

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH /  
CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION  
LECTURE SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES  
AND  
THE ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' ASSOCIATION  
PRESENT

***A LITERARY RENEGADE:  
ZAREH VORPOUNI AND TWENTIETH-CENTURY  
WESTERN ARMENIAN LITERATURE IN FRANCE***  
**by Jennifer Manoukian**

**Thursday, May 25, 2017, 7:30 p.m.  
NAASR Center, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA**

In the 1920s and 1930s, a group of young writers turned Paris into the epicenter of Western Armenian literary life. These writers deliberately broke with their Ottoman Armenian predecessors in theme and form, staging an outright rebellion against them. Their invention of new literary standards and their impulse to represent the new realities of the diaspora challenged the conservatism of the Armenian community and created a fleeting period in which interrogations of nationalism, clericalism, and sexuality became the norm in literature.

This presentation will focus on the life and work of one of the least known, yet most prolific, of these writers: Zareh Vorpouni, focusing on his 1967 novel *The Candidate*, recently translated into English for the first time.

Jennifer Manoukian is a translator of Western Armenian literature and will begin her doctoral program at UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures in fall 2017. She received her master's degree from the Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University and her bachelor's degree from the Departments of French and Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers University. Her first translation—*The Gardens of Silihdar*, the memoir of Ottoman Armenian writer Zabel Yessayan—was published in 2014 and her second—*The Candidate* by Zareh Vorpouni, a co-translation with Ishkhan Jinbashian—was published in 2016.

*Admission free (donations appreciated). Doors open at 7:00 p.m.*

**Contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org) for more information.**



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