

THE SOCIETY FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES (SAS)

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH
(NAASR) / CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION SERIES ON
CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES

Present

**TRANSITION TREMORS:
ARMENIA TWO YEARS AFTER THE VELVET REVOLUTION**
Saturday, August 22, 2020, 12:00 p.m. (ET)

Panelists

Anna Ohanyan (*Stonehill College*)

“Velvet Is Not a Color: Armenia’s Democratic Transition in a Global Context”

Jenny Paturyan (*American University of Armenia*)

“State Capacity Building & Institutions: Changing Role of Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches in Armenia Since 2018”

Asbed Kotchikian (*Bentley College*)

“The Reconfiguration of the Political Landscape in Armenia and the Ensuing Challenges”

Armine Ishkhanian (*London School of Economics and Political Science*)

“Changing Role of Civil Society in Post-Velvet Revolution Armenia”

Moderated by Jirair Libaridian (*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, retired*)

In 2018, a democratic breakthrough via mass-scale nonviolent disobedience campaign brought down Armenia’s competitive, soft authoritarian system headed by then President-turned-Prime Minister Serj Sargsyan. Since then, the country continues to face challenges to consolidate its still fragile democracy. The task of the current government to transition to a full-fledged democracy has been hampered by various factors, including the still persistent *ancien régime*, unreformed judiciary, weak political party system, spread of misinformation, and fake news. The most recent global health crisis brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic further complicated reform initiatives. In an attempt to take stock of gains and challenges towards democratic consolidation, this panel will contextualize Armenia’s domestic politics over the past two years, doing so in a global comparative context. The discussion is geared towards identifying some of the key issues/challenges that the post-Velvet government faces.

Zoom Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/armeniantremors>



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