

THE ARARAT ESKIJIAN MUSEUM AND THE ARMENIAN DRESS AND TEXTILE PROJECT PRESENT

1860 Gesaria (Kayseri) to Los Angeles 2022: Mapping Culture & Sharing Stories

Featuring Mid-19th century Armenian life and cultural history in the newly translated memoir of Setrak Timourian and his family's migration from Gesaria (Kayseri) to Los Angeles



Gesaria (Kayseri) circa 1912. Tina Demijian collection

International Conference and Exhibit
February 26-27th, 2022

Ararat Home of Los Angeles
Conference— Sheen Chapel
Exhibition— George Deukmejian Community Center
15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, CA 91345



This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Visit www.calhum.org



Early 19th century silk rug
Timourian family collection
Courtesy of Nazelie Elmassian

PROGRAM: Saturday, February 26th, 2022

1:30 — 6:00 pm (PST)



**Opening Remarks and Moderator
Session I, II:
Dr. Vahram Shemmassian**

A professor and the director of the Armenian Studies Program at the California State University, Northridge. He holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Los Angeles. His book, *The Armenians of Musa Dagh: From Obscurity to Genocide Resistance and Fame, 1840-1915*, was published 2020 by the Armenian Series of The Press, California State University, Fresno, CA. Another book, *The Musa Dagh Armenians: A Socioeconomic and Cultural History, 1919-1939*, was published in 2015 by the Haygazian University Press, Beirut. He has received several awards for his academic endeavors, dissemination of Armenian culture, and community involvement.

Remarks from the Chairman and Director of Ararat Eskijian Museum

- ◆ Martin Eskijian — Chairman
- ◆ Maggie Mangassarian Goschin — Director

Leaving Behind a Legacy:

(A brief video of Nazelie Elmassian, granddaughter of Setrak Timourian and Nazen Telfeyan).

Session I:

**In Front of the Eyes of the World:
The Memoirs of Setrak Timourian**

(Zoom Presentation) - 1:55 — 2:55 pm (PST)

Speaker: Dr. Vahe Tachjian
Director of Houshamadyan, Germany



Received his doctorate at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. His numerous articles and books examine French colonialism, Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, and refugee issues in the Middle East. He is the project director and the chief editor of the Berlin-based Houshamdyan website, which aims to reconstruct Ottoman Armenians' local history and life stories. *La France en Cilicie et en Haute Mésopotamie* (2004), *Daily Life in the Abyss: Genocide Diaries, 1915-1918* (2017) are among some of his publications.

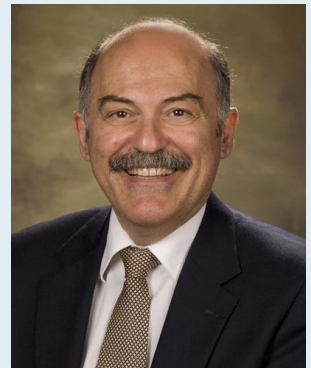


Speaker: Dr. Y. Tolga Cora
(Bogazici University, Istanbul)

An assistant professor at the Department of History, Bogazici University, Istanbul. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2016 and then served as a post-doctoral fellow at the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His research is on the social and economic histories of the Armenian communities with a particular focus on their role in textile and carpet production in the late Ottoman Empire.

Moderator:
Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

The Berberian Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. He is the General editor of the Armenian Series of the Press at California State University, Fresno. As well as a former President of the Society for Armenian Studies.



Session II:

Discovering and Learning through Telfeyan--Timourian Family Textiles and Dresses (1880 Kayseri)

3:00 — 3:45 pm (PST)



Speaker: Dr. Sofi Khachmanyan

Obtained her textile decorating skills in embroidery arts while attending the Art-Technical College in Yerevan, Armenia. While there, she earned the title of “Master Folk Artist of Embroidery Arts”. She followed up by earning an Associates Degree in Fashion Design from FIDM (1991-1993), a Bachelor of Arts (2005) and a Master of Arts (2008) in Fashion Design and Textiles at the California State University, Los Angeles.

Followed by a Ph.D. on Philosophy in Arts from the Institute of Arts Pre-Academy of Science in Armenia. Sofi’s dissertation topic was on the Symbolology of Catholicos’ Vestments and their Iconography in the Armenian Medieval Manuscript Painting. Starting in 1999, she taught hands on and lecture classes on fashion design, costume making, textiles, history and garment construction at The Art Institute of California—Hollywood. Since 2006, she teaches pattern drafting, sewing, draping and apparel production classes at the Santa Monica City College. She is currently working on a book based on her doctoral thesis.

Intermission: 3:45 — 4:00pm

Session III:

Bringing Stories to Life: One Bokja at a Time

4:05 — 5:05 pm (PST)

The Armenian Dress and Textile Project team discusses their 20 year process of discovery, documentation, and delivery of stories, anecdotes, and the healing of knowing where you come from and how material culture can shape the identity of an individual and a community.

Speaker: Tina Demirdjian

A published poet who has taught poetry for 30 years in Los Angeles in K-12 schools, businesses, organizations, and museums. Tina is passionate about creating impact and strengthening communities through poetry, story and the power of finding common ground. She is the author of *IMPRINT*, her first collection of poetry, and is a contributing author in *Birthmark: A Bilingual Anthology of Armenian-American Poetry*. Tina is the recipient of multiple awards including two artist-in-residence grants from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and an artist grant from the Durfee Foundation. Tina is not only a Board Member of the Brand Library & Art Center, but also the Founder of the Armenian Dress and Textile Project. She shares the role of Co-director in this collective initiative aimed to educate the public, allow visitors an opportunity to reflect on their own stories and to address the significance of where they come from.



Speaker: Dr. Mary MacGregor-Villarreal

A PhD in Folklore and Mythology from UCLA and has worked on folklife and oral history projects at various museums and cultural centers in California. While working as a traditional arts consultant for the Alliance for California Traditional Arts, she reviewed the exhibit “Two Sisters and Their Dowries” and was impressed by the work and commitment of the Armenian Dress and Textile Project members. She later joined the group helping to document the Telfeyan family’s treasures and record their oral history.



Speaker: Dr. Carol Tuntland

Spent her life as an adventurer from North Dakota, an Air Force wife, a mother to a college professor of fashion and textiles at California State University, Los Angeles. Research for the ADTP Project began in 1998, when she first examined the textiles and garments from the Telfeyan family. Her background is in Home Economics—BS from North Dakota State University, MS from California State University, Long Beach, and a EDD from Pepperdine University in Institutional Management. Now retired, she enjoys traveling the world and family activities. She is co-author of *The Textiles Handbook* with Dr. Rebecca Davis and recently published *Henrietta: Promises in the Sky!*, her mother’s story. She is working on her father’s World War II adventures in the South Pacific.

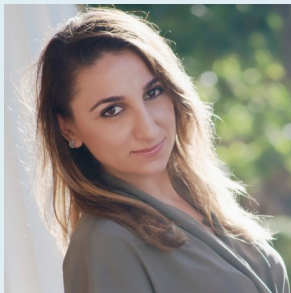


Moderator: Dr. Carla Garapedian

An award-winning documentary filmmaker and a Board member of the Armenian Film Foundation. Through her life's work, she continues to spread awareness of current and historical issues around the world. She was the first American to anchor BBC World News and was the London correspondent for CNBC and an occasional reporter for NBC News.



She is well-known for her award-winning film, *Screamers*, released in 2006, and was screened in the U.S. Congress, British Parliament, Canadian Parliament, European Parliament, and the United Nations (UNHCR) as well as many universities. The film has been translated into 12 languages. She has also worked on the documentation of the Armenian Film Foundation.



Zoom Moderator: Sedda Antekelian

Sedda is an active volunteer at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, serving as its Assistant Director, since 2020. Sedda is currently the Program Specialist at USC Shoah Foundation and doctoral candidate of USC Rossier's Global Executive Doctor of Education program. As an educator for over 10 years, Sedda also dedicates time as a board member of the Museum Educators of Southern California and Vice Chair on the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region, Education Committee. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from UC Irvine and Bachelor of Arts in History and Humanities from Loyola Marymount University.

Session IV:

The Cultural Roots of Folk Medicine in Armenia and its Implications for Healthcare Today

5:10—5:45 pm (PST)

Speaker: Dr. Carolann Najarian M.D.

As a native New Yorker, she has spent a major part of her medical career in private practice in Cambridge and Watertown, Massachusetts. In 1988, in response to the earthquake in Armenia she founded the Armenian Health Alliance, Inc., through which she delivered medical relief making over fifty trips to Armenia and to Artsakh.



In addition, she introduced the concept of primary care to Armenia and by 1994, she established the Primary Care Center of Gyumri. In 1995, at the request of health officials in Artsakh, she established the Arpen Center for Expectant Mothers (providing food, clothing, and vitamins to pregnant women) to encourage births. Dr. Najarian earned her M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine, '80, and an MSc in Medical Anthropology from Brunel University, London, '04. Her thesis for the latter was on the cultural influences on medical care in post-Soviet Armenia. She holds a BA in Music from Queens College, New York and is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. She wrote *A Call from Home; Armenia and Karabagh, My Journal*, chronicling her experiences in Armenia and Artsakh, prepared and edited *Avedis' Journey*, her father's memoir, and sponsored the *Armenian Legionnaires*, written by Susan Pattie. She has received numerous awards over the years including the Vachakan Barepasht Medal, in 2019.

Moderator: Dr. Arto Vaun

Executive Director of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives



A musician, poet, and the Executive Director of Project SAVE Photograph Archives. He was formerly the Director of the Center for Creative Writing at the American University of Armenia and Chair of the English and Communications BA Program. He has also taught at UMass Boston and the University of Glasgow.

PROGRAM: Sunday, February 27th, 2022
1:30 – 6:30 pm (PST)



Opening Remarks and Moderator
Session I, II and III:
Dr. Ann Karagozian

The Inaugural Director of The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, where she is also a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. The Promise Armenian Institute is a hub for world-class research and teaching on Armenian Studies, and for coordinating research and public impact programs across UCLA and with the Republic of Armenia and the diaspora. Professor Karagozian is also a UC representative on the Board of Trustees of the American University of Armenia, which operates under the auspices of the University of California. Her scholarly research and teaching lie in fluid mechanics and combustion as applied to energy and propulsion systems. She is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering and has served on the US Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

Session I:

The Market as a Means of Post-Violence Recovery: Armenians and Oriental Carpets in the Late Ottoman Empire

Zoom Presentation 1:40 – 2:25 pm (PST)

Speaker: Dr. Y. Tolga Cora
Bogazici University,
Istanbul, Turkey



Zoom Moderator: Marc A. Mamigonian



The director of Academic Affairs of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, where he has worked for the past 24 years. He is the editor of the volume *The Armenians of New England*, and the co-author, with John N. Turner, of annotated editions of James Joyce's novels, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Ulysses*. His work has appeared in the *James Joyce Quarterly*, *Genocide Studies International*, *The Armenian Review* and the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*.

Session II:

The Use of Natural Dyes in the Armenian Highlands and the Socio-Cultural Differences in Their Use in Different Textiles

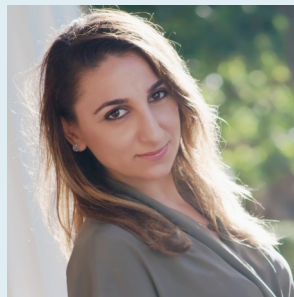
Zoom Presentation 2:30 – 3:15 pm (PST)



Speaker: Artur Telfeyan
Austria

Born on February 4th, 1970 in Istanbul, Turkey to a family of rug merchants. His father, Kevork is the founder of the rug company called 'Georg & Aznif' in Vienna. In the 1830s, Movses Telfeyan, a great grandfather of Artur had a rug production and wool and silk dyeing factory in Kayseri. After graduation from economic School in Vienna, Artur started working in Zürich, Switzerland at the largest wholesaler 'Oundjian SA'. He then worked for several years during the summer holidays at his father's shop. After 1990, it was a regular working. Coming back to Vienna, Artur decided to start studying Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology in Vienna University. His studies Business Administration, was focused on Marketing and Sales. Since 1990, Artur is working in the rug business and has done extensive researches in Caucasian rugs and textiles of the Bakuba (Raphia Textiles in the Republic of Congo). With that, Artur had the chance of working together with many theoretical and practical experts on this topic. Since 2010, Artur is an Expert on Oriental Rugs, Kilims and Embroideries for Juridical Affairs to the Ministry of Justice in Austria.

Zoom Moderator:
Sedda Antekelian



Session III:

Made by These Unworthy Hands: The Armenian Silversmiths of Kayseri Zoom Presentation 3:20 – 4:10 pm (PST)



Speaker: Dr. Sylvie Merian
Morgan Library Museum
New York

The 17th -18th century workshop of Armenian silversmiths of Kayseri, specialists of silver liturgical objects, existed for almost a century. Dr. Sylvie L. Merian, scholar, and Reader Services Librarian at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York, will present an illustrated lecture about these silversmiths, the techniques they used to make their products, and the sources of inspiration for their work. These included Armenian manuscript illumination, Dutch woodcuts reproduced in Armenian-language and Dutch-language books, as well as other surprising sources. The talk will feature dozens of examples of these splendid objects now found in collections worldwide.

Received her Bachelor of Sciences degree from the University of Pittsburgh with a double major in chemistry and art history, and her Ph.D. in Armenian Studies from Columbia University, writing a dissertation titled “The Structure of Armenian Bookbinding and Its Relation to Near Eastern Bookmaking Traditions.” As Curatorial Assistant, she contributed extensively to the Pierpont Morgan Library’s 1994 exhibition, Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts, and was a contributor to the accompanying catalogue. She has also contributed to numerous books and exhibition catalogues on Armenian manuscripts, most recently to the catalogue for the 2018 exhibition, Armenia!, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She has published and lectured on Armenian codicology, binding, silverwork, and manuscript illumination, and currently works at The Morgan Library & Museum as Reader Services Librarian.

Intermission: 4:10—4:25 pm

**Session IV:
Kayseri Folk Medicine
4:30—4:50 pm (PST)**

**Moderator
Session IV, V, VI:
Dr. S. Peter Cowe**



A Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Center for World Languages at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research interests include Late Antique and medieval Armenian intellectual history, the Armenian kingdom and state formation across the medieval Mediterranean, Muslim-Christian dialogue, and modern Armenian nationalism. The author of five books in the field and editor of ten, he is the past co-editor of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*. He has served on the executive board of the Society for Armenian Studies and Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes. A recipient of the Garbis Papazian award for Armenology, he has been inducted into the Accademia Ambrosiana, Milan, and awarded a doctorate honoris causa by the Russian-Armenian University of Armenia.

Author:
Adom Boudjikianian, Ph.D pharm

Presenter:
Dr. S. Peter Cowe



PhD in pharmacy (Doctorat d'état Français en pharmacie) from Université Claude Bernard in Lyon, France. The thesis subject was "The biochemical study of *Fibigia eriocarpa*" a plant used to treat urolithiasis and spasms in folk medicine in some Near Eastern countries. Of the same university, he obtained two graduate degrees: Toxicology and Galenical pharmacy (pharmaceuticals). He started a career in the pharmaceutical industry in 1974 at Ciba-Geigy's Middle Eastern plant, Mephico (Lebanon). He continued for 17 years at Ciba, as head of pharmaceutical development and pharmaceutical analytics. In parallel to this function, he taught for 14 years as lecturer (pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry) and then full professor of pharmacognosy at the Université Saint Joseph's Faculty of pharmacy in Beirut. He was member of the Anti-poisoning commission in this country. Upon arrival in Montreal in 1991, Boudjikianian continued his pharmaceutical R & D career in Montreal's Ciba-Geigy lab, until the closure of the latter in 1998. Since then, he continued to work in this field. He retired 6 years ago of his last pharmaceutical R & D managerial position at Church and Dwight Canada. Presently he is consultant in the fields of his expertise, publishes online articles in Houshamadyan on ethno pharmacy/medicine and writes reviews on concerts, in the Armenian community of Montreal.

Session V:
The Midwife of Aintab:
The Life and Legacy of Siphora Shnorhokian (1864-1940)
4:55 — 5:50 pm (PST)

Speaker:
Dr. Khatchig Mouradian
New York



The Armenian and Georgian Specialist at the Library of Congress and a lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University.

He also serves as Co-Principal Investigator of the project on Armenian Genocide Denial at the Global Institute for Advanced Studies, New York University. Mouradian is the author of *The Resistance Network: The Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1918*, published in 2021. The book has received the Syrian Studies Association “Honorable Mention 2021.” In 2020, Mouradian was awarded a Humanities War & Peace Initiative Grant from Columbia University.

Session VI:
Special Poetry Reading
5:55 — 6:25 pm (PST)



Poet: Tina Demirdjian

Dr. Tina Demirdjian will recite poetry inspired by her ancestors. The story begins before any of us were born, when thread was first discovered and doweries were offered. If we could reach that far back that sowed itself into us.

Closing Remarks by Dr. S. Peter Cowe

**We thank the following individuals and organizations
for their generosity in supporting this conference**

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