THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE IN THE DESERTS OF SYRIA AND MESOPOTAMIA AS A PHASED MANIFESTATION: PROCESS AND METHODS OF ANNIHILATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Yerevan
November 27, 2026

09:00 – 09:30 – Registration of participants

09:30 – 11.30

Opening remarks: Hrachya Tashchyan, Acting Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI)

Keynote Lecture: Tessa Hofmann – Genocidal Intent defined as the Holocaust

First Session – Sources, Testimonies, Documents

Chair: Hrachya Tashchyan (AGMI)

1. Ashot Hayruni (Yerevan State University) – The Condition of the Remnants of the Deported Armenians Accumulated in the Desert and Their Annihilation According to German-Language Records

2. Mariam Hovsepyan (Institute of History, NAS RA) – Testimonies of Survivors in the Pages of Constantinopolitan Periodicals (1918–1919)

3. Verzhine Svazlyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS RA) – Testimonies of Arab Nomads about Armenian Deportees and Reflections of Their Suffering in the Turkish-Language Lament "Deyr Zorun Ichinde"

4. Gohar Khanumyan (AGMI) – The Ras al-Ayn Massacres in the Testimonies of Survivors: A Study of the Mechanisms and Experience of Genocidal Violence

Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 – Coffee break

12:00- 13:45

Second Session – Geography of Death: Landscapes, Killing Sites, and Stations

Chair: Shushan Khachatryan (AGMI)

1. Victoria Abrahamyan (UniDistance, Switzerland) - Necrogeography of the Armenian Genocide: Natural Landscapes as Infrastructures of Mass Killing

2. Naira Yerkanian – When the Place Itself Becomes a Witness: An Attempt at Applying
the Project Method in the Study of the Geographical Factor

3. Yara Touma – Beyond the Mass Grave: Prolonged Killing Spaces in the Syrian Desert during the Armenian Genocide

4. Arpine Hakobyan (NAS RA, ISEC), **Marat Mkrtchyan** (NAS RA, ISEC) – The Euphrates as a Space of Mass Killings and Disposal of Victims in 1915–1916

5. Vahram Hovyan (ASUE) – Two Stations of the Armenian Genocide in Kesab (Comparative Analysis)

Discussion

13:45 – 14:45 – Lunch break

14:45 – 16:15

Third Session – Women and Children as Targets of the Annihilation Process

Chair: Robert Tatoyan (AGMI)

1. Theofanis Malkidis, Konstantinos Malkidi (Panteion University, Athens, Greece) - The Annihilation of Armenian Women in the Syrian and Mesopotamian Deserts: A Phased Manifestation of Genocide

2. Tehmine Martoyan (AGMI) – From Care Recipient to Caregiver: The Socio-Psychological and Functional Role Reversal of Children during the Armenian Genocide

3. Júlia de Moraes Cabral Tordeur (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) - The Women Who Survived the Desert: Reconstructing Armenian Experiences of Survival through Intergenerational Narratives in Brazil

4. Arshaluis Teteyan (YSMU) – A Survivor's Testimony: Aghavni Galayjian's Journey from Aintab to Aintab

Discussion

16:15 – 16:30 – Coffee break

16:30 – 17:45

Fourth Session – Demographic, Psychological, and Denialist Aspects of the Extermination of Armenians

Chair: Tehmine Martoyan (AGMI)

1. Robert Tatoyan (AGMI) – The Number of Armenians Killed in the Deportation Camps of Syria and Mesopotamia in 1915–16

2. Mari Hovhannisyan (AGMI) – Methodology of Annihilation and the Discourse of Denial: The Implementation of the Armenian Genocide in the Deserts of Syria and Mesopotamia and Official Theses

3. Armine Vahanyan (Armenian-Russian (Slavonic) University) – Psychological Mechanisms of the Formation of Nutritional Behavior among Descendants of Armenian Genocide Survivors ("Carriers of Transgenerational Trauma")

Discussion
Conference final remarks and conclusion

17:45 – Visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex

18:00 – Dinner