



C E N T E R F O R

ARMENIAN STUDIES

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DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF
THE CENTER FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES,

As the new Director of the Center for Armenian Studies (CAS) at the University of Michigan, I write to welcome you to the academic year 2025–2026. We have an exciting program to offer you this year.

In the spirit of our investment in the next generation of Armenian Studies, we have invited Houri Berberian (UC Irvine), Talinn Grigor (UC Davis), Tamar Shirinian (University of Tennessee), Aram Mrjoian (University of Michigan), and Alison Vacca (Columbia University) to share their pioneering research with us. The Fall semester will showcase a range of new directions in the fields of medieval history and contemporary diasporan literature, as well as gender history and sexuality studies at the intersection of nationalism and modernity.

We are hosting two exhibitions during the Winter semester. In February, our exhibition *Making Armenian Americans* will display Arto Vaun’s photographic curation from the [Project Save Photograph Archive](#). This visual narrative of Armenian Americans captures scenes of their migratory experience.

It is part of the [Archive Alive Initiative](#) that highlights the idiosyncrasies of diasporic communities.

In March, the Detroit-based artist [Levon Kafafian](#) will exhibit an installment of their fictional Azadistan—a world of magic and spirits beyond a future digital collapse. Their Հմայարան / Hmayaran is an immersive shrine housing a series of soft-sculptural “artifacts” inspired by objects Armenians have traditionally crafted for spiritual power and protection.

Our Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow, Hazal Özdemir, will be continuing her fellowship with us and is organizing a workshop in tandem with the *Making Armenian Americans* exhibit on the multiple deployments of photography in the Middle East.

And finally in April, our 15th Annual International Graduate Student Workshop, *Armenians Apart: Connections, Disconnections, and Tensions in Premodern and Modern Diasporas*, will bring premodern “diasporas” into conversation with case studies long associated with modernity. This workshop is funded by the Manoogian Foundation and organized by Michael Pifer (Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language & Literature) and Armen Abkarian (PhD student in History).

Please join us for our lectures, exhibitions, and workshops to see the vibrant environment of learning we have created with your support.

Yours,

Kathryn Babayan



MEET THE
MANOOGIAN
POSTDOCS

HAZAL ÖZDEMİR

2024–25 Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow in Armenian Studies and 2025–26 Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow in Armenian History

I had a very productive first year as a postdoctoral fellow with the Center for Armenian Studies (CAS). I am immensely happy to be part of the Armenian Studies circle at Michigan, where I’ve found a generous intellectual community. In the Fall, I taught an introductory course titled, “Between Borders: Global History of Displacement, Exile and Refuge.” The course challenges the common assumption that the concept of the modern refugee emerged only after World War II. I organized the workshop, “Becoming and Unbecoming Imperial Subjects: Mobility, Exclusion, and (Real/Discursive) Borders,” which focused on the legal reforms shaping the concept of Ottoman subjecthood and their lasting influence on post-Ottoman states. I gave public talks at U-M, St John Church in Southfield, Northwestern University, Bo aziçi University, and Columbia University, where I delivered a lecture on Armenian photography and archival practices.

BOGDAN PAVLISH

2024–25 Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow in Armenian History

As my time at CAS has come to an end, I look back at the past year with great gratitude and sadness. It might sound cliché, but I am completely honest and only a little bit sentimental. It was an enormous privilege to be part of the CAS and the wider U-M community, to meet so many wonderful people from whom I learned not only how to be a good scholar but also a generous mentor and a thoughtful colleague. From countless academic events to meetings and conversations off campus, there was always the same friendly, unassuming attitude towards each other, which never compromised the highest standards of intellectual work.

I had several great opportunities to share my research with the wider public giving lectures at U-M and the University of Chicago in the Dumanian Lecture Series and a Sunday talk at St. John Church in Southfield. On all these occasions, I presented different aspects of my research drawing on my dissertation but also significantly revising it with an eye to accommodating different audiences and eventually publishing. This fall, I am starting a new position as a research fellow at the Max Weber Foundation in Germany, working for their most recent and very timely Research Center Ukraine.

WORKSHOP ON

EASTERN CHRISTIANS
AND THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH

By Bogdan Pavlish



From left to right: Daniel Ohanian, Sergio La Porta, Anatole Upart, Cesare Santus, Bogdan Pavlish, Iryna Klymenko, Ani Shahinian

Last February, CAS hosted my workshop titled “From Schism to Union and Back: Eastern Christians and the Catholic Church in the Age of Confessionalism.” We addressed the issue of confessional relations and entanglements between the Catholic Church and Eastern Christian Churches in the late medieval and early modern periods. The emphasis was on Armenian Christianity, but the Ruthenian Orthodox of early modern Ukraine and Belarus were also discussed, providing useful points of comparison. Historians from around the US and Europe presented their latest research drawing on unique sources and combining religious history with insights from theology, art history, literary studies, and most prominently social history.

The first panel discussed the evolution of Armenian confessional tradition and identity in the late medieval period. Sergio La Porta (California State University, Fresno) opened the panel with his thought-provoking paper about the overlooked struggle between pro- and anti-Chalcedonian currents in the intellectual and religious life of the Armenian Church during the Middle Ages. Ani Shahinian (St Nersess and St Vladimir’s Theological Seminaries in New York) presented her research on the martyrdom of Awag Salmastec’i (1390), raising the important question of depictions of interfaith relations and popular piety in late medieval martyrologies. In his comments, Helmut Puff

(History | U-M) highlighted the underlying theme of mobility and geographical dispersion in both papers, which contributed to these medieval developments in Armenian confession-building, as it did later in post-Reformation Europe.

The second panel shifted the focus toward the Eastern Orthodox of early modern Ukraine and Belarus and their relations with the Catholic Church in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Iryna Klymenko (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich) talked about fasting practices of the Orthodox of Poland-Lithuania in the wake of the union of Brest (1596), which brought part of the local Orthodox under Roman authority and influence. Anatole Upart (Binghamton University, State University of New York) presented his research on the connected histories of the Armenian and Ruthenian national churches in early modern Rome. Valerie Kivelson (History|U-M) commented on both papers, highlighting their insights into the social and cultural dynamics of Orthodox-Catholic encounter in early modern Europe.

The third and final panel featured presentations on Armenian-Catholic entanglements in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Bogdan Pavlish (Manoogian Postdoc|U-M) talked about the school theater of the Catholic pontifical college for Armenians in Lviv, focusing on two plays written and produced by French missionary Louis-Marie Pidou in 1668–1669. Daniel Ohanian (University of California, Los Angeles) shared his work on the confessional rivalry between Catholic and Apostolic Armenians reflected in the operation of their printing presses in Istanbul at the turn of the eighteenth century. In his concluding remarks, Cesare Santus commented on different aspects of both papers, tying them to the overarching theme of confession-building introduced in his keynote address and discussed throughout the workshop.

WORKSHOP ON

BECOMING AND
UNBECOMING OTTOMAN
IMPERIAL SUBJECTS

By Hazal Özdemir

Last January CAS hosted my co-organized workshop with Gottfried Hagen (Middle East Studies|U-M) titled “Becoming and Unbecoming Imperial Subjects: Mobility, Exclusion and (Real/Discursive) Borders.” Together we examined the construction and dissolution of Ottoman imperial subjecthood and its enduring legacy in post-Ottoman states.

The first panel explored the making of imperial subjecthood. Berke Torğunolu (Bilkent University) examined the joint efforts of the Ottoman and Russian empires in the 1860s to define imperial subjecthood and deal with the nationality of their subjects who were moved between their borders. Camille Cole (Illinois State University) asked what it meant to be an Ottoman in the early-twentieth-century Gulf. Tracing the life of an individual named Mubarak al-Sabah who described himself as a “loyal lover of nation and state.” Leyla Amzi-Erdogdular (Rutgers University) discussed what the overlap of Habsburg rule and Ottoman legal sovereignty meant for Bosnian subjects. Marie Bossaert (Université Clermont Auvergne) joined the workshop via Zoom and gave insights into her work on the naturalization of Italians as Ottoman subjects at the end of empire. Devi Mays (University of Michigan) concluded that the individuals in question did not cross borders; rather, borders crossed them during a period of shifting Ottoman boundaries, territorial losses, and the emergence of nation-states.



The second panel began with my paper on Armenian transatlantic narratives and the limitations of subjecthood in the Ottoman Empire. Focusing on the often-overlooked legal mechanisms through which the government targeted its Armenian population, I discussed how the late Ottoman state created a state of exception for Armenians. Moving into modern Turkey, Emmanuel Szurek (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) continued with the 1932 “Law on Trades and Services Reserved for Turkish Nationals,” which prevented non-Muslim

Turkish citizens from certain trades and professions, such as medicine, photography, and music. Elif Becan (Université Libre de Bruxelles) ended with her research on the political and socio-economic concerns over citizenship in Turkey, specifically the denaturalization of Hanriyet Goldenberg, who was residing in Tahrán in 1939. Melanie Tanielian (University of Michigan) commented on governmentality, multi-layered citizenship, and the role of women as both economic and moral resources for the Ottoman and Turkish states.

By Emma Avagyan, Nazelie Doghramadjian, and Allison Grenda

For the academic 2024–2025 year, the Multidisciplinary Workshop in Armenian Studies (MWAS) held eleven events, including seven paper workshops from graduate students, post-docs, and visiting scholars; one workshop on library resources with International Studies librarians; our 14th Annual International Graduate Student Workshop in Armenian Studies; and a community commemoration of the anniversary of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Our monthly workshops discussed topics on Armenian children’s literature; Ottoman policies of denaturalization; Imperial Russian copper mining; medieval Cilician royal ideology; contemporary Armenian-American linguistic shifts; cross-border subversive commerce between Turkey and Armenia; Ottoman border politics and security; and 17th-century Catholic missionary work in Istanbul and Poland-Lithuania.

In mid-April, we held a workshop with U-M librarians to teach our graduate students the process of obtaining, cataloging, and making materials available for users at the university. Later in the month, we co-hosted a commemoration of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, inviting the community to bring in objects that speak to the Armenian experience, the Armenian Genocide, the Michigan-Armenian experience, or the American-Armenian experience. Graduate students, faculty, and community members shared many stories that contributed to a wider conversation around national, community, and personal memory, identity, and loss. MWAS’s annual involvement in the planning and execution demonstrates the bridge we hope to strengthen between academia and the community.

Looking forward to our next year of MWAS, we hope to engage more community members, students, and faculty, and commit to more streamlined and consistent scheduling to increase both visibility and attendance of our events. We anticipate another exciting year of sharing our scholarship with one another.

MWAS



A particularly moving moment came from our local Armenian community member, Anahit Toumajan, who brought a century-old family archive to life through powerful storytelling. She is a reminder of how lived experience and familial memory are essential parts of the archival record. Toumajan is both a community member and family archivist from Southfield, MI, who is stewarding the collection of her uncle’s archive. She spoke about her process of archiving and gave us an inside look into the work of memory keepers and cultural stewards in our community.

Participants in the workshop toured the University of Michigan’s Hatcher Graduate Library, where they viewed rare Armenian manuscripts, maps, books, and artifacts from the Special Collections Research Center, carefully curated by university archivists and librarians. The event culminated in a thought-provoking keynote lecture by Professor Elyse Smerdjian (Clark University), who spoke about embodied archives with her lecture titled “Speaking Scars and Tattooed Texts: ‘Embodied Archives’ as Feminist Critique in Armenian Studies.” Smerdjian explored how faint archival traces can illuminate the lives of Armenian women captured during the Armenian Genocide—offering a masterclass in recovering marginalized histories.

THE ARCHIVE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP IN ARMENIAN STUDIES

By Emma Avagyan, Nazelie Doghramadjian, and Allison Grenda

This year’s 14th Annual International Graduate Student Workshop at CAS brought together a vibrant, international group of emerging scholars to explore “The Archive in Theory and Practice in Armenian Studies.” Held over two days in Ann Arbor, the workshop stood out as an interdisciplinary, multimodal convergence of voices and experiences—showcasing how archival research is both deeply theoretical and profoundly personal.

Presenters came from several disciplines and academic backgrounds: History of Art, Information Studies, Computational Paleography, Comparative Literature, Archival Science, Regional and International Studies, Education, History, Politics, and Anthropology. The topics covered ranged from oral histories to the ethics around archival preservation, access and digitization, personal, community, and counter archives as well as visual and embodied archives.



CAS IN THE COMMUNITY

ANNUAL OUTREACH REPORT

By Vicken Mouradian

In October, CAS hosted over forty high school students from the AGBU Manoogian School for a campus visit to the University of Michigan. The visit introduced students to the academic opportunities within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) and the Armenian Studies Program. The day included a campus tour, interactive presentations about CAS opportunities, and conversations with current students and faculty. These activities aimed at encouraging future engagement with higher education and strengthening the bond between U-M and the Armenian community. Whether or not students ultimately choose to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the visit successfully showcased how Armenian Studies can be part of their educational and professional journey.

Later in the year, CAS staff and graduate students visited the St. John's Armenian Church and the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Southfield for a special guided tour of its collections. The visit offered an exciting opportunity to explore the museum's remarkable artifacts and deepen the Center's collaboration with one of the most significant Armenian cultural institutions in the region. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our partners at the Manoogian School and Museum for their continued partnership during the year.



YEAR IN REVIEW



PROFILES AND REFLECTIONS

CAS FUNDING RECIPIENTS

TRAVEL / RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Agnes, Harry, and Richard Yarmain Fellowship
Avedis and Arsen Sanjian Fellowship
Haiganoosh Mengushian/Ajemian Memorial Scholarship & Student Travel Award

YIPENG ZHOU

I am a PhD student at the Department of History. My research focuses on the history of metal mining in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, particularly in the South Caucasus, the Ural Mountains, and Central Asia. This summer, I received a CAS grant to conduct preliminary archival research in Armenia for my doctoral dissertation. Thanks to the grant, I was able to work in the National Archives of Armenia in Yerevan and its Lori branch in Vanadzor. I established contacts with archivists both in Yerevan and Vanadzor, and collected materials that will very likely be helpful for my dissertation research. During my almost two-month stay in Armenia, I started learning Eastern Armenian in preparation for future research. I plan to return to Armenia for archival research and language acquisition; this summer was a great start!



EMMA AVAGYAN

With the generous support of the CAS Summer Research Grant, I was able to conduct archival research in Armenia. My project explores how nineteenth-century Armenian writers and educators shaped ideas about language. Figures such as Khachatur Abovyan and Mikael Nalbandian navigated tensions between classical and vernacular Armenian. They engaged with European models of language reform and used literature as a means to both preserve tradition and push for modernization. Language became a vehicle to reimagine Armenian identity in a rapidly changing world. I was able to access a range of key archives and research institutions, including the Yeghishe Charents State Museum of Literature and Art, the National Library of Armenia, and the Matenadaran. These institutions house rich collections of manuscripts, periodicals, and personal correspondence that document the linguistic debates.



EMMA PORTUGAL

I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics and am writing my dissertation on sociolinguistic and individual variation in the production and perception of vowel sounds in Gavar, Armenia. I received a CAS fellowship to fund the second part of my dissertation research, where I carried out an experiment in Gavar to study 51 participants' perception of various vowels associated with the local dialect. My dissertation will compare participants' perceptions of vowels with their own pronunciations of those vowels. In 2022, I found that men were maintaining the dialect's vowels more than women, but also that participants' maintenance of these vowels was extremely varied and gradient, such that it was difficult to say at which point people would begin to perceive participants' pronunciations as dialect speech. The perception experiment that I conducted this year sought to address this question, while also shedding light on broader questions on



how social and linguistic factors affect the production and perception of speech, and what it means for two sounds to be "the same" or "different."

ALLISON GREENDA

As a 5th-year PhD Candidate in the History of Art, my dissertation studies the post-crisis rebuilding of Byzantine cities, and particularly the cross-cultural influences on Byzantine urban visual culture introduced by periods of intercultural violence and population displacement. This summer,



with the generous support of CAS, I traveled to Boston to visit the Armenian Museum of America, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Harvard Art Museums. Each of these institutions holds objects crucial to my dissertation research, such as a Sasanian relief carving with symmetrical goat and foliage design at the Museum of Fine Arts, or a Seljuk tombstone with floriated Kufic script at the Harvard Art Museum, both of which represent styles drawn on by Byzantine artists in their own sculptural work. The Armenian Museum, with its vast temporal span, concretized my understanding of the political, religious, and iconographic connections and distinctions between Byzantium and medieval Armenia and Cilicia, especially evident in the museum's collection of coinage, liturgical vessels, and manuscripts. Seeing these objects up close and in dialogue with other exhibition objects was illuminating. I look forward to incorporating these objects and ideas regarding medieval spheres of influence into my dissertation.

NAZELIE DOGHRAMADJIAN

I am a PhD Candidate at the School of Information, researching personal archival practices of American Armenians and their influence and impact on archives at U.S. academic institutions. With the help of the CAS Fellowship grant, I was able to travel to California this summer and conduct archival research and interview archivists across three institutions: University of California, Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and University of California, Davis. I gathered information about the donors of these Armenian collections and how the institutional archivists processed collections



in tandem with donors and their unique stipulations. Through my dissertation research, I hope to find meaningful connections between personal and institutional archives and better highlight how community members are reflected in our institutional archives. This grant has enabled me to kickstart my dissertation data collection and facilitated gathering evidence directly from community members, institutional archivists, and archival collections themselves.

ARMEN ABKARIAN

I am a PhD candidate at the Department of History. My dissertation explores the medieval eastern Mediterranean world with a focus on the kingdom of Armenian Cilicia (1198–1375). During the course of the past year thanks to my fellowship I have had the time, free of teaching, to write about how discourses on kingship in Cilicia continuously reshaped royal power in response to the region's shifting geopolitical landscape. I completed a chapter on the strategies deployed to address a succession crisis after the death of Cilicia's first king and on the ways writers reimagined authority as the kingdom was drawn into the Mongol Empire.



LILIT GIZHLARYAN

In May 2025, I graduated from the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies with a Master's degree in International and Regional Studies. My research interests include center-periphery relations in state-building after the fall of the Iron Curtain, memory politics, and the construction of political and social identities. I focus as well on the role of grassroots interactions in shaping modern Armenia-Turkey relations. Thanks to my fellowship, I conducted an ethnographic research project with Armenian and Turkish vendors engaged in grassroots trade since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This project allowed me to bring to life stories, perspectives, and practices that are often overlooked in both academic and policy circles.



EDWARD HAGOP NOROIAN

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

ALEC MEYER

Alec Meyer is a computer science major in his senior year at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Being half-Armenian, he did not learn Western Armenian growing up, and was very excited to take advantage of LSA's foreign language requirement to learn Armenian. Off campus, Alec is deeply committed to preserving his Armenian family history through cataloguing family photos and documents. In the summer of 2023 he visited Armenia with the Paros Foundation's humanitarian service trip.

My academic pursuits in Armenian Studies have been through the study of the Western Armenian language with Sosy Mishoyan. Much of my experience with Armenian culture has taken place outside of the academic arena. I was the only grandchild among nine grandchildren, who expressed interest in our family history. I spent a summer in high school interviewing my grandparents and relatives overseas in Turkey in order to assemble a digital family tree which I have now shared with the whole family. In the summer after my freshman year at university, I joined the Paros Foundation's three-week

humanitarian trip to Armenia, where I volunteered with my cohorts to renovate community infrastructure and distribute aid. For the first weeks of last summer, I stayed with my Armenian grandparents while I added metadata to digital scans of historic family photos of their life in Istanbul—getting their help annotating who, when, and where is pictured, and transcribing their stories. This year, I am very excited to take Sosy Mishoyan's Topics in Armenian Language and Seeds of Peace at U-M.

ARMEN OKNAYAN

Armen Oknayan is an undergraduate student majoring in Economics with career interests in strategy and managerial consulting as well as the financial technology sector. Armen has a deep personal connection to Armenian Studies and the Armenian community. He is passionate about preserving and sharing Armenian history and culture, and sees his future career as a way to give back, by supporting initiatives, organizations, and projects that strengthen Armenian identity and community life.

My academic work has given me the chance to meaningfully engage with Armenian Studies, both in the classroom and through independent projects. I have studied Armenian history, literature, and cinema, which has allowed me to think critically about how memory, trauma, and identity are represented across generations. These courses have not only deepened my understanding of Armenian culture and heritage but have also given me tools to connect these themes to broader academic conversations. Engaging with Armenian Studies has been personally meaningful as well, helping me strengthen my own identity while contributing to the preservation and exploration of Armenian experiences in an academic setting. Although my professional career goals lie in Economics,



I see Armenian issues as central to my personal life and long-term commitments. I plan to continue my involvement by supporting Armenian cultural and educational initiatives, staying involved with community organizations, and contributing towards projects that highlight and support Armenian history and culture. My hope is to use the skills and resources I gain in my career to give back to the Armenian community. Whether through mentorship, advocacy, or financial support, I aim to ensure that my professional path always leaves space for meaningful engagement with Armenian issues.



TIAMO SHAUYA

Tiamo Shauya is a senior studying Political Science and Creative Writing. She is half-Armenian and is on the board for the Armenian Students' Cultural Association. She hopes to continue her studies at New York University Law School to become an Immigration Lawyer and help Middle Eastern and Armenian families immigrate to the United States. Tiamo wants to visit Armenia in the future and offer relief to victims in the ongoing conflict.

Before I even thought of attending the University of Michigan, I had begun learning the Armenian language. Starting in the fourth grade, I attended the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School and graduated from high school there in 2022. Since starting my education at the University of Michigan, I have taken various courses in Armenian Studies and language. I enjoy learning about Armenian celebrities and pop icons. For example, the course I am currently enrolled in revolves around Armenian media as well as literature. It is so interesting to see everything through the lens of social media, as well as popular sayings and catchphrases. It adds a different depth to being Armenian. Seeing it through the eyes of individuals who live in Armenia and the diaspora and learning about their perspective on being Armenian is such a beautiful thing.

I am also planning Hye Hop this year. This is our charity fundraising event that we host every year. We are all working endlessly to find a charity to donate all the proceeds for the event.



FACULTY UPDATES

KATHRYN BABAYAN

Kathryn Babayan has been invited to serve as a senior fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows for a four-year term beginning in the fall of 2025. She along with Cameron Cross (U-M|Middle East Studies) and Evyn Kropf (U-M|Special Collections) have been awarded the Michigan Humanities Collaboratory Development Grant for their *Isfahan Archive Project*. The project is an ambitious endeavor to create a digital archive of family anthologies produced in the city of Isfahan, to be hosted on a [Digital Collections Platform](#) at the University of Michigan Library. The grant will allow the team to reassemble digital surrogates of hundreds of Persian manuscripts from the seventeenth century to bring people's lives into view from a city with no extant state or civic archives. And finally, her article titled, "Gender in an Early

Modern Epistolary Rant," is forthcoming in, Ed. José María Pérez Fernández & Ida Caiazza, *A Material Web of Sentiments. Paper, Letter Writing and Gender in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, special issue of *MLQ*.

GOTTFRIED HAGEN

Gottfried Hagen stepped down from the directorship of CAS on June 30 to begin a one-year term as interim chair of the Department of Middle East Studies, but he remains closely associated with Armenian Studies in the new position. He continues his two main lines of research, on mapmaking, and on Ottoman Islam: A new article on the use and misuse of the famous sixteenth-century world map of Piri Re'is is coming out in *Archivum Ottomanicum*, and he published a [brief think-piece](#) on patronage of maps. A publication of a unique waterway map is in progress. A chapter on the relics of the

Prophet Muḥammad in political ritual was published in a volume on [Histories of Political Thought in the Ottoman World](#).

SOSY MISHOYAN

Sosy Mishoyan has expanded the Armenian language curriculum with a new topical course, Western Armenian Through Media & Literature. Alongside the beginner and intermediate sequences, this course introduces students to contemporary Western Armenian as it appears in newspapers, podcasts, social media, and literature, allowing them to engage with the language in its living contexts. In addition, her article, "My Stage Friends," *Hagop Ayyaz* («Բեմի Ընկերներս» Յակոբ Այվազ), was recently featured in the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (vol. 28, no. 1, 2021), a welcome recognition of her scholarship within the field of Armenian Studies.



Babayan



Hagen



Mishoyan



Pifer

MICHAEL PIFER

Michael Pifer adds a new course to his roster this year, examining the lives of migrants and refugees from the Ottoman Empire in Michigan during the early 20th century. This class, which is a seminar for incoming freshmen at U-M, allows students to learn about the past in many ways, including through field trips to the Arab American National Museum and St. John Armenian Church, as well as to the Bentley Historical Library to explore archival work on campus. He is publishing an article on multilingualism in medieval Armenia in the journal *Convivium* this fall, and continues to teach courses on Armenian cinema, cultural history, and the Silk Roads.

ANOUSH SUNI

Anoush Tamar Suni is delighted to be joining the Executive Committee of the Center for Armenian Studies this year! This Fall, Dr. Suni began a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan, after previously serving as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Promise Armenian Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. At the Wallenberg Institute, Dr. Suni will be completing her first book—*Memory in Ruins: Politics of History and the Afterlives of*



Suny



Tanielian

Genocide in Anatolia. Based on over two years of ethnographic fieldwork in the contested geography of historic Armenia/Northern Kurdistan/eastern Turkey, her book traces the interconnected pasts and presents of Armenian and Kurdish communities with a focus on state violence, local memory, and the material landscape of ruins. Her research has been recently published in the journals *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, and the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

RONALD SUNY

Ronald Grigor Suny, Distinguished University Professor of History and Political Science, taught for three weeks in Armenia and Georgia at the Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia. He has been interviewed on Fox News Detroit, WJR-AM Detroit, and elsewhere on the Trump-Putin Summit in Alaska, and published an article on the Summit in *The Conversation* and *Agos*, the Armenian-Turkish newspaper in Istanbul. On April 24, 2025, he spoke on the Armenian Genocide and the genocide in Gaza at the University of Denver, appearing later to mark the occasion with the mayor of Denver at the First Baptist Church, whose congregation had aided Armenians in the aftermath of the Genocide. His article— "Since the Centennial: New Departures on



Suni

the Scholarship of the Armenian Genocide, 2015–2021," was published in Thomas Kühne, Mary Jane Rein, and Marc A. Mamikonian (eds.), *Documenting the Armenian Genocide: Essays in Honor of Taner Akçam* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).

MELANIE TANIELIAN

Melanie Schulze Tanielian is currently the Director of the Program for International and Comparative Studies and an elected member of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA), as well as a member of the executive committee of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS). Her new volume co-edited with Michael Atzmon, Gary Krenz, and John Cheney-Lippold titled, *In the Spirit of H. Chandler Davis: Activism and the Struggle for Academic Freedom*, will be in print in time for the yearly Davis, Markert, and Nichols Academic Freedom Lecture. She has completed a new article, "Impossible Conditions of Life: Famine, Humanitarian Management and Genocide in Gaza" for the journal *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, and has contributed a book chapter, "Managing the Undesirables: Constructing the 'Refugee Camp' in Post-WWI Aleppo," for an Anthology edited by Bedross Der Matossian and Edita Gzoyan.



2025–26 EVENT CALENDAR

The Kond neighborhood, old city quarters in Yerevan

All our events are free and open to the public. When possible, recordings will be posted on the CAS YouTube page [youtube.com/asp/michigan](https://www.youtube.com/asp/michigan) after the event. Please visit ii.umich.edu/armenian for more information on upcoming events and sign up for our mailing list to receive updates and announcements.

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
4:30–6:00 PM
GUEST LECTURE
Unknown Land: Armenian Studies in the Context of Acentric Medieval History
Alison M. Vacca (Columbia University)

Wednesday, October 8, 2025
4:00–5:30 PM
BOOK TALK
The Politics of ‘No!’: Armenia’s National Survival and Queer Futures
Tamar Shirinian (University of Tennessee)

Sunday, October 26, 2025
12:00–12:30 PM
GARJ TALK
@ ST. JOHN’S ARMENIAN CHURCH
Ruins of an Armenian Past in Van
Anoush Suni (U-M|Raoul Wallenberg Institute)

Friday, November 14, 2025
4:00–5:30 PM
BOOK TALK
The Armenian Woman, Minoritarian Agency, and the Making of Iranian Modernity, 1860–1979
Houri Berberian (UC Irvine)
& Talinn Grigor (UC Davis)

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
4:00–5:30 PM
BOOK TALK
Writing Waterline: Patterns in Contemporary Armenian Diaspora Narratives
Aram Mrjoian (U-M|English)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
4:00–5:30 PM
BOOK TALK
Between Armenian(s): A Conversation with Arakel Minassian
Arakel Minassian (U-M|Comparative Literature) and Michael Pifer (U-M|Middle East Studies)

February 4th–April 30, 2026
GALLERY EXHIBIT
Making Armenian Americans
Project SAVE Photograph Archive/Archive Alive Project
Curator: Arto Vaun

Thursday, February 5, 2026
All Day
WORKSHOP
Photographic Genres, in and Beyond Archives
Organizer: Hazal Özdemir (Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow|History)

Sunday, February 8, 2026
12:15–1:15 PM
COMMUNITY EVENT
@ ST. JOHN’S ARMENIAN CHURCH
Title
Arto Vaun (Project SAVE)

GARJ

**BRIEF
COMMUNITY
DISCUSSIONS**

ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH
22001 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, MI 48075

TALKS

March 12–30, 2026
ARTIST EXHIBIT
Հմայարան / Hmayaran
Levon Kafatian (Detroit-based Artist)

Thursday, March 12, 2026
7:00–9:00 PM
2026 ANNUAL DR. BERJ H. HAIDOSTIAN LECTURE
Threading the Tapestry for a Future Armenia: Levon Kafatian in conversation with Marie-Aude Baronian
Levon Kafatian (Artist) and Marie Aude-Baronian (University of Amsterdam)

Sunday, March 22, 2026
GARJ TALK
@ ST. JOHN’S ARMENIAN CHURCH
Armenian Voices in Contemporary Literature
Aram Mrjoian (U-M|English)

April 10 and 11, 2026
All Day
15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP
Armenians Apart: Connections, Disconnections, and Tensions in Premodern and Modern Diasporas
Michael Pifer (U-M|Middle East Studies) and Armen Abkarian (PhD Candidate|U-M History)

Friday, April 24, 2026
4:00–5:30 PM
COMMUNITY EVENT
4th Annual Shared Memories: The Armenian Experience Through Objects and Stories.

May
TBA
VEM ENSEMBLE
The Music of Grikor Mirzaian Suni

OF A YEAR SUPPORT

ANNUAL DONATION REPORT

The Center for Armenian Studies (CAS) is funded by the generous donations of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation in concert with the large and vibrant Armenian community of Metro Detroit. We seek to increase the depth and breadth of resources devoted to Armenian studies at U-M through an endowed fund that provides permanent support for the center. This year, CAS solicited funds to support our three publicly-sourced funds:

Armenian Endowment

\$5,402.00

CAS promotes the study of the history, language, and culture of Armenia and Armenians and helps prepare a new generation of scholars. We seek to expand our programming devoted to Armenian studies.

Armenian Studies Graduate Student Fellowship Fund

\$530.00

Gifts to this fund support graduate student tuition, benefits, and summer research funding to maintain CAS's bold vision for the field of Armenian Studies worldwide, which includes the crucial preparation of the next generation of students and scholars.

Center for Armenian Studies Strategic Fund

\$1,825.00

Gifts to this fund support annual international workshops or conferences, academic and cultural programming, and community outreach.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all our community members who donated to the Center this year. Particularly during Spring's Giving Blue Day, we raised a combined total of \$877.44. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their generous contributions in 2024–25 (August 1, 2024–July 31, 2025).

We would like to share our sincere gratitude and recognition of our loyal major donors:

Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation

Agnes, Harry, and Richard Yarmain Fellowship Fund

Ashod and Clara Makarian Scholarship Fund

Avedis and Arsen Sanjian Fellowship Fund

Dr. Berj H. Haidostian Lecture Fund

Edward Hagop Noroian Scholarship Fund

Haiganoosh Mengushian/Ajemian Memorial Scholarship & Student Travel Award

Harry Ardashes Paul Memorial Fund

Leo A. and Armine G. Aroian Armenian Studies Scholarship Fund



In an effort to foster community engagement and in recognition of every donation of \$65 or higher, we will send you one of our special CAS T-shirts! **Our Center T-shirts not only represent your support for Armenian Studies but also help raise awareness of our vibrant community!**

Follow these steps to receive your shirt:

1. Visit the [Donation page](#)
2. Select your fund
3. Proceed to Checkout
4. Under Gift Options, select "I would like to add a comment"
5. Enter your T-shirt size in the comment box (one T-shirt per each \$65 increment)
6. Enter your contact information on the following page with the best email and mailing address the T-shirt would be sent to.

M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

The University of Michigan's Center for Armenian Studies serves the university and the community by:

- Preparing the next generation of scholars in the field of Armenian Studies.
- Offering a comprehensive university-level education in Armenian studies, teaching language, culture, literature, history, anthropology, international relations, and political science.
- Offering graduate student, postdoctoral, and visiting scholar fellowships; graduate and undergraduate student research support.
- Reaching out to the larger community with an intensive program of public lectures, workshops, international conferences, and film screenings.
- Answering student and researcher questions on Armenian history and culture from the US and throughout the world.

Together with our faculty, graduate students, visiting and postdoctoral fellows, we have combined our efforts to push scholarship in Armenian Studies in new directions. Our interventions in the study of Armenian history, literature, translation studies, and the visual arts can be gauged by a carefully curated set of initiatives we have undertaken that will have a long-term impact on the field.

The Center for Armenian Studies has existed since 1981 and we hope to continue to propel the study of Armenia to a higher level by providing resources to generate new historical knowledge and change the way Armenian history and culture is taught and preserved for future generations.



The Kond neighborhood, old city quarters in Yerevan