

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ARMENIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND
THE NATIONAL 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

Sunday, October 28, 2018, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Moderated by Rachel Onanian Nadjarian

Strategic Communications and Management Consultant

With Panelists

Dr. Ruzanna Grigoryan (Armenian Room Fellowship Program, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh), **Armen Kharazian** (Attorney specializing in anti-corruption & government investigations, Law Offices of Armen Kharazian, PLLC), and **Emil Sanamyan** (Fellow at the Institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California)

George Washington University

Elliott School for International Affairs, City View Room, 7th Floor

1957 E St NW, Washington, D.C.

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.

Free and open to the public. Free parking on street. Reception and refreshments immediately following the program and question-and-answer session.

See <https://m.facebook.com/GWArmenianstudentsassociation/> for more information.

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