

Armeno -indica

FOUR CENTURIES OF TOGETHERNESS AND FAMILIARITY

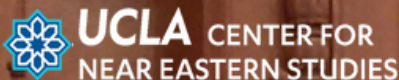
MARCH 17 & 18, 2023 | UCLA ROYCE HALL 314 & FOWLER MUSEUM

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Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in
UCLA Modern Armenian History

Fowler
MUSEUM AT UCLA



USCDornsife
Institute of Armenian Studies



about

Mausoleums at Catholic-Armenian Cemetery in Agra India from Early 17th Century – Photo by Sebouh-David Aslanian

Postponed due to the pandemic, this international conference celebrates the bicentenary of the founding of Kolkata's famed Armenian College (est. 1821), one of three centers of Armenian higher learning in the diaspora during the nineteenth century and the only one that has survived and is thriving today. Bringing together economic, literary, legal, and cultural historians from India, Armenia, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States, the conference highlights how, beginning in the early modern period and continuing to the present, Armenians have traveled to India to make its distant shores and cultures their own. India looms large in the Armenian social imaginary. It was not only the place where the first Armenian proto-constitution for an "imagined" nation-republic was published (Madras 1788/9), it was also the cradle of the first Armenian newspaper (Madras, 1794-1796), the first modern Armenian play (Calcutta 1823), and arguably also where the first Eastern Armenian novel appeared (Calcutta, 1846), as well as where the first Armenian "feminist" tract (Calcutta, 1847) was published.

Gathering an international group of scholars, *Armeno-Indica* explores the Indo-Armenian saga in South Asia from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries. Themes to be explored include the connected economic, literary, legal, and political histories of Armenians and Indians in South Asia and beyond across the waters of the Indian Ocean. The keynote for the conference will be delivered by Professor Sanjay Subrahmanyam.

program

Day 1: Friday, March 17, 2023
UCLA Royce Hall, 314

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Check in and Welcoming Remarks 10:00AM – 10:30AM (PT)

CHECK IN

AMY LANDAU & ANN KARAGOZIAN
Welcoming Remarks

SEBOUH DAVID ASLANIAN
Introduction to the Conference

Panel 1 10:30AM – 12:30PM (PT)

TRADE, LAW, AND GO-BETWEENS

SANTANU SENGUPTA
Negotiating with Law: Phases of Armenian Interaction with the Early Colonial Law Courts in India

XABIER LAMIKIZ
Armenian Merchants from Madras in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Manila: A Story of Love and Hate

RUQUIA HUSSAIN
Of Sarhad and Calcutta: The English East India Company, Khwāja Israel di Sarhad and the Foundation of Modern Calcutta

SONA TAJIRYAN
"Concerning the Trade of Pearls in India" and How to Value Them: An Early Armenian Gem Merchant's View on the Accounting of Pearls

GLENN PENNY
Chair and Discussant

Lunch Break: Balcony of Royce 306 12:30PM – 1:30PM (PT)

Panel 2

1:30PM – 3:00PM (PT)

LANGUAGE AND LITERARY REVIVAL

AHONA PANDA

Ajab Shahar Calcutta: The Outsider in the Bengal Renaissance

TALAR CHAHINIAN

Mobilizing Subjectivity in the Practice of the Nation: T'aghideants's Case for Women's Education

PETER COWE

Intertextuality and Innovation: Mesrop T'aghideants' and his Experimentation with the Novel Genre in Comparative Perspective

HOURI BERBERIAN

Chair and Discussant

Coffee Break

3:00PM – 3:15PM (PT)

Panel 3

3:15PM – 5:00PM (PT)

ARMENIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY AND PRINT CULTURE IN MADRAS

MARTIN ADAMIAN

Mesrovb J. Seth, Father of Indo-Armenian Historiography

ANNA SIRINIAN

Azdarar, the First Armenian Periodical (Madras, 1794-1796)

HASMIK KIRAKOSYAN

Harut'iwn Shmavonean, an Armenian Printer-Publisher in Madras and a *Farman* for Printing in Arabic Script in Madras

NILE GREEN

Chair and Discussant

Panel 4

5:00PM – 6:30PM (PT)

HISTORY IN THE PRESENT

ARMEN ARSLANIAN

The Armenian Church of Dhaka (Bangladesh) and the Task of Heritage Preservation

VACHAGAN TADEVOSYAN

The Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy of Calcutta/Kolkata

SATENIK CHOOKASZIAN

Sargis Katchadourian's Artistic Reproductions of India's Cultural Gems from the Collection of National Gallery of Armenia

ARMEN BAIBOURTIAN

Chair and Discussant

Dinner

7:00PM – 9:00PM (PT)

FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AT PROFESSOR ASLANIAN'S HOME



Mausoleums at Catholic-Armenian Cemetery in Agra India from Early 17th Century
- Photo by Sebouh David Aslanian



Day 2: Saturday, March 18, 2023
UCLA Fowler Museum, Lenart Hall

Check in & Welcoming Remarks 11:30AM – 12:00PM (PT)

CHECK IN

AMY LANDAU, SHUSHAN KARAPETIAN, AND ROUPEN BERBERIAN
Welcoming Remarks

Panel 1 12:00PM – 2:00PM (PT)

MONUMENTS, PATRONAGE, AND INDO-PERSIANATE IDENTITIES

SEBOUH DAVID ASLANIAN

Cemeteries as Heterotopias: Armenian Sepulchral Culture in Agra and Surat, or What the Dead Can Tell Us About the Living

TALINN GRIGOR

"Transimperial" Strategies of Artistic Patronage: From New Julfan Merchants to Parsi Industrialists

VERONIKA ZABLOTSKY

Orientalism and the Making of the Armenian Diasporic Imaginary in Early Colonial India

PETER COWE

Chair and Discussant

Panel 2 2:00PM – 3:30PM (PT)

**THE HISTORICAL IMAGINATION AND THE CIRCULATION OF
REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS IN LATE 18TH CENTURY SOUTH INDIA**

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

Portfolio Capitalism and History-Writing in Hagop Simonean Ayubeants' *Life of Haydar Ali Khan*, c. 1782-1795

AYAL AMER

Fitna and Patriotism in Late 18th-Century Madras

SATENIG BATWAGAN-TOUFANIAN

The Snare of Glory: A Call for Liberation from Madras

SEBOUH DAVID ASLANIAN

Chair and Discussant

Intermission in Courtyard 3:30PM – 4:40PM (PT)

keynote 4:40PM – 5:40PM (PT)
SANJAY SUBRAHMANYAM

Armenians and Others in Mughal Surat: Rethinking Communities, Collaboration and Conflict

Music, Food, Drinks on the Terrace 6:00PM – 7:30PM (PT)