

## ARMENIAN DIASPORAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EAST

### AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ORGANIZED BY **IRENE BUENO** (UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA) AND **CAMILLE ROUXPETEL** (NANTES UNIVERSITY)

Armenians were among the most widespread communities throughout the medieval Mediterranean and Near East. While Armenian diasporic communities were often enhanced by political fragmentation and instability in the historical motherland, their mobility contributed to design an interconnected religious and cultural landscape across diverse contexts from France to the Black Sea and beyond. This two-day conference will address the entangled history of these communities in the Mediterranean and Near East in 1000-1600, both by shedding new light on how they contributed to larger processes of cultural and religious communication across political and cultural boundaries and by engaging scholars specializing in medieval Latin, Armenian, Syriac, Byzantine, Mongol, and Islamic history, and art history, as well as in other diasporic groups in comparative and interdisciplinary discussions.

This conference has been organized with support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the scholarly programs and publications funds in the names of Myron and Sheila Gilmore, Jean-Francois Malle, Andrew W. Mellon, Robert Lehman, Craig and Barbara Smyth, and Malcolm Hewitt Wiener.

### IMAGES:

*13th century manuscript copied in Jerusalem*  
miniature and colophon on lapis lazuli  
St James, Armenian Patriarchate, Jerusalem

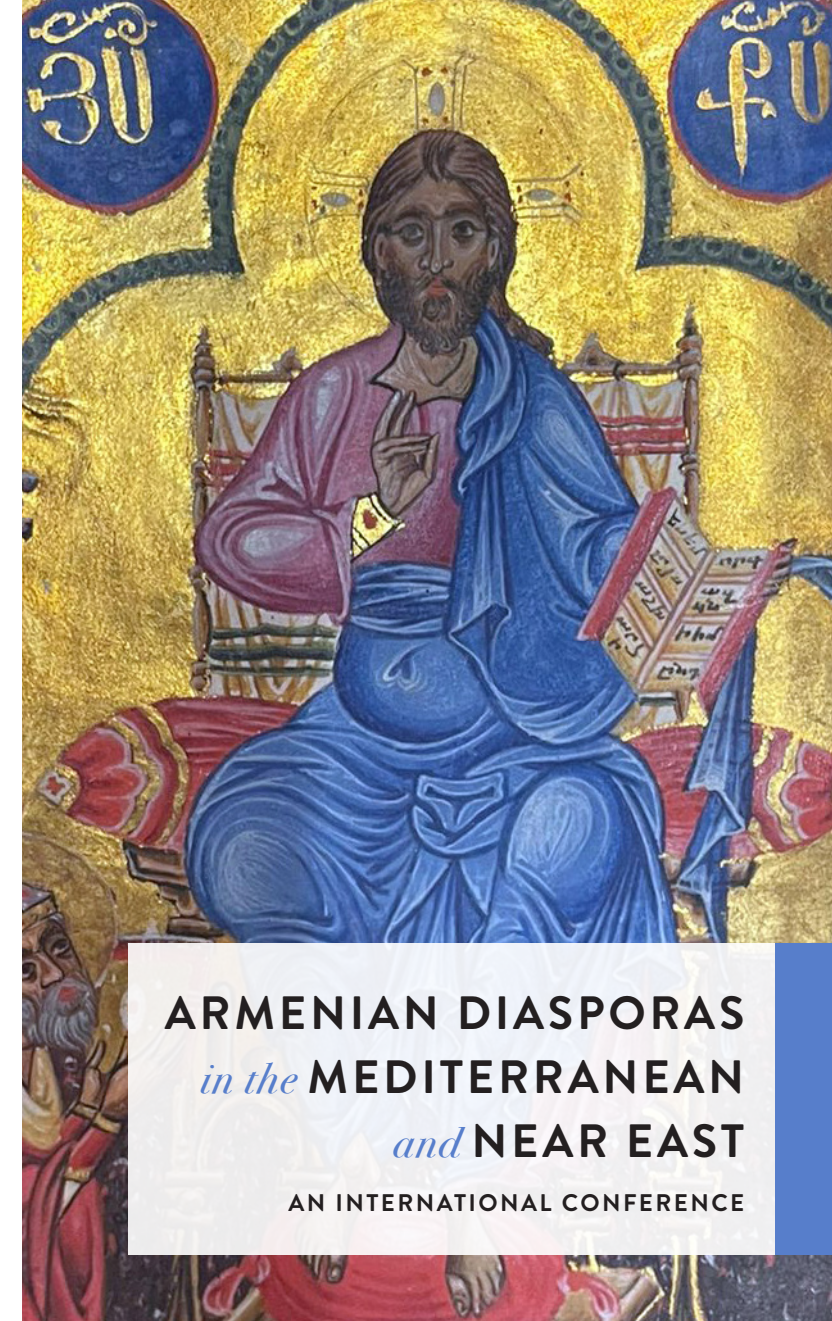
*Vangeli di Roma, anno 1254, f. 1v*  
Monastero dei PP. Mechitaristi di San Lazzaro, Venice

*Map of Armenia (detail)*  
Hall of Geographical Maps  
Palazzo Vecchio, Florence

*Ptolemy Cosmographia 1467 (detail)*  
Jacob d'Angelo after Claudius Ptolemaeus  
Reichenbach Monastery

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 **I TATTI**  
THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER  
FOR ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STUDIES



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November 9-10 / 2023

I TATTI

## Thursday, November 9

- 10:45 Coffee
- 11:15 **IRENE BUENO** (University of Bologna)  
**CAMILLE ROUXPETEL** (Nantes University)  
Introductory Remarks
- KEEPING COMMUNITY IN DIASPORA**  
**CHAIR: REUVEN AMITAI**  
(Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 11:30 **SERGIO LA PORTA** (California State University, Fresno)  
The Texts that Bind: Connectivities and Community in the Medieval Armenian Diaspora
- 12:00 **IOANNA RAPTİ** (École Pratique des Hautes Études)  
Fostering Community: Armenian Visual Culture in the Genoese Crimea and Ottoman Crimea (Patterns of Patronage, Building and Painting; Class, Groups and Individuals)
- 12:30 Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch
- DIASPORIC PURPOSES**  
**CHAIR: VIVIEN PRIGENT** (École Française de Rome)
- 14:30 **ANNICK PETERS-CUSTOT** (Nantes University)  
The Armenian Wandering Holy Men Through the Eyes of Latin Sources: an Imaginary Diaspora (10th-11th Centuries)?
- 15:00 **ALEXANDR OSIPIAN**  
(Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)  
Merchants-Turned-Diplomats: Armenians as Intermediaries in Polish-Ottoman and Lithuanian-Tatar Relations, 1350-1600



- 15:30 **HENRY SHAPIRO** (Ibn Haldun University)  
Armenian 'Utilitarian Histories' of the Early Modern Islamic World
- 16:00 Discussion
- 16:30 Coffee
- 09:15 Coffee
- DIASPORIC GROUPS AND AREA STUDIES, A REASSESSMENT**  
**CHAIR: SERGIO LA PORTA** (California State University, Fresno)
- Armenians in the Mongol Empire*
- 09:45 **REUVEN AMITAI** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
From Mongol Ally to Mamluk Conquest: Cilician Armenia's Short 14th Century
- 10:15 **BAYARSAIKHAN DASHDONDOG** (National University of Mongolia)  
Bas-relief of Armenian Princes Tells the Story
- 10:45 Discussion
- 11:15 Coffee
- Armenians and the West*
- 11:30 **ANNA SIRINIAN** (University of Bologna)  
New Data on the Armenian Presence in Rome Between the Thirteenth and Early Fourteenth Century
- 12:00 **IRENE BUENO** (University of Bologna)  
*Omnes Armeni de Mundo*: Armenian Tradition and Local Varieties Through the Latins' Lens
- 12:30 Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch

## Friday, November 10

- Jerusalem: a Unique Laboratory?*
- 14:30 **RAFAEL GAZHARIAN** (Staff-Bearer of the Jerusalem Patriarch, Director of Manuscript Library of Jerusalem)  
Armenian Scriptoria of Holy Land
- 15:00 **CAMILLE ROUXPETEL** (Nantes University)  
Entangled Christianities in Jerusalem Based on Hitherto Unknown Islamic Documents: A Comparative Perspective
- 15:30 Discussion
- 16:00 Coffee
- A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**  
**CHAIR: ANNICK PETERS-CUSTOT**  
(Nantes University)
- 16:15 **ISKANDAR BCHEIRY** (ATLA, Chicago)  
Syriacs in Egypt and Cyprus in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, based on Copto-Arabic Sources
- 16:45 **ALEXANDRA LALIBERTÉ** (Toulouse University)  
Preserve and Disseminate Greek Knowledge. The Role of the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Elites and of the Greek Merchants in the Circulation of the Greek Literature in Eastern Europe
- 17:15 Final Discussion
- 17:45 **VIVIEN PRIGENT** (École Française de Rome)  
Concluding Remarks

