

Les événements d'octobre 2024 à l'Eskijian Museum

9 octobre 2024 :

WRITING AGAINST STALIN'S WESTERN CITY: MKRTICH ARMEN'S YEREVAN (1931) AND THE SPECTER OF THE "NEW EAST" (NOR AREVELK')

David Leupold, Ph.D.
Research fellow at the Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 | 6 PM PT
HYBRID: BUNCHE HALL, ROOM 10383 & ZOOM
LEARN MORE & RSVP AT bit.ly/PAI10-09-24

Whether Jim Torosyan's late Soviet construction of the Cascade or the prestigious megaproject Northern Avenue in the post-Soviet period, to this day the spatial arrangement of the Soviet-Armenian architect Aleksandr Tamanyan continues to form the most important parameter for the urban development of Armenia's capital Yerevan. Tamanyan's architectural work, which can be understood as a local variation of Stalin-era Neoclassicism (Neo-Armenianizm), is understood by many residents not only as an unquestionable legacy but as proof of Armenia's place in an alleged grand narrative of Western modernity.

However, this retrospective perspective of the city's

Stalin-era imperial legacy obscures the view on the deep fault lines that ran between him and his opponents, revealing the urban trajectory of the nascent capital as a site of embattled urbanity. One of his opponents was the surrealist writer Mkrtich Armen, who advanced a powerful critique of Tamanyan's Western-modelled city in his writings. Banned upon publication by censors, his first novel "Yerevan. A Saga" (1931) cherishes a retrotopian vision for the future city, which embarks from the historical legacy of pre-Tsarist, Persianate-Islamic Yerevan towards the communopolitan horizon of a "New East" (Nor Arevelk').

In his talk, Dr. Leupold will argue that these alternative imaginaries of the urban were informed, in an unexpected dialectical twist, both by retrotopian yearning for a (pre-)colonial past that was coming undone before their eyes and anticipation for a utopian future at a point of post-revolutionary history largely understood by its contemporaries as the dawn of socialist worldmaking. Based on this, he will conclude by discussing how the specter of a "New Eastern" city, built in unison with "architects of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan", speaks to a precarious and war-ridden present in which Armenians and Azerbaijanis are pitched

Vendredi 18 octobre 2024 :

This talk explores the role of Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian and his associates in the underground network of humanitarians, missionaries, and diplomats who resisted the destruction of the Armenian people during World War I. Piecing

together hundreds of accounts, official documents, and missionary records—including Eskijian’s and his associates’ family archives—Mouradian presents a social history of genocide and resistance in Ottoman Syria. He argues that despite the violent and systematic mechanisms of control and destruction in the cities, concentration camps, and massacre sites in this region, the genocide of the Armenians did not progress unhindered—unarmed resistance proved an important factor in saving lives and laying the groundwork for postwar rebuilding. This endowed lectureship is named in honor of the Kerr family, whose progenitors include Professor Stanley and Elsa Reckman Kerr, who helped to rescue and provide exemplary humanitarian care for survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23. The annual Kerr Family Lectureship is designed to amplify the stories of heroes and heroines who dedicated themselves to saving and supporting victims and survivors of violence and mass atrocities in times of crisis.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 | 7 PM PT
HYBRID: MONG LEARNING CENTER & ZOOM
bit.ly/kerrfamilylecture2024

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