

# Understanding Genocides

## The Genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

Organized by The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, The American University of Paris

At The American Church in Paris

65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**17.30-19.30 Screening of *The Promise***, by Terry George, 2016, The American University of Paris, 6 rue du colonel Combes

19.30-20.00 Discussion on the documentary

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**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

09.30-10.00 arrival and welcome at The American Church, 65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris

**10.00-10.15 Introduction: Brian Schiff (AUP)**

**10.15-11.00 Keynote: Raymond Kévorkian** (Université Paris 8): “Détruire pour construire: pour une approche élargie du génocide des Arméniens/Destroying to Build: A Widened Approach to the Armenian Genocide” (In French, with a translation into English)

**11.00-12.30 Panel 1. Spoliations, Destructions and Ruins**

**Mehmet Polatel** (USC Shoah Foundation fellow): “Tracing Continuities between the Hamidian Massacres and the Armenian Genocide: An Analysis focusing on Actors and Material Interests”

**Ümit Kurt** (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute fellow): “Making an Elite on the Ottoman Periphery: Robbing the Armenians of Aintab”

**Dawid Low** (AGBU Nubar Library): “Photographs of Ruin, The Ruin of Photographs, The Photograph as Ruin”

12.30-14.00 lunch break

#### **14.00-15.30 Panel 2. The Social Reconstruction of Armenian Victims**

**Fatma Müge Göçek** (University of Michigan): “Intersectionality and the Armenian Genocide”

**Lerna Ekmekçioğlu** (MIT Center for International Studies): “Human Breeding Requires a Womb: Why We Can’t Understand Genocide and Aftermath without Gender”

**Talin Suciyan** (LMU Munich): “Armenians in Post-Genocide Turkey after 1923: A History from Sources Produced by Survivors”

16.00-16.15 break

#### **16.15-17.45 Panel 3. The Writings of Armenian Victims: Diaries, Testimonies, Literature**

**Vahé Tachjian** (Houshamadyan, Berlin): “The Use of Microhistory in Studying the Armenian Genocide: Challenges and Perspectives”

**Boris Adjemian** (AGBU Nubar Library): “The Gathering of Armenian Victims’ Testimonies after World War I and their Uses in the Historiography of the Armenian Genocide”

**Valentina Calzolari** (University of Geneva): “The Armenian Survivor Writers and the Literature on the *Medz Yeghern*, 1917-1924. A Comparative Approach with Shoah and Gulag Literature and a Gendered Approach”

**18.00 Cocktail**, The American University of Paris, 6 rue du colonel Combes, Amex Café

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Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

**09.30-11.00 Panel 4. Two Wars, Two Genocides: The Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust**

**Hamit Bozarslan** (EHESS-CESPRA): “The Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and Social Darwinism”

**Stefan Ihrig** (University of Haifa): “The Original Sin of Europe’s Dark 20th Century – (Re)Integrating the Armenian Genocide into European and World History”

**Hans-Lukas Kieser** (University of Zurich): “Talaat Pasha Inaugurated Europe’s Age of Genocide: From the Armenians and the Lausanne Treaty (1923) to Nazi Demographic Engineering and the Shoah”

11.00-11.15 break

**11.15-13.15 Panel 5. Law and Genocide: Public Opinion and Denial**

**Mikaël Nicheanian** (BNF/CNRS): “After the Genocide: The Constantinople Trials and the Armenian Question in Ottoman public Opinion in 1919”

**Alexandra Garbarini** (Williams College) “Armenian Victims in a Berlin Courtroom: The Trial of Soghomon Tehlirian”

**Vincent Duclert** (EHESS-CESPRA): “Thinking Denial between Law and History. French Case and International Issues”

**Sévane Garibian** (Unige): “Genocide Denial and the Law after the *Perinçek v. Switzerland* Case”

13.15-14.30 lunch break

**14.30-16.00 Panel 6. Contemporary Memory, Culture and Politics**

**Heghnar Zeitlian-Watenpaugh** (University of California, Davis): “The Armenian Genocide and the Destruction of Culture: The *Zeytun Gospels*, a Survivor Object”

**Harutyun Marutyan** (National Academy of Sciences of Armenia/Armenian Genocide Museum - Institute Foundation): “The Peculiarities of the Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide in Present-Day Armenia”

**Ronald G. Suny** (University of Michigan), “The Persistence of the Past: Erdoğan’s Turkey, the Armenian Genocide, and the Struggle over Kurdistan”

16.00-16.15 break

**16.15-17.00 Conclusion: Stephan H. Astourian** (University of California-Berkeley): “*Minima Moralia*: Reflections on Armenian Genocide Studies, the Genocide, and its Aftermath”

**17.00-19.00 Screening of *Intent to Destroy: Death, Denial and Depiction***, by Joe Berlinger, 2017, at The American University of Paris, 6 rue du colonel Combes

**19.00-19.30** Discussion on the documentary

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Scientific committee: Stephan H. Astourian, Hamit Bozarslan, Vincent Duclert, Raymond Kévorkian, Ronald G. Suny, Yves Ternon.

Organizing committee: Caitlin Bertin-Mahieux, Constance Pâris de Bollardière, Brian Schiff