

Liaisons dangereuses : les relations arméno-russes : Arpa

Table ronde de l'Institut ARPA

« Les relations arméno-russes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui »

Panélistes : Tom de Waal, Artyom Tonoyan et Stephen Badalyan Riegg,

Modérateur : Arpi Movsesian

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ARPA Institute Panel Discussion

“Armenian-Russian Relations in the Past and Present”

Panelists: Tom de Waal, Artyom Tonoyan and Stephen Badalyan Riegg,
Moderator: Arpi Movsesian

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 @ 10:00am, PST

Abstract: Inaction by Russia during Azerbaijan's recent conquest of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh surprised some observers, reinforced the convictions of others, and prompted wide-ranging questions from many about the nature of Russo-Armenian political relations. How can ties between the Armenians of the South Caucasus and the Russian Empire in the 1800s help us understand today's circumstances? Why did the Soviet ecosystem of nationalities produce a social and political environment that was ripe for explosion in the twilight of the Communist experiment? How can we explain the tangled advantages and disadvantages Armenia has derived from its association with the Russian Federation in the twenty-first century?

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Mr. Tom de Waal is a senior fellow with Carnegie Europe, specializing in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region. He is the author of numerous publications about the region. The second edition of his book *The Caucasus: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press) was published in 2018. He is also the author of *Great Catastrophe: Armenians and Turks in the Shadow of Genocide* (Oxford University Press, 2015) and of the authoritative book on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War* (NYU Press, second edition 2013). From 2010 to 2015, de Waal worked for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC. Before that he worked extensively as a journalist in both print and for BBC radio. From 1993 to 1997, he worked in Moscow for the *Moscow Times*, the *Times of London*, and the *Economist*, specializing in Russian politics and the situation in Chechnya. He co-authored (with Carlotta Gall) the book *Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus* (NYU Press, 1997), for which the authors were awarded the James Cameron Prize for Distinguished Reporting.



Dr. Artyom Tonoyan is a native of Gyumri, Armenia, is a sociologist and a Visiting Professor of Global Studies at Hamline University, Minneapolis, Minnesota. His research interests include sociology of religion, religion and politics in the South Caucasus, and religion and nationalism in post-Soviet Russia. His articles have appeared in *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*, *Society*, and *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook*. He has been a frequent guest on the BBC, Deutsche Welle, France 24, and other outlets. He is the editor of *Black Garden Aflame: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in the Soviet and Russian Press*, as well as articles and book reviews. He received his Ph.D. from Baylor University.



Dr. Stephen Badalyan Riegg is Associate Professor of History at Texas A&M University. He teaches courses on the history of Russia, Eastern Europe, and comparative empires. Riegg is dedicated to uncovering the nuances of the non-Russian experiences of empire. His book, *Russia's Entangled Embrace: The Tsarist Empire and the Armenians, 1801-1914* (Cornell University Press, 2020) won the Best Book Award from *Ab Imperio* and the Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, among other recognitions. His current research connects tsarist methods of rule to the wider world.



Dr. Arpi Movsesian is a scholar researching on literary history and performance in English, Russian, and Armenian. As an Assistant Professor of Russian at the University of Notre Dame, Movsesian examines the 19th century political and radical movements in the Russian Empire and the blueprints for revolutionary activity and atrocities in the 20th century. Arpi has book and article publications on Dostoevsky, Shakespeare, and other writers, as well as on Soviet Armenian literature, and is currently examining the directionality between the center and the periphery in colonial and postcolonial contexts in the South Caucasus. Movsesian's second book project is entitled, *Bloodied Ballads, Living Empires: Transculturality in Armenian Lyrical Verse*.

ARPA INSTITUTE, 18106 Miranda St, Tarzana CA 91356, USA . Phone (818) 453-0618

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