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

Present a Panel Discussion



ARMENIA'S VELVET REVOLUTION AFTER SIX MONTHS: BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Thursday, October 25, 2018, 7:10 p.m.

Moderated by Raffi Khatchadourian

Staff Writer, *The New Yorker* magazine

With Panelists

Dr. Khatchig Mouradian (Lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University), **Eric Nazarian** (filmmaker and screenwriter), **Dr. Anna Ohanyan** (Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Stonehill College), and **Emil Sanamyan** (Fellow at the Institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California)

Columbia University in the City of New York

**Room 207, Mathematics Building (east of Broadway Avenue and
between Havemeyer Hall and Earl Hall)**

Armenia's Velvet Revolution, though the result of years of pent-up anger and frustration, unfolded in spring 2018 with dizzying speed. One moment it appeared that Serzh Sargsyan and the Republican Party would continue their grip on power and all that goes with power in an Armenia dominated by oligarchs; then, practically before anyone knew what had happened, the Armenian people asserted their will, and, incredibly, without violence, power passed from Sargsyan to the people's choice, Nikol Pashinyan. At a time when many democracies are drifting towards authoritarianism, Armenia stood as a bright exception.

Almost six months later, inevitably, the realities of governing, of addressing the problems of the past and of the future, and building the new Armenia, have created challenges. In this panel discussion, we will attempt to move beyond the headlines to discuss some key fundamental issues including systemic and structural changes that must take place to strengthen Armenia's democracy; changes to Armenia's electoral code; the complexities of Armenia's foreign relations; efforts to combat institutionalized corruption; addressing gender inequality; and more.

Contact hq@naasr.org or km3253@columbia.edu for more information.



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