WATS 2017

Past in the Present: European Approaches to the Armenian Genocide

September 15-September 18, 2017, Berlin/Potsdam

Under the auspices of
the Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg
Dr. Martina Münch

Friday, September 15, 2017

5:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Cocktail

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Welcoming Remarks:
Dr. Martina Münch (Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg)
Dr. 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)
Saturday, September 16, 2017

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**PANEL 1: OTTOMAN ORIGINS**

Chair and Discussant:
*Ricard Antaramian (University of Southern California, Los Angeles)*

*Inter-Communal Perceptions and Discourses in the Ottoman Empire before the Armenian Genocide*
*Ohannes Kılıçdağı (Bilgi University Istanbul)*

*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, Kopenhagen)*

*The Religious Factor in the 1915 Genocide*
*Vicken Cheterian (University of Geneva/Webster University 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, Phnom Penh)*
Discussant:
*Nazan Maksudyan (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)*

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**PANEL 3: 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)*

Beyond Relief: A Sketch of the Near East Relief’s Humanitarian Operations, 1918-1929
*Davide Rodogno (Graduate Institute Geneva)*

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

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

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

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**PANEL 4: 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)

Discussant:
Nanor Kebranian (Queen Mary University of London, School of Law)

8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

PUBLIC EVENT

Introduction:
Rolf Hosfeld (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

Literature Reading and Discussion:
Armine and Varujan Vosganian read from Varujan Vosganian’s novel “Book of Whispers”

Sunday, September 17, 2017

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 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 Hosfeld (Lepsiushaus Potsdam)

Minority Histories and Reconciliation in Post-Ottoman Turkey
Erkan Êrcel (Ryerson 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) and Öykü Gürpınar (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

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

The Story of a Speech: Debating Armenian-Turkish Relations in the Aftermath of WWI
Vahé Tachjian (Houshamadyan)

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)*

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)*

Discussant:  
*Andrea Pető (Central European University Budapest)*

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: WATS PAST AND FUTURE**

Chair:  
*Ronald Grigor Suny (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)*

All Participants and Organizers

8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC EVENT**

Screening of the performance “Auction of Souls ” by Arsinée Khanjian commissioned by the Maxim Gorki Theater in 2015.  
Afterwards discussion with  
*Arsinée Khanjian (Actor, Director, Playwright, Toronto) and Hrag Varjábedian (Independent Researcher, Washington DC)*
Monday, September 18, 2017

10:00 – 12:00 a.m.

VISITING THE LEPSIUSHAUS POTSDAM

Optional for all participants

Venue: Lepsiushaus Potsdam
Große Weinmeisterstraße 45, 14469 Potsdam