

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND
RESEARCH / CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION
LECTURE SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES
Presents a Panel Discussion

BILINGUALISM: CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF LEARNING AND LIVING IN MULTIPLE WORLDS

CO-SPONSORED BY ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE
HARVARD ARMENIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

Soccer or Saturday School? Parents in diasporic communities routinely grapple with the challenge of carving out time for their children to engage with and experience their ancestral cultures. This panel discussion will discuss the value of bilingual education, looking at experiences of other ethnic communities in the U.S. and around the world, with a particular focus on the specificities of the Armenian experience, including the special challenges facing Western Armenian, which has been classified as an "endangered language," the fruitful cohabitation of Western and Eastern Armenian, and the specific challenges of researching and teaching the Armenian language.

Join us for this discussion, led by moderator **Dr. Anna Ohanyan** (Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College) and featuring:

- **Dr. Lisa Gulesserian** (Preceptor on Armenian Studies, Harvard University)
- **Dr. Vartan Matiossian** (Executive Director, Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church)
- **Dr. María Luisa Parra-Velasco** (Senior Preceptor in Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University)

In recognition of the increased attention to these and related issues, portions of the St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School documentary *Armenian Bilingualism in America: Preserving Language & Identity* will be shown and copies of the volume *Western Armenian in the 21st Century: Challenges and New Approaches*, edited by Bedross Der Matossian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, published by the Society for Armenian Studies, will be available for purchase.

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