

The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions

Academic Workshop Program
9-10 April 2010

Workshop Organizers:

Taner Akçam

Robert Aram & Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen & Marian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies at
the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University

and

Eric Weitz

Distinguished McKnight University Professor of History and Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Professor, College
of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

and

NAASR

(The National Association of Armenian Studies and Research)

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Why this Workshop?

As is the case with most mass murders, the first experts on the Armenian Genocide were survivors. They gathered documentation, wrote memoirs and, later, published these materials. Aram Andonian began compiling documentary evidence in 1916 and his publications form a foundation for studies in this area. Father Krikor Gergerian, who wrote under the pen name *Kriger*, and Haigazn Kazarian introduced a more systematic approach to the subject in the 1960s.

Vahakn Dadrian's scholarship serves as a bridge between these first efforts and the scholarship that followed. Dadrian brought academic discipline to the study of primary source materials; his books and articles established the footings for Armenian Genocide studies within the social science realm.

Decades have passed, and hundreds of publications in many languages have appeared on the subject. Despite the inevitable limitations of the pioneering work, the Armenian Genocide, once known as the *forgotten genocide*, has rightfully taken an important place within the field of Genocide Studies.

The organizers of this workshop seek to move the field forward by assessing the current state of research and considering the resources and materials available in the various archives. In what condition and shape are the materials? How much work has been done on these sources, and have materials been viewed in relationship to each other? What fundamental shifts in perspective have occurred in explaining the Genocide and can we define them? Can we identify different models for scholarly analysis of the Genocide? If yes, what are they? What is the place of Armenian Genocide research within genocide research, in general? What problems do we face in our research? In short, what has been accomplished to date, and what research goals and perspectives emanate from unfolding scholarship?

With this workshop we aspire to "take a picture" of known resources and the current state of scholarship. We seek to foster serious discussion about the main problems and fundamental questions of the field in order to increase opportunities for cooperation among scholars.

Workshop Program

Location: Grace Room, Higgins University Center

Friday, April 9, 2010

9:00AM	Introduction	Marc Mamigonian
Session 1		
9:00-10:45AM	Issues and Problems of Existing Scholarship on the Armenian Genocide: Where Are We in the Research?	Marc Mamigonian, Moderator Panelists: Richard Hovannisian, Donald Bloxham, Oktay Özel, Rouben Adalian
	Richard Hovannisian:	So, Where Do We Go from Here?
	Donald Bloxham:	Armenian Genocide in the Light of Comparative Genocide Scholarship
	Rouben Adalian:	From Imperatives to Interpretations: Archival and Historical Analysis of the Armenian Genocide, 1965 to 2010
	Oktay Özel:	Remembering the Basics: On the Necessity for a Historian's Agenda in the Study of the Armenian Genocide
10:45 - 11:00AM	<i>Mid-morning coffee break</i>	<i>Lurie Room</i>

Session 2		
11:00 - 1:00PM	Armenian Sources and Archives	Ara Sanjian, Moderator Panelists: Hayk Demoyan, Aram Arkun, Dikran Kaligian, Raymond Kevorkian, Bedross Der Matossian
	Dikran Kaligian:	ARF Archives in Boston and the Armenian Genocide
	Bedross Der Matossian:	Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchal Archive and the Armenian Genocide
	Raymond Kevorkian:	Armenian Materials About Massacres and Deportations
	Aram Arkun:	Armenian-Language Primary Sources Published on the Armenian Genocide: A Preliminary Survey
	Hayk Demoyan:	Russian and Armenian Archival Sources on the Armenian Genocide in Armenia
	Excursion I./ Asbed Kotchikian:	Armenian Church in Aleppo and its Archive
	Excursion II./ Khatchig Mouradian:	Early Armenian Newspaper Coverage on Genocide, 1915-1935
<i>1:00 - 1:50PM</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>University Student Cafeteria</i>

Session 3		
2:00 - 3:45PM	Ottoman/Turkish Sources and Archives	Selim Deringil, moderator Panelists: Ayhan Aktar, Nazan Maksudyan, Seda Altuğ, Uğur Üngör
	Ayhan Aktar:	Ottoman Archive on the Question of How Effective was the Ottoman Bureaucracy During 1915-1917?
	Nazan Maksudyan:	Documentation of 1909 Adana Massacres: A Comparative Study of Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi and French Diplomatic Archives in Nantes
	Seda Altuğ:	Armenian Genocide in the Syrian Sources
	Uğur Üngör:	Skeletons in the Closet? Notes on the Armenian Genocide in Turkish Archives of the Republic Period
	Excursion I./ Oktay Özel:	The ATASE Archive and the Ottoman Archival Materials in Sofia, Bulgaria
	Excursion II. /Taner Akçam:	Some Observations on the Ottoman Interior Ministry, Second Department of the General Security Documents
3:45 - 4:00PM	<i>Afternoon coffee break</i>	<i>Lurie Room</i>

Saturday, April 10			Workshop Continues		
Session 5					
9:00 - 10:45AM	What Needs To Be Done?	Taner Akçam, moderator Panelists: Eric Weitz, Erik Zürcher, Ron Suny, Stephan Astourian, Henry Theriault			
	Eric Weitz:	Historical Context of the Armenian Genocide			
	Erik Zürcher:	Subaltern Histories of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey - Essential Steps on the Way to a New Synthesis			
	Ron Suny:	What Is to be Done? Future Work on the Armenian Genocide			
	Stephan Astourian:	The Road Ahead for Armenian Genocide Studies			
	Excursion/ Henry Theriault:	Gender and Genocide: New Perspectives for Armenian Genocide Research			
<i>10:45 - 11:00AM</i>	<i>Mid-morning coffee break</i>	<i>Lurie Room</i>			
Session 6					
11:00-12:00AM	Reflections on the Workshop and Suggestions	Taner Akçam and Eric Weitz, moderators			
<i>12:00 - 1:00 PM</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>University Student Cafeteria</i>			

Driving tour of Armenian sites in Worcester will follow program.