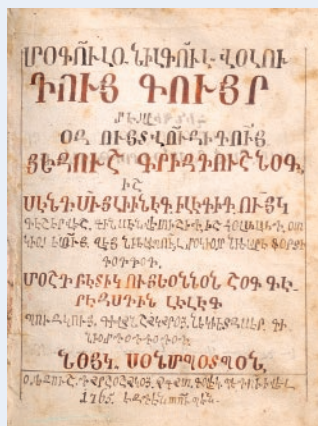


Modern Armenian diaspora is a multi-layered and multi-structured social phenomenon. It comprises communities with different migration and settlement histories and internal developments. These diverse diasporic formations have been engaged in the processes of identity constructions and negotiations within the societies, in which they have lived for decades and centuries, developing some sense of affinity to an ancestral land of origin—the homeland—whether imagined as a symbolic, eschatological or a physical place of return.

If the Genocide of 1915 and its memory, the preservation of ethnic attributes, such as the Armenian language, have become essential in certain diasporic circles, the diasporic identities of other communities, especially those whose migration history dates back to the pre-genocide periods, evolved beyond ethnic markers of identity.

The conference aims at addressing and exploring the role of ethnic institutions in the negotiations of Armenian diasporic spaces; the influence of global and glocal changes and developments on Armenian intra-communal diasporic dynamics; the perceptions of homeland in the diaspora and among the diasporans who chose to “repatriate;” and the dynamic and multiple negotiations of Armenian identities in the diaspora.



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Sources:

- (1) Cover photo: “Armenian Catholic Parish of Budapest” in “Far away from Mount Ararat – Armenian Culture in the Carpathian Basin”, Bálint Kovács, and Emese Pál (Eds.), Exhibition Catalog, Budapest 2013, p. 106.
- (2) “Mirror without Macula” a unique Hungarian language manuscript transcribed with Armenian letters, Ibid, p. 123.
- (3) “Departure of the ship from Marseille to Armenia in 1947” in “Loin de l’Ararat...: Les petites Arménies d’Europe et de Méditerranée, Les Arméniens de Marseille. Sur la direction de Myriame Morel-Deledalle”, Claire Mouradian, Florence Pizzorrrni-Itié (Eds.). Paris: Hazan, 2007, p. 145.

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Venues

Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East-Central Europe (GWZO)

Specks Hof – Entrance A, Reichsstraße 4–6, 04109 Leipzig

Centre for Area Studies (CAS)

Thomaskirchhof 20, 04109 Leipzig

Project Group

Editorial Project ‘Armenians’ at GWZO

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CENTRE FOR AREA STUDIES



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

International Conference

Within and Beyond Ethnicity: Negotiating Identities in Modern Armenian Diaspora

9 — 10 May, 2016

GWZO, Leipzig

M | LSA ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum
Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas
an der Universität Leipzig

VARORSZÁGI ÖRMÉNYEK SZÉKHÁZA
BUDAPEST, XL. ORLAY - U. 6

Monday, 9 May

GWZO, Specks Hof, Reichsstr. 4–6

Welcome and Opening Remarks

17:00–17:30

Prof. Stefan Troebst, (GWZO/GESI, Leipzig University)

Armenians in the Economy and Culture of East-Central Europe (15th to 19th Centuries): A Research and Editorial Project

17:30–18:00

Dr. Vahe Sahakyan (Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan)

Why this conference? Armenianness Beyond Ethnicity

20:00

Welcome Dinner

Restaurant “Weinstock”, Markt 7, 04109 Leipzig

Tuesday, 10 May

CAS, Thomaskirchhof 20

9:00–11:00

Negotiating Communal Spaces: Institutions and Politics in Modern Armenian Diaspora

Chair: Prof. Monika Wohlrab-Sahr (Institute for Cultural Studies, Leipzig University)

Discussant: Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford)

Hakob Matevosyan (Institute for Cultural Studies, Leipzig University)

Establishment and Transformation of the Armenian Diasporic Field in Hungary

Konrad Siekierski (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw)

Armenians in Romania Today: Diasporic Interventions and Institutions

Heitor Loureiro (Department of History, São Paulo State University)

Political Struggles within the Armenian community in São Paulo (1930–1960s)

11:00–11:15 Coffee Break

11:15–13:15

Negotiating Belonging: Homeland in Diaspora, Diasporans in “Homeland”

Chair: Dr. Bálint Kovács (GWZO)

Discussant: Dr. Jo Laycock (Department of Humanities, Faculty of Development and Society, Sheffield Hallam University)

Sevan Beukian (Department of Political Science, University of Alberta)

Collective Memory and National Habitus: Constructions of Homeland among the Armenian Diaspora

Nanor Karageozian (Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford)

Mobile, Sedentary and Oscillating Habituses: Identity and Belonging Among Long-term Diasporic Returnees in Post-Soviet Armenia

Hamazasp Danielyan (Department of Diaspora Studies, Yerevan State University)

Refugees, Repatriates or Citizens? The Evolution of State Policy towards Syrian Armenians and their (Self)-perception

13:15–14:15 Lunch Break

14:15–16:30

Negotiating Diasporic Identities

Chair: Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abgaryan (Institute for Oriental Studies, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Discussant: Dr. Vahe Sahakyan (Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan)

Ulrike Ziemer (Department of Applied Social Studies, University of Winchester)

Armenian Youth Cultural Identities in Southern Russia: Narratives of Location, Translocation and Dislocation

Brigitta Davidjants (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre)

Identity Construction in Narratives: Activists of the Armenian Diaspora in Estonia

Nikolett Czézár (Department of East European History, Ruhr-University Bochum)

Narrative of Genocide and Identity (Re)construction among Hungarian Armenians

16:30–16:45 Coffee Break

16:45–18:30

Round Table Discussion

Armenian Diaspora Studies: Challenges and Perspectives

Moderators: Prof. Stefan Troebst, Dr. Vahe Sahakyan, Hakob Matevosyan