's Story in 1918, a compelling, page-turning read, and an even-handed account of a matter of international importance.

Evans first broke with the State Department on the Armenian Genocide issue in Fresno, and it is fitting that he will be back to update us on



developments—and his thoughts about the future.

Copies of Truth Held Hostage: America and the Armenian Genocide - What Then? What Now? will be available, as well as a companion volume, also by Evans, Therefore, God Must be Armenian! Sixteen talks Given on the Armenian Issue (2017-2012).

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Free parking is available at any of the adjacent Fresno State parking lots (near the corner of Shaw and Woodrow Avenues).

For more information about the presentation contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CADATE: April 14, 2016SUBJECT: Ambassador Evans to Speak at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Former US Envoy to Armenia Evans Will Speak at Fresno State, April 25

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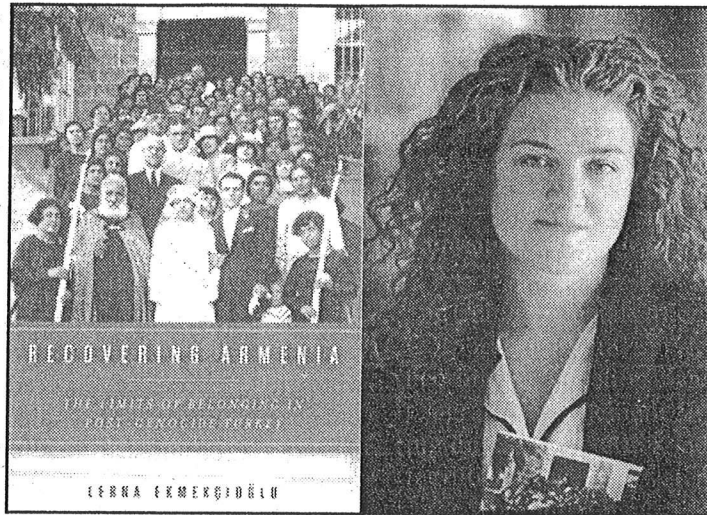
SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, CADATE: April 2, 2016SUBJECT: Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu to Present on “Survivors into Minorities: Armenians in Post-Genocide Turkey”

FRESNO -- Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu, McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give a presentation on “Survivors into Minorities: Armenians in Post-Genocide Turkey” at 7:30PM on Monday, April 18, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The talk follows the trajectories of the survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide who remained inside Turkish borders after the signing of the 1918 Mudros Armistice (and during the Allied occupation years of Istanbul) and after the 1923 establishment of the new country as the Turkish Republic. How did the Kemalist state treat the remaining Armenians? What were Armenians’ responses to the new (but also old) Turkish regime? Dr. Ekmekcioglu will discuss multiple strategies Armenians-including feminist Armenians-improvised in order to cohabit with unapologetic perpetrators and survive the new Turkey.

Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu is McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History at Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she is also



affiliated with the Women and Gender Studies Program. She specializes on Turkish and Armenian lands in the beginning of the 20th century and the history of Armenian feminism. In 2006 she co-edited a volume in Turkish about the first five Armenian feminists of the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic. Her most recent book, *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey*, came out from Stanford University Press in early 2016.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking is available, using parking code 273615 (go to parking kiosks in the area) at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center. For more information about the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit our website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).





## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: "Our Village" Film at CineCulture

DATE: March 31, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## CineCulture and ASP at CSUF to Screen 'Our Village' Film, April 1

FRESNO - The CineCulture Series and the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, are sponsoring a special screening of the film "Our Village" at 5:30 p.m. on April 1, in the Leon and Pete Peters Educational Auditorium (next to the SaveMart Center), on the Fresno State campus.

Director Yelena Arshakyan will be visiting from Armenia to discuss the film after the viewing.

"Our Village" tells the story of a rural, modern village, focusing on three neighbors-their lives, relationships, wishes, bothers, and immigration, which is a general problem for all Armenians.

The shooting took place in Dsegh, the Armenian village where the famous writer Hovhannes Toumanjan was born. According to director Arshakyan, "It was majestic making a film in the land of such a genius."

Arshakyan graduated from the Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinema, Department of Film Directing, in 2008. Since 2002, she is a film director and scriptwriter in the Public TV Company of Armenia.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Free parking is available at any of the adjacent Fresno State parking lots (near the corner of Shaw and Woodrow Avenues).

For more information about the presentation, please contact



*Filmmaker Yelena Arshakyan*

the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit the website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

**ARCHIVE**SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CASUBJECT: Armenian Studies Events at Fresno StateDATE: March 28, 2016PAGE: 1 of 1**ARMENIAN STUDIES  
HOSTS FILM, LECTURE**

Fresno State's Armenian studies program is hosting two events this week on topics of Armenian identity, immigration and experience.

On Wednesday, Roberta Ervine will speak about "Armenians on What Matter Most" in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center at 7:30 p.m. Ervine is

the 12th Henry Khazadian Kazan visiting professor at Fresno State. She will be discussing the "tectonic shift that clearly took place in the minds and hearts of Armenians who survived the genocide" and the journey to fostering Armenian unity and values in a new landscape.

On Friday, Fresno State CineCulture's series will host the film "Our Village," which follows the lives of three rural families in Armenia. Armenian director Yelena Arshakyan will be present to

discuss her film following the screening.

The film starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Leon and Pete Peters Educational Center Auditorium.

Admission and parking are free for both events.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, CADATE: March 26, 2016SUBJECT: Dr. Roberta Ervine at Fresno State-Part IIPAGE: 1 of 1

## Lecture by Professor Dr. Roberta Ervine: “In the Harsh Light of Genocide: Insights of Selected Armenian Thinkers”

FRESNO -- Dr. Roberta Ervine, the 12th Henry K. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, will give the second of a three-part public lecture series on the topic of “Armenians on What Matters Most.” The lecture will take place at 7:30PM on Wednesday, March 30, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

A tectonic shift clearly took place in the minds and hearts of Armenians who survived the Genocide, whether or not they were immediately involved in the Genocide events. Prior to the Genocide, many had put energy and hope into the dream of an independent homeland where the majority of the world's Armenians would build a new, ideal political and cultural life on their ancestral soil. After the Genocide, that homeland indeed came to be. However, it was clear that the majority of Armenians would make their lives elsewhere, far from their native land. What would unite them? What are the core Armenian values that would foster Armenian unity and insure the future of Armenian life and culture in a

disunified landscape? Some of the most influential Armenian journalists of the time had strong opinions and deep convictions on this subject. The lecture will invite the audience to consider their ideas in light of current Armenian experience.

Lecture III in the series, on Wednesday, April 27, will be on “Holy Vengeance: Three Hierarchs of the Genocide Speak to America's Armenians.”

Dr. Roberta Ervine earned her Ph.D. in classical Armenian Studies from Columbia University and has done extensive research on topics related to medieval Armenian studies. Prof. Ervine pursues topics related to the history of Armenians in Jerusalem and the intellectual tradition of the Armenian Middle Ages.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking is available, using parking code 273615 (go to parking kiosks in the area) at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center.

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Or Weekly, Pasadena, CA  
 SUBJECT: Armenian Studies Conference on Genocide

DATE: March 10, 2016  
 PAGE: 1 of 1

## Armenian Studies Program To Hold Two-Day International Conference "Empire, Politics, And War: The Armenian Genocide Within The Context Of The Ottoman Empire"

The Armenian Studies Program is holding a major international conference on "Empire, Politics, and War: The Armenian Genocide within the Context of the Ottoman Empire" to be held on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, 2016. The Conference will bring an international group of scholars to explore new facets of the Armenian Genocide.



The Conference is co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, the College of Arts & Humanities of California State University, Fresno, with the support of the Thomas A. Kouymjian Family Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, and the M. Victoria Kazan Fund for Armenian Studies.

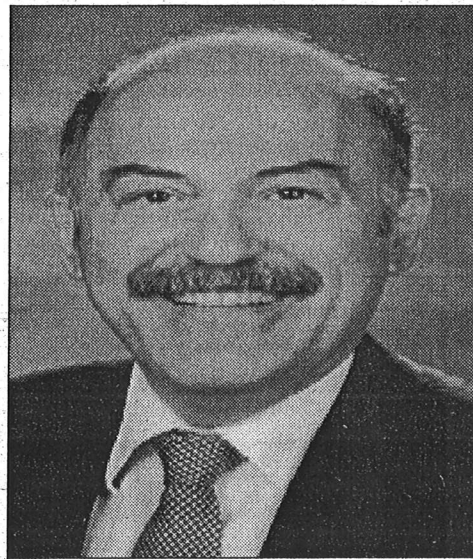
Conference organizers Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Armenian Studies Program Coordinator, and Ümit Kurt, Kazan Visiting Scholar at Fresno State, expect the Conference to attract great interest among both scholars and the public.

On Friday, March 18, the Conference will begin at 7:30PM with welcoming addresses from Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Stephan Astourian, Director

of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley, will follow with a keynote address "Armenian Genocide Studies: Development as a Field, Historiographical Appraisal, and the Road Ahead."

The Conference will take place on Friday, March 18, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus. An hors d'oeuvres reception will take place from 6:30 to 7:30PM in the University Business Center Gallery, just prior to the Conference.

Following the keynote address, three panelists will address various aspects of the Armenian Genocide: Varak Ket-samanian (University of Chicago-Center for Middle Eastern Studies) "The Hun-chakian Party and the Assassination Attempts against Maksudzade Simon Efendi and



Khoren Ashekian"; Anna Aleksanyan (Clark University, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center) "From Adana to Bolis: Zabel Yesayan's Letters to Tigran Yesayan in 1909" and Dr. Yektan Turkyilmaz (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) "War and Genocide: Rethinking WWI and the Path to the Armenian Catastrophe."

The Conference will reconvene at 10:30AM on Saturday, March 19, with a session chaired by Dr. Sergio La Porta, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State. The session will take place in the Whitten Room of the Fresno State Smittcamp Alumni House (Mattoian Way on the Fresno State campus-enter at Shaw and Maple) and will be divided into two parts.

Part I will feature presentations by Yaşar Tolga Cora (University of Chicago) "An Armenian Officer in the Ot-

toman Army during the Genocide: Memoirs of Kalusd Surmenian" and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian (Clark University) "Concentration Camps during the Armenian Genocide: Power, Collaboration, and Resistance."

Following a coffee break the Conference will conclude with two more papers by Ümit Kurt (Clark University)

"Survival Struggles of Aintab Deportees in Salamiyya: Testimonial Accounts of Genocide Survivors Krikor Bogharian and Der Nerses Tavukjian" and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno) "A Survivor's Memoir: Siranoosh My Child." All sessions and the reception are free and open to the public.

On Friday, March 18, free parking is available in Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center and on Saturday, March 19, free parking is available in Lots P1 and P2 near the Smittcamp Alumni House (enter at Maple and Shaw and enter the first parking area to the right).

For more information about the Conference please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit our website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: March 5, 2016SUBJECT: Dr. La Porta Honored by Knights of VartanPAGE: 1 of 1

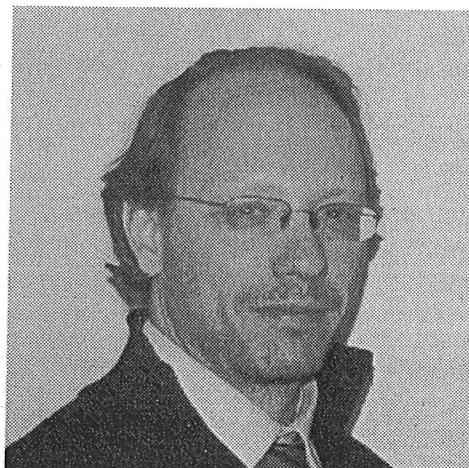
## Richard Hagopian, Sergio La Porta to Be Honored

FRESNO – The Knights of Vartan announce that the Men of the Year banquet will be held on Saturday, April 16, at Pardini's Banquet Hall.

This year the Knights of Vartan, in conjunction with the Daughters of Vartan, are honoring two outstanding leaders in the Armenian community. Richard Hagopian will be recognized for his contributions to Armenian culture through art and music. Hagopian is a master oud player, and is considered the finest in the world. Also being honored is Dr. Sergio La Porta for his contributions to Armenian culture through education and scholarship. La Porta is a professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno and, among other accomplishments, spearheaded Fresno's Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee. The social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a fine meal, and dessert, at 7:30 p.m.

Pianist Kevin Memley will entertain diners, followed by more lively entertainment by DJ Diko Chekian.

For tickets and more information, including sponsorships, contact Dr. Dennis or Rita Shamlian.



Prof. Sergio La Porta, Richard Hagopian



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: Pianist Sergei Babayan at Fresno State

DATE: March 3, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Pianist Sergei Babayan Will Perform Concert at Fresno State, March 9

FRESNO - Award winning pianist Sergei Babayan will perform in recital as part of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The performance will take place at 8 p.m. on March 9 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State. Babayan will be performing works by Schumann, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Brahms.

Winner of the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition in Cleveland, this Armenian pianist returns to Fresno for another display of his "unequaled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing and breathtaking virtuosity" (Le Figaro, Paris).

One of the most charismatic personalities on today's concert stage, Babayan's vibrantly expressive performances have spirited audience acclaim worldwide. Ever since his arrival in the United States, on his first trip outside of the Soviet Union in 1989, his breathtaking virtuosity and a



wide-ranging tonal palette have brought him critical praise and accolades.

Babayan was born in Armenia to a musical family and started to play the piano at the age of three. He began his musical studies at the age of six under Luisa Markaryan and later with George Saradjev. He continued his studies at nineteen with Mikhail Pletnev at the Moscow Conservatory and completed post-graduate work there in 1989 as a student of Professor Vera Gornostaeva. He also studied privately with Lev Naumov in Moscow.

After making his New York recital debut in 1990 at Alice Tully Hall to great critical acclaim, Babayan embarked on a busy schedule that has included solo appearances with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Osaka Symphony, among others.

The Concert is supported by The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation, The Ararat Foundation of Alexandria, Virginia, Grace Jelalian Shahinian Armenian Concerts Fund, and the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

General tickets for the Concert are available for \$25 per person, for seniors tickets are \$18, and tickets for students are \$5.00 per person. Ticket reservations for the concert may be made by calling 278-2337. <http://www.keyboard-concerts.com/concert-sergei-babayan.aspx>

Parking will be available in Lot P1 (Shaw and Maple entrance to campus). For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).





## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CA

DATE: March 2, 2016

SUBJECT: Armenian Genocide Conference at Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 1

## CSUF to Hold International Conference: The Armenian Genocide within the Context of the Ottoman Empire Variety of Themes and Several Speakers

**March 18 and 19  
At Fresno State**

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program is holding a major international conference on "Empire, Politics, and War: The Armenian Genocide within the Context of the Ottoman Empire" to be held on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, 2016. The Conference will bring an international group of scholars to explore new facets of the Armenian Genocide.

The Conference is co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, the College of Arts & Humanities of California State University, Fresno, with the support of the Thomas A. Kouymjian Family Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, and the M. Victoria Kazan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Conference organizers Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Armenian Studies Program Coordinator, and Ümit Kurt, Kazan Visiting Scholar at Fresno State, expect the Conference to attract great interest among both scholars and the public.

### Friday at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, March 18, the Conference will begin at 7:30PM with welcoming addresses from Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Stephan Astourian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley, will follow with a keynote address "Armenian Genocide Studies: Development as a Field, Historiographical Appraisal, and the Road Ahead."

The Conference will take place on Friday, March 18, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus. An hors d'oeuvres reception will take place from 6:30 to 7:30PM in the University Business Center Gallery, just prior to the Conference.

Following the keynote address, three panelists will address various aspects of the Armenian Genocide: Varak Ketsamian (University of Chicago-Center for Middle Eastern Studies) "The Hunchakian Party and the Assassination Attempts against Maksudzade Simon Efendi and Khoren Ashekian"; Anna Aleksanyan (Clark University, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center) "From Adana to

Bolis: Zabel Yesayan's Letters to Tigran Yesayan in 1909" and Dr. Yektan Turkyilmaz (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) "War and Genocide: Rethinking WWI and the Path to the Armenian Catastrophe."

### Saturday, at 10:30 a.m.

The Conference will reconvene at 10:30AM on Saturday, March 19, with a session chaired by Dr. Sergio La Porta, Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State. The session will take place in the Whitten Room of the Fresno State Smittcamp Alumni House (Matoian Way on the Fresno State campus-enter at Shaw and Maple) and will be divided into two parts.

Part I will feature presentations by Yaşar Tolga Cora (University of Chicago) "An Armenian Officer in the Ottoman Army during the Genocide: Memoirs of Kalusd Surmenian" and Dr. Khatchig Mouradian (Clark University) "Concentration Camps during the Armenian Genocide: Power, Collaboration, and Resistance."

Following a coffee break

the Conference will conclude with two more papers by Ümit Kurt (Clark University) "Survival Struggles of Aintab Deportees in Salamiyya: Testimonial Accounts of Genocide Survivors Krikor Bogharian and Der Nerses Tavukjian" and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian (Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno) "A Survivor's Memoir: Siranoosh My Child."

All sessions and the reception are free and open to the public.

On Friday, March 18, free parking is available in Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center and on Saturday, March 19, free parking is available in Lots P1 and P2 near the Smittcamp Alumni House (enter at Maple and Shaw and enter the first parking area to the right).

For more information about the Conference please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit our website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CA  
SUBJECT: Dr. La Porta Honored as "Man of the Year"

DATE: March 2, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1



Dr. Sergio La Porta, left, and musician Richard Hagopian

## **Fresno Knights Daughters of Vartan to Honor Richard Hagopian and Sergio La Porta, April 16 at Pardini's**

The Knights of Vartan are pleased to announce its first annual Men of the Year banquet to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Pardini's Banquet Hall in Fresno.

This year the Knights of Vartan, in conjunction with the Daughters of Vartan, are honoring two outstanding leaders in the Armenian community.

Richard Hagopian will be recognized for his contributions to Armenian culture through art and music. Mr. Hagopian is a master oud player, and is considered the finest in the world.

Also being honored is Dr. Sergio La Porta for his contributions to Armenian culture through education and scholarship. Dr. La Porta is a professor of Armenian Studies at CSU Fresno and, among other accomplishments, spearheaded Fresno's Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee.

The social hour will begin at 6:30pm, followed by a fine meal, and dessert, at 7:30pm. Pianist Kevin Memley will entertain diners, followed by more lively entertainment by DJ Diko Chekian. For tickets and more information, including sponsorships,

Please contact Dr. Dennis or Rita Shamlan at (559) 438-4646

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA

DATE: March, 2016

SUBJECT: Two Day Conference on Genocide at Fresno State

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Fresno State Armenian Studies Program to Hold Two-Day International Conference

### *Empire, Politics, and War: The Armenian Genocide'*

FRESNO – The Armenian Studies Program is holding a major international conference on "Empire, Politics, and War: The Armenian Genocide within the Context of the Ottoman Empire" to be held on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, 2016. The conference will bring an international group of scholars to explore new facets of the Armenian Genocide.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, the College of Arts & Humanities of California State University, Fresno, with the support of the Thomas A. Kouymjian Family Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, and the M. Victoria Kazan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Conference organizers Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Armenian Studies Program



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Coordinator, and Ümit Kurt, Kazan Visiting Scholar at Fresno State, expect the conference to attract great interest among both scholars and the public.

On Friday, March 18, the conference will begin at 7:30PM with welcoming addresses from Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, director of the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Stephan Astourian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley,



Ümit Kurt

will follow with a keynote address "Armenian Genocide Studies: Development as a Field, Historiographical Appraisal, and the Road Ahead."

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Following the keynote address, three panelists will address various aspects of the Armenian Genocide: Varak Ketsamian (University of Chicago-Center for Middle Eastern Studies) "The Hunchakian Party and the Assassination Attempts against Maksudzade Simon Efendi and Khoren Ashekian"; Anna Aleksanyan (Clark University, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center) "From Adana to Bolis: Zabel Yesayan's Letters to Tigran Yesayan in 1909;" and Dr. Yektan Turkyilmaz (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) "War and Genocide: Rethinking WWI and the Path to the Armenian Catastrophe."

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## Fresno State Armenian Studies Program to Hold Two-Day Conference

FRESNO, from page 5

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All sessions and the reception are free and open to the public.

For more information about the conference visit [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, MADATE: February 27, 2016SUBJECT: Sergei Babayan in Concert at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Pianist Sergei Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

FRESNO -- Award winning pianist Sergei Babayan will perform in recital as part of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The performance will take place at 8:00 PM on Wednesday, March 9 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State. Babayan will be performing works by Schumann, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Brahms.

Acclaimed for the immediacy, sensitivity, and depth of his interpretations, Sergei Babayan's performances reveal an emotional intensity and bold energy, equipping him to excel in repertoire ranging from Rameau to Ligeti. Winner of the 1989 Robert Casadesus International Piano Competition in Cleveland, this Armenian pianist returns to Fresno for another display of his "unequaled touch, perfectly harmonious phrasing and breathtaking virtuosity" (Le Figaro, Paris).

One of the most charismatic personalities on today's concert stage, Babayan's vibrantly expressive performances have spirited audience acclaim worldwide. Ever since his arrival in the United States, on his first trip outside of the Soviet Union in 1989, his breathtaking virtuosity and a wide-ranging tonal palette have brought him critical praise and accolades.

Babayan was born in Armenia to a musical family and started to play the piano at the age of three. He began his musical studies at the age of six under Luisa Markaryan and later with George Saradjev. He continued his studies at nineteen with Mikhail Pletnev at the Moscow Conservatory and completed post-graduate work there in 1989 as a student of Professor Vera Gornostaeva. He also studied privately with Lev



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Parking will be available in Lot P1 (Shaw and Maple entrance to campus). For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



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SOURCE: The Armenian-Mirror Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: February 27, 2016SUBJECT: Pianist Sergei Babayan at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

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Sergei Babayan



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Nor Or Weekly, Pasadena, MADATE: February 25, 2016SUBJECT: Dr. Roberta Ervine Lecture at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

***Armenian Studies Program California State University, Fresno - [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies)***  
**12th Kazan Visiting Professor Dr. Roberta Ervine To Present Series On**  
***"In the Harsh Light Of Genocide: Insights Of Selected Armenian Thinkers"***

Dr. Roberta Ervine (St. Nersess Armenian Seminary), the 12th Henry K. Khazdadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, will give three public lectures on the general theme of "In the Harsh Light of Genocide: Insights of Selected Armenian Thinkers" in the Spring 2016 semester.

The first lecture in the series, "Armenians on Immortality" will take place at 7:30PM on Monday, February 29, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus. An hors d'oeuvres reception will take place from 6:30 to 7:30PM in the University Business Center Gallery, just prior to the lecture.

The Genocide forced Armenians to reconsider their human experience in the light of mass death and dislocation. In an insecure and threatening world, what can one depend on? Is there a life after death, and if so, who is in charge

of it? Where does it happen? What is it like? What qualities make a person, a community, or an ethnic group immortal? This lecture will explore writers of the new, post-Genocide thinking on the topic of immortality, and look at where Armenians turned to find inspiration and consolation in the decades immediately following the Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide restructured Armenian thinking in many ways. On an almost week-by-week basis, Armenian periodical literature from the 1920's and 1930's records the process by which these changes worked themselves out in the minds of survivors and Diaspora Armenians alike. What was essential going forward? How would the worldwide Diaspora remain Armenian? How should Armenians greet the founding of an Armenian state? What can be said concern-



ing the fundamental values of humanity in the face of widespread and wanton death and destruction?

None of these questions found an easy answer in the mind of Armenian thinkers. This series of lectures will focus on questions from the Genocide period that are as relevant now as they were a

century ago. The spectrum of thinking about these deep, human and Armenian matters reveals a range of experience and willingness to engage with difficult issues that will surely resonate with the Armenians of today.

Lecture II in the series, on Wednesday, March 30, will be on the topic of "Armenians on What Matters Most."

Lecture III in the series, on Wednesday, April 27, will be on "Holy Vengeance: Three Hierarchs of the Genocide Speak to America's Armenians."

Roberta Ervine earned her Ph.D. in classical Armenian Studies from Columbia University and has done extensive research on topics related to medieval Armenian studies. Prof. Ervine pursues topics related to the history of Armenians in Jerusalem and the intellectual tradition of the Armenian Middle Ages (particularly the thinking of Vanakan Vardapet,

Vardan the Great and Hovhannēs of Erznka). She is also interested in medieval Armenian grammatical texts. Dr. Ervine has been professor of Armenian Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary since 2001, where she has taught courses on Classical and Modern Armenian Language, Church history, and Armenian Spirituality.

Dr. Ervine has taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has conducted post-doctoral study in the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and has been a visiting lecturer at Columbia University.

The lectures and reception are free and open to the public. Free parking is available, using parking code 273615 (go to parking kiosks in the area) at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center.

For more information about the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit our website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CA  
 SUBJECT: Sergei Babayan in Concert at Fresno State

DATE: February 24, 2016  
 PAGE: 1 of 1

## Pianist Sergei Babayan to Give Concert in Fresno, March 9

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**Sergei Babayan**

started to play the piano at the age of three. He began his musical studies at the age of six under Luisa Markaryan and later with George Saradjev.

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MADATE: February 20, 2016SUBJECT: Dr. Roberta Ervine at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

# Ervine to Present Series on Selected Armenian Thinkers

FRESNO — Dr. Roberta Ervine of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, the 12th Henry K. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, will give three public lectures on the general theme of "In the Harsh Light of Genocide: Insights of Selected Armenian Thinkers" in the Spring semester.

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Lecture II in the series, on Wednesday, March 30, will be on the topic of "Armenians on What Matters Most." Lecture III, on Wednesday, April

27, will be on "Holy Vengeance: Three Hierarchs of the Genocide Speak to America's Armenians."

Ervine earned her PhD in classical Armenian Studies from Columbia University and has done extensive research on topics related to medieval Armenian studies. She pursues topics related to the history of Armenians in Jerusalem and the intellectual tradition of the Armenian Middle Ages (particularly the thinking of Vanakan Vardapet, Vardan the Great and Hovhann s of Erznka).

She has taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has conducted post-doctoral study in the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and has been a visiting lecturer at Columbia University.

The lectures and reception are free and open to the public.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, CADATE: February 20, 2016SUBJECT: Ümit Kurt on Turkish Denial of the GenocidePAGE: 1 of 1

## Ümit Kurt Says Turkish Denial of Armenian Genocide Based on Lost Sense of Reality

FRESNO (Fresno Bee) -- Turkish historian Ümit Kurt recalls how he first heard in his early 20s of the Armenian historical presence in Turkey – a presence the Turkish government has spent decades trying to erase.

After entering an old house that had been turned into a cafe in the Turkish city of Aintab, Kurt said, “I saw some weird letters, and I thought they were Arabic or Persian letters because my historic consciousness went back that far – as if there was no Greeks, there was no Armenians, there was no Jews, who had lived in this land.”

After questioning the owner of the cafe about the history of the building, Kurt was told that it once belonged to Armenians. Since that experience, Kurt has often written about the appropriation of Armenian land and property by Turks.

Some societies are capable of openly discussing their history, Kurt said. Others, “because their past and present is intertwined, in a way that causes them to lose their sense of reality,” Kurt said. “In Turkish society, this (lost) sense of reality is most obvious in the case of denying, or not acknowledging, the Armenian genocide.

“Confronting the past is a soci-



etal problem, rather than an individual one,” Kurt said.

This erasure of Armenian history in Turkey occurs from an early age, with textbooks and school curriculum teaching that the genocide – referred to as the “Armenian matter” – is a lie, Kurt said.

“Because Turkey founded its existence on the absence of ‘the other,’ every conversation on its existence inspires fear and anxiety,” Kurt said. “The chief difficulty in speaking on the Armenian issue in Turkey lies in this existence-absence dilemma.”



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: Armenian Studies 28th Annual Banquet

DATE: February 18, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State To Hold 28th Annual Banquet, March 5

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 28th Annual Banquet on March 6, 2016 at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno.

This year's Banquet will feature Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, the newly appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and Dr. Honora Chapman, newly appointed Associate Dean of the College.

The Armenian Studies Program is academically based within the College of Arts & Humanities.

More than 45 student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2015-2016 will be recognized at the Banquet. Students who are graduating with a Minor in Armenian Studies will

also be recognized.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, administrators, and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the Program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. followed by the Banquet at 6 p.m.

Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$25 for Fresno State students and Fresno State faculty. Reservations for tables of 10 are also being accepted.

For more information about the Banquet, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 or visit the website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CA  
 SUBJECT: Umit Kurt on Turkish Denial at Fresno State

DATE: February 17, 2016  
 PAGE: 1 of 1

## Turkish Historian Umit Kurt: Denial of Armenian Genocide Based on Lost 'sense of reality'

By Razi Syed

Turkish historian Umit Kurt recalls how he first heard in his early 20s of the Armenian historical presence in his country – a presence the Turkish government has spent decades trying to erase.

After entering an old house that had been turned into a cafe in the city of Aintab, Kurt said, "I saw some weird letters, and I thought they were Arabic or Persian letters because my historic consciousness went back that far – as if there was no Greeks, there was no Armenians, there was no Jews who had lived in this land."

After questioning the owner of the cafe about the history of the building, Kurt was told that it once belonged to Armenians.

Since that experience, Kurt has often written about the appropriation of Armenian land and property by Turks.

Fresno State's monument to the Armenian genocide was unveiled last April. On Wednesday night, Kurt gave a lecture attended by dozens that probed why Turkey still denies that the event happened.

The free lecture, held at Fresno State's Alice Peters Auditorium, was organized by the Armenian Studies Program. This was the third lecture hosted by the program during the spring 2016 semester.

### Some Societies Are Capable to Discuss Their History Openly

Some societies are capable of openly discussing their history, Kurt said. Others struggle "because their past and present is intertwined in a way that causes them to lose their sense of reality," Kurt said. "In Turkish society, this (lost) sense of reality is most obvious in the case of denying, or not acknowledging, the Armenian genocide.

"Confronting the past is a societal problem, rather than an individual one," Kurt said.

Armenian studies professor Sergio La Porta said that because Kurt was raised in Turkey, he had an interesting perspective on Turkish denialism.

During 1915, the Ottoman Turkish army committed massacres of Armenians, Kurt said, and deported many under harsh circumstances that constituted an intentional effort to rid the country of Armenians.

Around 800,000 to 1.5 million Armenians are esti-



Umit Kurt delivering his speech at Fresno State University

mated to have been killed in the genocide.

After the events of World War I, the modern Turkish republic wanted to create a new national identity, Kurt said. In the creation of that new identity, government leaders sought to forget the past and construct a new past, in which "we Turks did not murder Armenians – Armenians murdered us," Kurt said.

This erasure of Armenian history in Turkey occurs from an early age, with textbooks and school curriculum teaching that the genocide – referred to as the "Armenian matter" – is a lie, Kurt said.

"Because Turkey founded its existence on the absence of 'the other,' every conversation on its existence inspires fear and anxiety," Kurt said. "The chief difficulty in speaking on the Armenian issue in Turkey

lies in this existence-absence dilemma.

Because the events that happened to Armenians in 1915 are rarely, if ever, taught in Turkey, Kurt said many Turks are genuinely ignorant of the genocide.

Kurt added that the government of Turkey is also afraid of the reparations and restitution they would have to pay if they accepted that the Turkey's actions in 1915 constituted a genocide.

In response to an audience question, Kurt said it was unlikely the government of Turkey would ever admit to the genocide. "Of course, I hope I'm wrong," he said.

Kurt, born in Turkey, is a doctoral candidate at Clark University in Massachusetts and was a Kazan Research Scholar at Fresno State during the fall 2015 semester.





## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Massis Weekly, Pasadena, CADATE: February 13, 2016SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Ara Sarafian to Lecture on New Edition of “Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story”

FRESNO -- To mark the publication of a new special edition of Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story, Ara Sarafian (Gomidas Institute, London) will speak at 7:30PM on Wednesday, February 17, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

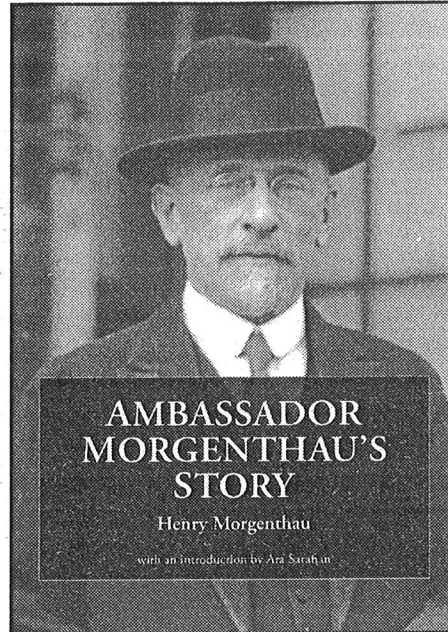
The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

The Armenian Genocide remains one of the seminal events that defined the modern Middle East. It entailed the destruction of thousands of Armenian communities in what became the Turkish Republic. The modern Turkish state was built on such a genocidal legacy, including the denial of such a past.

Starting in the 1980s, Turkish authorities embarked on a concerted forward policy to deny the Armenian Genocide in the United States. One of their objects of denial was the legacy of Henry Morgenthau, the American ambassador to Ottoman Turkey between 1913 and 1916. Morgenthau had much to say about the destruction of Armenians and his memoir, Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story, was a devastating indictment of the Young Turks for such a crime.

The main references in the attack on Morgenthau was a work by Heath Lowry of the Institute of Turkish Studies in Washington DC. According to Lowry, Morgenthau had been an uninformed observer to the fate of Armenians in 1915. He had been duped by Armenian advisers at the American Embassy in Constantinople. He had disseminated false information to others. He had been a racist and a liar whose private papers did not support what he claimed in his later memoirs. Morgenthau had written a false account of events.

Fortunately, we have access to a great deal of archival and published evidence regarding Morgenthau relationship to the Armenian Genocide. This evidence does not support the



denialist assertions made by Heath Lowry and others. It shows Morgenthau in a very favorable light. Indeed, an examination of Heath Lowry’s critique of Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story allows us to create a useful typology of denial as a political exercise within, as well as outside, academia.

In his presentation, Sarafian will provide a clear analysis of how Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story was written in 1918; how it was made into the object of denial; and how deniers of the Armenian Genocide still claim that Morgenthau was an errant witness to the Armenian Genocide.

Ara Sarafian is an archival historian specializing on late Ottoman history. He is the director of the Gomidas Institute, which is a leading research and publication center related to modern Armenian history.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6 with a free parking pass using code 273615.

For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit the ASP website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).





## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Weekly, Watertown, MADATE: February 13, 2016SUBJECT: ASP 28th Annual BanquetPAGE: 1 of 1

## Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State to Hold 28th Annual Banquet

FRESNO, Calif.—On Sun., March 6, the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 28th Annual Banquet at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno.

This year's banquet will feature Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, the newly appointed dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. Honora Chapman, newly appointed associate dean of the college. The Armenian Studies Program is academically based within the College of Arts and Humanities.

More than 50 student recipients of Armenian studies scholarships and grants for 2015-16 will be recognized at the banquet. Students who are graduating with a



minor in Armenian studies will also be recognized.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, administrators, and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. followed by the banquet at

6 p.m. Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$25 for Fresno State students and Fresno State faculty. Reservations for tables of 10 are also being accepted.

For more information, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 or visit [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Umit Kurt at Fresno State

DATE: February 12, 2016

PAGE: 1 of 1 (8B)

# Turkish historian details effects from denial of Armenian genocide

BY RAZI SYED  
rsyed@fresnobee.com

Turkish historian Ümit Kurt recalls how he first heard in his early 20s of the Armenian historical presence in his country – a presence the Turkish government has spent decades trying to erase.

After entering an old house that had been turned into a cafe in the city of Aintab, Kurt said, “I saw some weird letters, and I thought they were Arabic or Persian letters because my historic consciousness went back that far – as if there was no Greeks, there was no Armenians, there was no Jews who had lived in this



Turkish historian Ümit Kurt land.”

After questioning the owner of the cafe about the history of the building, Kurt was told that it once belonged to Armenians.

Since that experience, Kurt has often written about the appropriation of Armenian land and property by Turks.

Fresno State’s monument to the Armenian

genocide was unveiled last April. On Wednesday night, Kurt gave a lecture attended by dozens that probed why Turkey still denies that the event happened.

The free lecture, held at Fresno State’s Alice Peters Auditorium, was organized by the Armenian Studies Program. This was the third lecture hosted by the program during the spring 2016 semester.

Some societies are capable of openly discussing their history, Kurt said. Others struggle “because their past and present is intertwined in a way that causes them to lose their sense of reality,” Kurt said. “In Turkish society, this (lost) sense of reality

is most obvious in the case of denying, or not acknowledging, the Armenian genocide.

“Confronting the past is a societal problem, rather than an individual one,” Kurt said.

Armenian studies professor Sergio La Porta said that because Kurt was raised in Turkey, he had an interesting perspective on Turkish denialism.

During 1915, the Ottoman Turkish army committed massacres of Armenians, Kurt said, and deported many under harsh circumstances that constituted an intentional effort to rid the country of Armenians.

Around 800,000 to 1.5 million Armenians are

estimated to have been killed in the genocide.

After the events of World War I, the modern Turkish republic wanted to create a new national identity, Kurt said. In the creation of that new identity, government leaders sought to forget the past and construct a new past, in which “we Turks did not murder Armenians – Armenians murdered us,” Kurt said.

This erasure of Armenian history in Turkey occurs from an early age, with textbooks and school curriculum teaching that the genocide – referred to as the “Armenian matter” – is a lie, Kurt said.

“Because Turkey founded its existence on the absence of ‘the other,’ every conversation on its existence inspires fear and anxiety,” Kurt said. “The chief difficulty in speaking on the Armenian issue in Turkey lies in this exist-

ence-absence dilemma.”

Because the events that happened to Armenians in 1915 are rarely, if ever, taught in Turkey, Kurt said many Turks are genuinely ignorant of the genocide.

Kurt added that the government of Turkey is also afraid of the reparations and restitution they would have to pay if they accepted that Turkey’s actions in 1915 constituted a genocide.

In response to an audience question, Kurt said it was unlikely the government of Turkey would ever admit to the genocide. “Of course, I hope I’m wrong,” he said.

Kurt is a doctoral candidate at Clark University in Massachusetts and was a Kazan Research Scholar at Fresno State during the fall 2015 semester.

Razi Syed: 559-441-6679, @razisyed



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA

SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno State

DATE: February 11, 2016

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno State on New Edition of 'Ambassador Morgenthau's Story'

FRESNO -To mark the publication of a new special edition of Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, Ara Sarafian (Gomidas Institute, London) will speak at 7:30PM on February 17, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

The Armenian Genocide remains one of the seminal events that defined the modern Middle East.

Starting in the 1980s, Turkish authorities embarked on a concerted forward policy to deny the Armenian Genocide in the United States. One of their objects of denial was the legacy of Henry Morgenthau, the American ambassador to Ottoman Turkey between 1913 and 1916. Morgenthau had much to say about the destruction of Armenians and his memoir, Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, was a devastating indictment of the Young Turks for such a crime.

The main reference in the attack on Morgenthau was a work by Heath Lowry of the Institute of Turkish Studies in Washington DC. According to Lowry, Morgenthau had been an uninformed observer to the fate of Armenians in 1915. He had been duped by

Armenian advisers at the American Embassy in Constantinople. He had disseminated false information to others. He had been a racist and a liar whose private papers did not support what he claimed in his later memoirs. Morgenthau had written a false account of events.

Fortunately, there is access to a great deal of archival and published evidence regarding Morgenthau relationship to the Armenian Genocide. This evidence does not support the denialist assertions made by Lowry and others. It shows Morgenthau in a very favorable light. Indeed, an examination of Lowry's critique of Ambassador Morgenthau's Story allows us to create a useful typology of denial as a political exercise within, as well as outside, academia.

Sarafian is an archival historian specializing on late Ottoman history. He is the director of the Gomidas Institute, which is a leading research and publication center related to modern Armenian history.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6 with a free parking pass using code 273615.

For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit the ASP website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Nor Or Weekly, Altadena, CA  
SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno State

DATE: February 11, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

*Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno*  
**Ara Sarafian to speak at Fresno State on the publication of a new edition of "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story"**

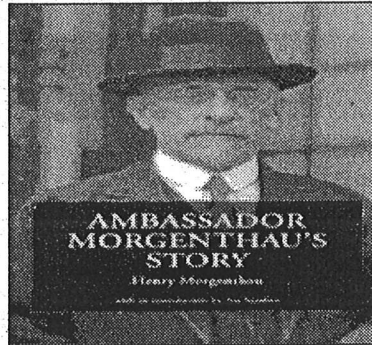
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In his presentation, Sarafian will provide a clear analysis of how *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* was written in 1918; how it was made into the object of denial; and how deniers of the Armenian Genocide still claim that Morgenthau was an errant witness to the Armenian Genocide.

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## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CADATE: February 10, 2016SUBJECT: Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno StatePAGE: 1 of 1

## Ara Sarafian to Speak at Fresno State on the New Edition of "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story", February 17

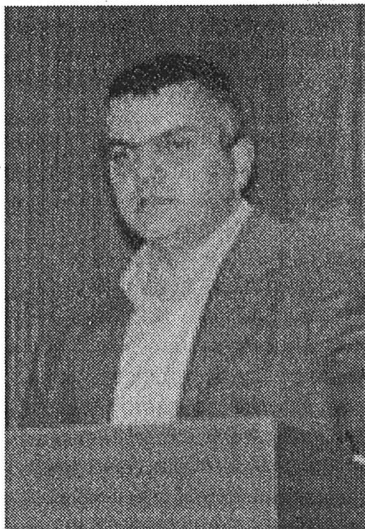
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The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available at Fresno State Lots P5 and P6 with a free parking pass using code 273615.

For more information please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit the ASP website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies)





ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA

DATE: Feb. 4, 2016

SUBJECT: Umit Kurt Lecture on Turkish Denial of Genocide

PAGE: 1 of 1

## Ümit Kurt to Address 'Why Does Turkey Deny the Armenian Genocide?' at CSUF

FRESNO - "Why Does Turkey Deny the Armenian Genocide?" will be addressed in a talk by Clark University doctoral candidate Ümit Kurt at 7:30PM on February 10, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is the third in the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2016 Lecture Series, with the support of the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

One of the most important—and possibly the most sensitive—landmarks of modern Turkish history and the formation of Turkey's political and socio-cultural climate is the Armenian Genocide. This issue is a taboo in Turkish political history. The question widely asked is "Why does Turkey deny the Armenian Genocide?"

This question should be examined at two levels: state and society. It is correct to say that there has been a strong state denialism of the Armenian Genocide in Tur-



key. In this lecture, Kurt will analyze societal dimensions of Turkish denialism of Armenian genocide and also explore the reasons behind Turkey's inability to come to terms with its past.

Ümit Kurt is a PhD. Candidate at Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program in the History Department of Clark University and completing his dissertation. He has written extensively on confiscation of Armenian properties, Armenian Genocide, early modern Turkish nationalism, and Aintab Armenians. He is the author of the Great, hopeless Turkish race: fundamentals of Turkish nationalism in the Turkish homeland 1911-1916 (Istanbul: İletişim Publishing House, 2012) and editor of the Revolt and Destruction: Construction of the state from Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic and collective violence (Istanbul: Tarih Vakfı Publishing House, 2015). He teaches history at Sabancı University in Istanbul and is the author, with Taner Akçam, of The spirit of the laws: the plunder of wealth in the Armenian Genocide (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2015).

The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking is available, with a parking code, in Fresno State Lots P5 and P6, near the University Business Center. For information about the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, or visit our website at [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer, Los Angeles, CADATE: Feb. 3, 2016SUBJECT: ASP 28th Annual BanquetPAGE: 1 of 1**Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State to hold 28th Annual Banquet on March 6**

The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 28th Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno.

This year's Banquet will feature Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, the newly appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and Dr. Honora Chapman, newly appointed Associate Dean of the College. The Armenian Studies Program is academically based within the College of Arts & Humanities.

More than forty-five student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2015-2016 will be recognized at the Banquet. Students who are graduating with a Mi-

nor in Armenian Studies will also be recognized.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, administrators, and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the Program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5:00PM followed by the Banquet at 6:00PM.

Tickets are available at \$50 per person, with a special price of \$25 for Fresno State students and Fresno State faculty. Reservations for tables of 10 are also being accepted.

For more information about the Banquet, please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 or visit our website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The California Courier, Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: Dr. George Bournoutian at Fresno State

DATE: January, 2016  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. Bournoutian to Speak Jan. 28 at CSUF On 'Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia'

FRESNO - Dr. George Bournoutian, senior professor of Middle Eastern and East European history at Iona College of New York will present a lecture on "Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia" at 7:30 PM on January 28, at the Fresno State campus' University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Rm. 191

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State and the AGBU of Fresno.

Following the murder of Russian Ambassador Griboedov and the massacre of the entire Russian Legation, save one, by an angry mob, in 1829, in Tehran, the government of Iran dispatched a mission with an official apology from the Shah to Tsar Nicholas I.

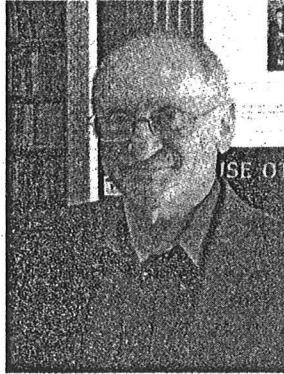
The mission, headed by Khosrow Mirza, the 16-year-old seventh son of Crown Prince Abbas Mirza, left Iran in early May, 1829 and returned on February 27, 1830, after successfully accomplishing its task.

Dr. Bournoutian will discuss the ten-month activities of the mission, and its travels from Tabriz to Yerevan, Tiflis, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. One member of the Iranian mission kept a diary of the trip, and Bournoutian has made the first English translation, with annotations, of the diary. His book, *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829*, was published in 2014.

Dr. Bournoutian will discuss the importance of these archival materials and also discuss how this period in history ultimately leads to the formation of the first Armenian Republic in 1918.

Dr. Bournoutian received the first Ph.D. in Armenian History from UCLA in 1976. He has been called the foremost authority on Eastern Armenia from the 16th to the 19th centuries and is the author of 30 books and numerous articles.

His book, "The Concise History of the Armenian People," currently in its 6th edition, has sold over 20,000 copies and has been translated into Spanish, Arabic,



Turkish, Russian, and Armenian. A Japanese version is due soon and a Persian translation is due in late 2016.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking will be available in Lots 5 and P6 with parking code 273601. For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or go to its website at [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).