



# Generations and Legacies

*Louise Manoogian Simone's Vision for Armenian Studies*

**September 13–14, 2019**

1010 Weiser Hall

University of Michigan

500 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI

MS. MANOOGIAN SIMONE was a consummate patron of many things Armenian. Thanks to her generosity, our program has been uniquely poised to train and support a new generation of scholars in Armenian Studies. This conference will highlight the innovative and field-defining work of former and current visiting and postdoctoral fellows, as well as the students of our program.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Friday, September 13

**7 - 9 PM**

**A Reflection on Four Decades of Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan**

Former Directors of the Armenian Studies Program  
**Kathryn Babayan** (2012-2019)  
**Gerard Libaridian** (2007-2012)  
**Kevork Bardakjian** (1995-2007)  
**Ronald Suny** (1981-1995)

### Saturday, September 14

**9 - 9:15 AM**

**Welcome and opening remarks**

**9:15 - 10:30 AM**

**Narrating Matrimony: Marriage, Kinship, and Empire**

**Chair: Kathryn Babayan,**  
University of Michigan

*"Ottoman Armenian Discourses on Marriage in the Mid-Nineteenth Century"*

**Dzovinar Derderian,**  
Independent Scholar

*"Of Ploys and Poison: the Diplomatic Brides of the Medieval Caucasus"*  
**Alison Vacca,** University of Tennessee

**10:45 AM - 12 PM**

**Language and Nightingales: The Politics and Poetics of Armenian Linguistics and Literary Cultures**

**Chair: Karla Mallette,**  
University of Michigan

*"Late Ottoman Press and the Armenian Appropriation of the Turkish Language"*  
**Murat Cankara,** Social Sciences  
University of Ankara

*"Seeking Doctrine in the Ambiguous Poetry of Medieval Anatolia"*  
**Michael Pifer,** University of Michigan

**12 - 1 PM**

**Break**

**1 - 2:15 PM**

**Perceptions and Encounters: Tracing the History of Armenians and Kurds in Turkey**

**Chair: Ronald Suny,**  
University of Michigan

*"On Randomness and Surprises in the Field: Tracing the Armenian Past in Turkey"*

**Hakem Al-Rustom,**  
University of Michigan

*"Intercommunal Relations and Perceptions of Armenians and Kurds before the 1915 Genocide"*  
**Ohannes Kılıçdağı,**  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**2:30 - 4:15 PM**

**Signs, Objects, and Gifts: Introducing the Concept of Materiality to Armenian Studies**

**Chair: Ana Maria Vinea,**  
Independent Scholar

*"A Single Nature of Two': Armenian Christology and the Materiality of the Sign"*  
**Christopher Sheklian,** Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center

*"The Printing Revolution, Diaspora, and ImagiNations"*  
**Sebouh Aslanian,** University of California, Los Angeles

*"Diaspora and Materiality: Cultural Objects as Signifiers of Diasporic Presence and Permanence"*  
**Vahe Sahakyan,**  
University of Michigan–Dearborn

**4:30-5:30 PM**

**Future Flashes**

*"Frik in the Sheets: Medieval Poetry as an Alternative Perspective on Armenian History"*

**Armen Abkarian,** PhD student,  
University of Michigan

*"Language of Politics & Politics of Language in the Late Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic"*  
**Ali Bolcakan,** PhD candidate,  
University of Michigan

*"Practicing Diaspora with Vahé Oshagan"*  
**Karen Jallatyan,** Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan

*"Condemnation of Male Same-Sex Desire and Practices: Regulating Male Youth Sexuality in Konya (1914-18)"*  
**Tuğçe Kayaal,** PhD candidate,  
University of Michigan

*"Cultivating Democratic Attitudes on the Grassroots Level, One Heart and Mind at a Time"*  
**Jane Kitaevich,** PhD Candidate,  
University of Michigan

*"The Strange Case of the Bruki Tribe of Van: Scales and Histories of Encounters between Kurds and Armenians"*  
**Özge Korkmaz,** PhD candidate,  
University of Michigan.

*"Armenian Doctors Beyond Borders: Their Works and Contribution to the Scientific-Medical Labor Demands of the US"*  
**Mano Sakayan,** PhD student,  
University of Michigan.

*"Layers of Ruins and Memory in Van"*  
**Anoush Suni,** Manoogian Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan

*"Heritage Language Acquisition and Bilingualism: Western Armenian in the Diaspora"*  
**Annika Topelian,** BA student,  
University of Michigan

**5:30 - 6 PM**

**Closing remarks**