

Course Manual



Convened by Kerem Öktem (Graz)
in cooperation with Sossie Kasbarian (Lancaster), Joanne Laycock (Sheffield Hallam)



Introduction to the lecture series

2015 marks the hundredth anniversary of the Armenian genocide. For much of these hundred years, the destruction of the Ottoman Empire's Armenian subjects has been an understudied topic in academia. Its remembrance has been limited to the survivors of this great catastrophe, their successors and a surprisingly small circle of friends and sympathetic supporters. The single most important reason for this subdued presence of one of the formative moments of modern Turkish, European and Middle Eastern history in our debates and on our minds has been the continued and robust denial by official Turkey.

Only in the last two decades, scholarship as well as the public engagement with the genocide have left the confines of niche existence and moved closer to the centre of debates. The revisionist history of contemporary Turkey has been a key locale, where this movement from the margins to the centre has been most visible. Struggles for and clashes around memory and denial have sparked a new interest in the issue in Turkey and beyond. While Turkey's national identity is being re-negotiated amidst the rise of the Kurdish national movement, Armenian identity is also being challenged and re-invented in Armenia, the Diaspora and not least among Armenian communities in Turkey. In this process of renegotiation, the genocide is a central point of reference: Even though there are clear distinctions between perpetrators and victims, the genocide, its memory or its denial are key moments of these complex and insecure national identities and their re-negotiation. And even the dividing lines between victim and perpetrator may at times blur uncomfortably and call into question conceptions of total victimhood or total evil. The example of 'Muslim Armenians', the children of Armenians, who survived in Muslim families -Kurdish, Turkish and Arab- is a case in point that will also be discussed in depth in this course.

In this hundredth year of the genocide, the convenors seek to contribute to the commemorations with the lecture series "Political violence and national identity: The Armenian genocide and its legacies". The lectures will be delivered by leading scholars in the field, ranging from scholars of Armenian genocide and comparative genocide to experts of gender, Ottoman history, Modern Turkey, Armenia and the Diaspora.

Our aim is to engage in four broad levels of analysis:

- A general introduction of the historical context that led to the descent into genocide amidst the violence of World War I and the demise of the Ottoman Empire.
- A nuanced understanding of the processes of genocidal destruction, from gendered experiences, stories of survivors to the political economy of genocide.
- A discussion of the complex ways whereby the experience of genocide has been shaping the life worlds of today, from the Armenian diasporas to modern Armenia and Turkey, and from memory to culture and arts.
- An analysis of the resistance to denial and futures of engagement between Turks, Kurds and Armenians, particularly in the sphere of civil society.

As the lecture series unfolds, we will also be able to reflect on public debates, which are likely to intensify around the official day of commemoration on April the 24th, the day on which a hundred years ago a group of Armenian notables and intellectuals were rounded up in the Ottoman capital Istanbul and sent to exile and in most cases death in Anatolia.

We do hope that you will be able to join us in this important endeavour to remember and understand the Armenian genocide, its impact on Armenians, Turks and Kurds today and more widely, its meaning for our understanding of European and world politics and of the dark side of humanity.

The convenors

Structure and themes

Session	Lecture, time, location	Themes	Lecturers	Status
1.	Introduction to the course March 11 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Modernisation, nationalism, imperialism, genocide	Kerem Öktem	Lecture in Graz
2.	The gender of genocide March 18 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Gendered experiences of genocide	Ayşegül Altınay, Sabanci University, Istanbul	Lecture in Graz
3.	Historical context March 25 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Balkan Wars, World War 1 and the Committee of Union and Progress From deportation to genocide	Hans-Lukas Kieser University of Zurich	Lecture in Graz
4.	The political economy of genocide March 27 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Expropriation, transfer of capital and the making of a new bourgeoisie	Kerem Öktem	Lecture in Graz
5.	Effects of genocide (1) April 29 / 15-17 HS 31.11	Armenian diasporas	Sossie Kasbarian University of Lancaster	Lecture in Graz
6.	Effects of genocide (2) May 6 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Survivors: The Grandchildren and Muslim Armenians	Ayşegül Altınay Sabanci University, Istanbul	Skype lecture
7.	Effects of genocide (3) May 13 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Memory and Denial in Turkey Positions within the Turkish state, Armenia and the Diaspora	Kerem Öktem	Lecture in Graz
8.	Effects of genocide (4) May 20 / 10 -12 h HS 15.01	Modern Armenia	Joanne Laycock Sheffield Hallam	Skype Lecture
9.	Effects of genocide (5) May 27 / 10 -12 h HS 15.01	Survivors: Culture and arts	Hülya Adak Sabanci University, Istanbul	Lecture in Graz
10.	Comparative perspectives June 3 / 15-17 HS 31.11	Holocaust, Bosnia, Rwanda And how genocides are forgotten or remembered.	Mark Levene Southampton University	Skype Lecture
11.	Conclusion June 10 / 10 -12 HS 15.01	Resistance, opposition and looking back to 1915	Uğur Ümit Üngör Utrecht University (TBC)	Lecture in Graz
12.	Keynote lecture and roundtable Is a shared memory possible? Reflecting on 1915 - 2015 June 10 / 17 - 19 h <i>Location to be announced</i>	Memory works, contestation and civil society in Armenia, Turkey and the Diaspora	Archbishop Boghos Zekiyan, Prof. em. (TBC) Kerem Öktem Sossie Kasbarian Joanne Laycock Uğur Ümit Üngör	In cooperation with Literaturhaus Graz

Most lectures will take place in Lecture Hall HS 15.01 in the RESOWI Building, Wednesdays at 10. Please also note the following exceptions: Session 4 will take place on a Friday, sessions 5 and 10 will be held at HS 31.11 from 3-5.

Reading

The course lecturers will send us their papers at least two weeks prior to their session. They will also provide a set of questions that will help you to navigate through the material.

We will upload all material on **Moodle** as soon as we receive them. Please also check the Centre website at <http://www.suedosteuropa.uni-graz.at> for updates.

Below, you find a selection of some of the most important core works in the field of genocide studies and the Armenian genocide. These will also be available on **Moodle**.

Akcam, Taner (2004) *From Empire to Republic: Turkish Nationalism and the Armenian Genocide*, London: Zed Books.

Bloxham, Donald (2005) *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians*, New York: Oxford University Press.

De Waal, Thomas (2015) *Great Catastrophe: Armenians and Turks in the Shadow of Genocide*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kévorkian, Raymond (2011) *The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History*, London: I.B.Tauris

Levene, Mark (2005) *Genocide in the Age of the Nation State: Volume 1: The Meaning of Genocide*, London: I. B. Tauris.

Levene, Mark (2005) *Genocide in the Age of the Nation State: Volume 2: The Rise of the West and the Coming of Genocide*, London: I. B. Tauris.

The following **websites** are excellent points of departure to deepen your work on the Armenian genocide and Turkish - Armenian relations.

AGOS is a high-quality weekly newspaper, co-founded by Hrant Dink, the Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights activist who was assassinated in January 2007 by a young Turkish nationalist. It has a selection of articles in English: <http://www.agos.com.tr/en/home>

The **Hrant Dink Foundation** website will give you an overview of ongoing projects of research and reconciliation: <http://www.hrantdink.org>

The **Houshamadyan** website is a great way to get a first impression of the wealth and diversity of Armenians in the late Ottoman Empire: <http://www.houshamadyan.org/en/home.html>

Course admin

You are encouraged to get in touch with the course convenor Prof. Kerem Öktem via e-mail at kerem.oktem@uni-graz.at or during his office hours on Tuesdays from 10-12. The office is in RESOWI Block K3.

The Teaching Assistant for this course is Güler Alkan, available at gueler.alkan@uni-graz.at.

For admin issues, exam dates, registering for exams and exam results please contact Ms. Tanja Bilaver. Her e-mail is tanja.bilaver@uni-graz.at.