

Arts, Heritage, and Belonging: Armenian Transcultural Entanglements

**Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

June 14–15, 2023

Levis Faculty Center, Room 210

919 W. Illinois St.

Urbana, IL

Co-organized by

Dr. Donna A. Buchanan, Professor, School of Music

**Dr. Maureen E. Marshall, Associate Director, REEEC and President, American Research
Institute in the South Caucasus**

Cosponsored by the:

American Research Institute of the South Caucasus and the University of Illinois Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy; Center for Advanced Study; Center for Global Studies; Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; European Union Center; Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center; and School of Music

Wednesday, June 14

- 1:15–1:30 **Welcoming Remarks**
Maureen E. Marshall and Donna A. Buchanan
John Randolph, Associate Professor, History, and Director, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 1:30–3:00 **Opening Keynote Lecture and Discussion**
“Making a Homeland: Exploring ‘Roots’ Mobility and Armenian Diasporic Engagement”
Tsypylma Darieva (To be delivered remotely)
Senior Researcher
Centre for East European and International Studies, ZOiS, Berlin
- Introduction: John Randolph
Associate Professor, History
Director, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
- 3:00–3:30 **Break**

- 3:30–6:00 — **Panel 1**—
Diasporic Engagements: Homelands, Disjunctures, Dialogues
Chair: Ani Yazedjian
Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
University Professor
Illinois State University
- 3:30–4:15 “Armenian Music” and its Discontents
Sylvia Alajaji
Professor of Music
Franklin & Marshall College
- 4:15–5:00 Diasporic Multiculturalism
Daniel Fittante
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Södertörn University, Stockholm
- 5:00–5:45 “Bamboo Reeds Bought in Chinatown”: Armenian Music, Racialization, and Inter-Ethnic Histories in 20th-Century California
Alyssa Mathias
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music
Knox College
- 6:00–8:00 **Reception**
South Lobby, School of Music
1114 W. Nevada St., Urbana
Music by Dimitri Glaros, sophomore, BA Music Composition, UIUC

Thursday, June 15

- 9:00–12:15 — **Panel 2** —
Staging Armenian Subjectivities: Sounding Struggle, Choreographing Conflict
Chair: Rebecca Nettle-Fiol
Professor, Department of Dance
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 9:00–9:45 Socialist Verismo and the Pastoral Idyll of the Armenian *Kolkhoz*
Knar Abrahamyan (To be delivered remotely)
Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Race
Columbia University

- 9:45–10:30 The Taron Underground: Performing Exile and Resistance in Post-Genocide Soviet Armenia
Armen Adamian
PhD student, Ethnomusicology
University of California at Los Angeles
- 10:30–10:45 **Break**
- 10:45–11:30 *The Journey: Commemorative Choreographies of Bulgarian Armenian Trauma, Testimony, and Transcendence*
Donna A. Buchanan
Professor of Musicology, Anthropology, and Slavic Languages & Literatures
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 11:30–12:15 Choreographing Armenian *Goyamart: Dancing Yarkhushta* during Wartime Protest
Natalie Kamajian
PhD student, Culture and Performance
University of California at Los Angeles
Director of Dance, Lernazang Ensemble, Los Angeles
- 1:30–4:00 — **Panel 3** —
Showcasing Armenianness: Homelands, Hostlands, and Entangled Transcultural Heritages
Chair: Helaine Silverman
Professor, Department of Anthropology
Director, Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy
Trustee: World Heritage USA-US/ICOMOS
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 1:30–2:15 Entangled Assemblage: Armenian Material Culture in an Occasional Collection
Maureen E. Marshall
Associate Director, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
President, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus
- 2:15–3:00 The Flavors of Cultural Preservation: Armenians Cooking in Diaspora
Mari Firkatian
Professor of History
University of Hartford
- 3:00–3:45 Heritage in the Hostland: Armenian-American Engagement at the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Sabrina Papazian
Research Associate, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
User Experience Researcher

3:45–4:15 **Break**

4:15–6:00 **Closing Keynote Lecture and Discussion**

Revisiting Armenianness: Memorials, State and Folk Rituals in Post-Soviet
Armenia

Levon Abrahamian (To be delivered remotely)

Professor and Chair, Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies

Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences

Yerevan, Armenia

Introduction: Serouj Aprahamian

Assistant Professor

Department of Dance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

6:00–6:30 **Concluding Plenary Discussion**

Moderators: Donna A. Buchanan and Maureen E. Marshall