



Workshops on Armenian and Turkish Scholarship (WATS) 2017

Past in the Present: European Approaches to the Armenian Genocide

14 – 17 September 2017

Venue: Europäische Akademie Berlin and Lepsiushaus Potsdam

September 14, 2017
Thursday

5:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Cocktail

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks:
Hülya Adak (Sabancı University Istanbul)
Andrea Despot (European Academy Berlin)

PUBLIC LECTURE

Introduction:
Rolf Hosfeld (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

Keynote:
The Original Sin of Europe's Dark 20th Century – (Re)Integrating
the Armenian Genocide into European and World History
Stefan Ihrig (University of Haifa)

Comments:
Fatma Müge Göçek (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

September 15, 2017
Friday

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PANEL 1: OTTOMAN ORIGINS

Chair and Discussant:

Richard Antaramian (University of Southern California, Los Angeles)

The Massacre in the Sasun Mountains (1894): Interpretations of Violence at the Ends of Empire

Owen Miller (Emerson College Boston)

Inter-Communal Perceptions and Discourses in the Ottoman Empire before the Armenian Genocide

Ohannes Kılıçdağı (Bilgi University Istanbul)

Against Massacre: Humanitarian Interventions in the Ottoman Empire (1815-1914)

Davide Rodogno (Graduate Institute Geneva)

Germany's Talat Bias

Hans-Lukas Kieser (University of Zürich/University of Newcastle, Australia)

Scopes of Agency. Ottoman Armenian and Young Turkish Decisions and their Impact in 1914-1915

Elke S. Hartmann (Ludwig-Maximilians-University München)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PANEL 2: CRITICAL HISTORIOGRAPHIES OF GENOCIDE

Chair:

Sönke Neitzel (University of Potsdam)

“If I Die, I Die”: Danish Missionaries and Relief Workers among Danes, Armenians, and Turks, 1900-1930

Matthias Bjornlund (Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Copenhagen)

“Armenian Genocide” or Extermination of “Ottoman Christians”? Revisiting Nation, “Millet,” and Sect in Modern Middle Eastern History

Vicken Cheterian (Graduate Institute Geneva)

A Rehearsal for Genocide? The 1895-1896 Massacres in the
Armenian Genocide Historiography
Emre Can Dağlıoğlu (Clark University, Worcester/Mass.)

Extermination Policies and Military Resistance in 1916: The
Pitfalls of a Dominant Paradigm
Hilmar Kaiser (Historian, Pnom Penh)

Discussant:
Nazan Maksudyan (Istanbul Kemerburgaz University)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

PANEL 2: AFTERMATH OF GENOCIDE

Chair:
Christin Pschichholz (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

The Genocide and Armenian Refugees in Interwar Romania
*Lidia Prisac/Ion Xenofontov (Academy of Sciences of Moldova,
Chisinau)*

Constructing Soviet Transcaucasia in the 1920s: Strategies in
Silencing the Violent Past
Stephan Rindlisbacher (German Historical Institute Moscow)

Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Armenians in the Ottoman
Empire after the First World War (1918-1923)
Ari Şekeryan (Oxford University)

Mandelstam and the Missing Link: From Minority Protection to
Human Rights Law in the Interwar Era and Beyond
Helmut Aust (Humboldt University Berlin)

Discussant:
Michael Schwartz (Institute of Contemporary History, München/Berlin)

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

PANEL 3: GENOCIDES AND LITERATURES

Chair:

Johannes Houwink ten Cate (Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Amsterdam)

Narrating the Armenian Genocide and Jewish Holocaust in Turkish Novels

Marc Baer (London School of Economics and Political Sciences)

The Role of Language in Testimonies of Mass Violence from a Comparative Perspective: The Armenian and Jewish Cases

Murat Cankara (University of Ankara)

Testimony and Forgiveness

Marc Nichanian (Independent Scholar, Lisbon)

Contemporary Turkish Literature and its Confrontation with the Armenian Genocide

Hülya Adak (Sabancı University Istanbul)

Discussant:

Nanor Stepien (Oxford University)

8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

PUBLIC EVENT

Introduction:

Rolf Hosfeld (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

Literature Reading and Discussion:

The author Varujan Vosganian (Bucarest) reads from his novel *Book of Whispers*

September 16, 2017
Saturday

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PANEL 5: TANGLED HISTORIES: KURDS AND ARMENIANS

Chair and Discussant:

Zeynep Türkyılmaz (Koç University Istanbul)

“Fatally-Tied Together:” The Kurds, the Armenian Genocide,
and the Question of Perpetrator and Victimhood

David Leupold (Humboldt University Berlin)

Palimpsests of Violence: History, Memory, and the Ruins of
Anatolia

*Anoush Tamar Suni (University of Southern California, Los
Angeles)*

Memory that holds onto words: A mini lexicon of the Armenian
Genocide in Kurdish

*Adnan Çelik (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales,
Paris)*

Why We Should Re-Think the Decision-Making Process in the
Armenian Genocide.

Yektan Türkyılmaz (University of Cyprus, Nicosia)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PANEL 6: REMEMBERING GENOCIDE

Chair:

Rolf Hoffeld (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

Minority Histories and Reconciliation in Post-Ottoman Turkey

Erkan Ercel (York University)

“I Think it is the Mother Who Keeps the Things Going”: The
Gendered Division of Labor of Genocide Memory Transmission
Among Young Armenians

Öndercan Muti (Humboldt University Berlin)

(Post-)memory, gender, and violence. Gendered experiences in
Sasun of the second generation of Armenians after the genocide

Wendy Hamelink (Leiden University)

Armenian Music in Dersim
Martin Greve (German Orient Institute Istanbul)

The Story of a Speech: Debating Armenian-Turkish Relations in
the Aftermath of WWI
*Vahé Tachjian (Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung
Berlin)*

Discussant:
Fatma Müge Göçek (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

PANEL 7: COMMEMORATING AND FORGETTING GENOCIDE

Chair:
Kader Konuk (University Duisburg-Essen)

Commemorating the Armenian Genocide: Spatial Politics of
Memory in Post-Imperial Istanbul
E. Egemen Özbek (Carleton University, Ottawa)

“Shared Pain”: Turkey’s Denial Policy toward the Armenian
Genocide
*Gevorg Petrosyan (National Academy of Sciences Armenia,
Yerevan)*

Forgetting Genocide Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and the
British Empire
Michelle Elizabeth Tusan (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

From Politics of Denial to Trivialization of the Armenian
Genocide
Eren Yıldırım Yetkin (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main)

Methodological Militarism and the Armenian Genocide:
Personal Reflections
Ayşe Gül Altınay (Sabancı University Istanbul)

Discussant:
Andrea Petö (Central European University Budapest)

8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

PUBLIC EVENT

“Performing the Armenian Genocide in Berlin”

Shermin Langhoff (Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin)

Arsiné Khanjian (Actor, Director, Playwright, Toronto)

Directed by Hülya Adak (Sabancı University Istanbul)

September 17, 2017

Sunday

10:00 – 12:00 a.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: WATS PAST AND FUTURE

Chair:

Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

All Participants and Organizers

Venue: Lepsiushaus Potsdam

Große Weinmeisterstraße 45, 14469 Potsdam