



Oxford Armenian Studies

Seminar - Hilary Term 2013

## Cultural Production and Preservation in Diaspora

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In addition to language, preservation of culture is a significant component in the discourse of identity formation and preservation in Diaspora; in the case of the Armenians, it is the discourse of *hayapahpanum* ('preservation of Armenianness'). The seminar will continue the discussions of the last term that dealt with some of the methodological and conceptual questions of *culture*. This term will focus on various dimensions of cultural production and how they relate to the preservation of "Armenian identity".

**6:30 - 8:00 PM, Oriental Institute, Lecture Room 1**

- Tuesday, 22 January (Week 2)

### **Visual and Performing Arts**

This session will explore the works of a number of diaspora artists with roots in the Middle East, such as painters Paul Guiragossian, Krikor Norikian and Shant Avedissian and performing artists like Gerarld Avedissian, Krikor Satamian, and others. What is universal in their artistic creation and what is particularly Armenian?

- Tuesday, 5 February (Week 4)

### **Music: from Komitas to *rabiz***

The seminar will present the writings of Komitas about Armenian ethnographic music and discuss the sociological dimensions of the genres of Armenian music -- e.g. ethnographic, liturgical, classical, pop and *rabiz* ("tavern music") -- in both Armenia and the Diaspora

- Tuesday, 19 February (Week 6)

### **Literature: "People of the book"**

This session will introduce a number of diaspora writers and present a sociological reading of their works in order to draw attention to some of the problems of language, literary production and readership in the Diaspora.

- Tuesday, 5 March (Week 8)

### **What is "Armenian" about Armenian Culture?**

This final session of the seminar will tie together all the discussions and will attempt to outline the key elements of "Armenian culture". What is it that needs to be "preserved" in Armenian culture? What are the key "cultural components" in *hayapahpanum*? etc.