



Armenians being led away by armed guards from Harpoot, where the educated and the influential of the city were selected to be massacred at the nearest suitable site, May 1915. Foto by [Armin T. Wegner](#), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

IMAGINING THE PAST: ATROCITY, TRAUMA, AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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Pulitzer Prize winning poet and author Peter Balakian will discuss how he has worked through filaments of Armenian history to create an inventive body of literature. He will explore how his work has moved across generations in his writing both poetry and memoir about the Armenian Genocide. How can a past historical event be transformed by the linguistic frequencies of literary imagination in the American present? Balakian will discuss how various family figures and ancestors have provided a grounding for his work; his great-great uncle, Krikoris Balakian (Bishop in the Armenian Church), was one of the 250 cultural leaders arrested on April 25, 1915 at the onset of the Genocide, and his grandmother Nafina Aroosian, who was a Genocide survivor along with her two young daughters, endured a harrowing death march into the Syrian desert.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 | 7:00 PM PT

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PETER BALAKIAN, PH.D.

Pulitzer Prize winning poet and New York Times Best Selling author; Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor in Humanities, Professor of English, Colgate University



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