

NOUVEL HAY MAGAZINE

SANS FRONTIÈRES

**Les défis du Liban & de sa
communauté arménienne**

: "Les défis du Liban et de la communauté arménienne", le 25 février à 10h00



Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA : "Les défis du Liban et de la communauté arménienne", le 25 février à 10h00
Panélistes : Joe Kechichian, Ara Sanjian et Samar Issa, Modérateur : Viken Hovsepian

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ARPA Institute Panel Discussion
"The Challenges of Lebanon and the Armenian Community"
By Joe Kechichian, Ara Sanjian and Samar Issa, Moderator: Viken Hovsepian
Saturday, February 25, 2023 @ 10:00 am, PST

Abstract: Christians in the Middle East are in a difficult situation, particularly in the context of extreme swings between Sunnis and Shi'ahs. Nevertheless, and however imperfect, the moribund Lebanese system has given Christians some political privileges, which are now in jeopardy. Armenian families, like many other Christian communities, are emigrating even if few have a clear idea of actual numbers. The panel will discuss the repercussions of these issues and shed light on expected future developments considering the economic crisis, including the clientelist system and government complicity, the intricacies of local and international politics pertaining to Lebanon, the fundamental reasons why Armenians cannot offer any solution by themselves but may carry the brunt of the financial-political crisis. In addition, highlighted will be migration and "assimilation" among the Maronite-dominated Arabic-speaking Christian population of the country.

Joseph A. Kechichian, Ph.D., a former political scientist at the Rand Corporation in Los Angeles, is a non-resident Senior Fellow at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The author of 19 books, his latest contribution is *A Sultanate that Endures: Oman in the World from Qaboos bin Said to Haitham bin Tariq*, Liverpool University Press, 2023, along with "Armenians and Jews Confront the Genocide," in *The Palgrave International Handbook of Israel*, edited by P. R. Kumaraswamy, 2022.

Ara Sanjian, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn was born in Beirut, Lebanon where he went to school. From 1986 to 1991 he studied for his master's degree in history at Yerevan State University, Armenia. From 1991 to 1994, he did his PhD in modern history of the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. From 1996 to 2005, Dr. Sanjian served as Chairman of the Department of Armenian Studies, History and Political Science at Hagazian University in Beirut. In 2006, he joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn. His research focuses on the post-World War I history of Armenia, Turkey, and the Arab states of Western Asia. He is the author of *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact (COB)*, two monographs, and several articles and book chapters, in English, Armenian, Russian, and French.

Samar Issa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Finance, Business Analytics, and Leadership at the Department of Business Administration at Saint Peter's University, New Jersey, USA. She is also the Director of the Center for Leadership Studies. She received a Ph.D. in Economics from The New School for Social Research. She formerly completed an MBA from the Lebanese American University. She is an expert on economic crisis and diaspora engagement and possesses a good track record of research success with published articles and international conference presentations. Samar worked for over a decade at U.S. corporations, the United Nations, and in Lebanon. She is fluent in English, Arabic, and French, and conversant in Spanish.

Viken Hovsepian, Ph.D., School of International Relations, University of Southern California (USC), in US foreign formulation and decision making, especially on the Middle East. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon and is a community leader and activist. Dr. Hovsepian has held leadership positions in Armenian organizations, as Chairman of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Western US Central Committee, and the ARF Bureau. Hovsepian was awarded the "Mkhit'ar Gosh" medal by the President of Artsakh, for his many services to the people, and to the Republic of Artsakh. He helped establish the Fran-Armenian Council (PAC) in the Western US, of 24 organizations to promote dialog and coordinate activities, and was its first moderator. Dr. Hovsepian has also had a long banking career and is an Advisory Board member at Golden State Bank in California.

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