

# UNWELCOME TOPICS IN ARMENIAN DIASPORAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

A Lecture by Dr. Ara Sanjian

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and Director of the Armenian Research Center*

**Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Columbia University • Dodge Hall Room 413  
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Since, according to Ernest Renan, “forgetting ... is an essential factor in the creation of a nation,” Armenians too have in the Age of Nationalism nurtured skeletons which they wish to keep firmly confined to their cupboards. What are these ‘unwelcome’ topics in historiography in the post-genocide Diasporan context? What is the image of the Armenians that the Diasporan communal elites want to portray to others? Moreover, since Renan also asserts that “the progress of historical studies often poses a threat to nationality,” is there any tension today between Armenian Diasporan professional historians and members of the respective communities where they have grown up? Finally, is the situation in the post-genocide Armenian Diaspora different from those in the Republic of Armenia and the post-Soviet Armenian Diasporan communities which have grown in the past few decades? These are the issues that Dr. Ara Sanjian will raise during his lecture, hoping that his remarks will generate a lively discussion with the audience.

Dr. Ara Sanjian is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, and the Director of the university’s Armenian Research Center. He received his master’s degree in history from Yerevan State University (1991) and his Ph.D. from the University of London (1996).

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