

The Armenians face New Challenges: Seljuqs and Crusaders (1000-1240)

International Workshop



31 March 2023

Room U259

University of Geneva (Uni-Dufour)
Rue Général-Dufour 24
1204 Geneva

Free entrance

Workshop organised in the framework of the project **"The Armenians and their Contribution to Late Medieval Middle Eastern History"**, directed by prof. Valentina Calzolari and prof. Reuven Amitai in the framework of the strategic partnership between the University of Geneva and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem supported by the Rectorates of the two Universities

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Rationale of the joint project

The eleventh century saw the large-scale migration of Armenians to southwest Anatolia, into an area called Cilicia since Antiquity. Here, seeds were sown for the eventual establishment of an Armenian state – known as the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. Along with the traditional Armenian homeland to the north, Armenian Cilicia was compelled to deal with the influx of Turcomans led by the Seljuqs. Frankish Crusaders entering the country, and then moving south, towards the end of the century made the challenges even greater.

Through the twelfth century *modi vivendi* were worked out with both groups, but the coming of the Mongols in the 1230s, and in greater force in the following decades, necessitated a strategic change of both Armenian polities: The Armenians enthusiastically joined the Mongol imperial project, a decision that made perfect sense at the time of unstoppable Mongol conquest. The entrance, however, of the Mamluks of Syria and Egypt into the picture from 1260 onward, was an additional challenge. In the long run, the Mongols (and their successors) were unable to provide a protective umbrella to the Armenians of Cilicia, and in 1375 the country was overrun by the Mamluks, and Armenian political independence was eliminated in Cilicia forever.

The Armenians were key players in the politics and warfare of the time, and need to be taken into account to properly understand developments. At the same time, the larger regional (and even global) context must be considered to fully appreciate internal Armenian cultural, social and political changes. While there has been some interesting and important research on these topics in past, there is still much to do, not the least to take into account recent developments in the study of Armenian, Crusader, Byzantine, Turkish, Mongol and Muslim history.

PROGRAMME

10:15 WELCOME

Valentina Calzolari (University of Geneva) and **Reuven Amitai** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

FIRST PANEL

Chair: **Michael E. Stone** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

10:30 Azat Bozoyan (Oriental Institute, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)
Le rôle d'Antioche dans la politique de Léon le Grand

11:00 Discussion

11:15 Gohar Grigoryan (University of Fribourg)
Rituals of Power in Cilician Armenia

11:45 Discussion

12:30 Lunch

SECOND PANEL

Chair: **Bruce Fudge** (Head of the MESLO Department, University of Geneva)

14:15 Federico Alpi (Fondazione per le scienze religiose, Bologna)
New Threats and Old Tactics: Armenian Reactions to the First Seljuks Incursions (ca 1020-1060)

14:45 Discussion

15:00 Zara Pogossian (University of Florence)
A Connected History of Armenia during the Seljuk Period (Results of Research from the ERC Project ArmEn)

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Gagik Danielyan (Mashtots Institute of Ancient Armenian Manuscripts, Matenadaran, Yerevan)
Badr al-Din Lu'lu' al-Armani, Emir of Mosul. A Convert to Islam or a Covert Christian?

17:00 Discussion

18:15 Public Lecture

Chair : **Valentina Calzolari**

Reuven Amitai

Facing New Challenges and Opportunities: The Armenians and their Encounters with Turks, Crusaders, Mongols and Mamluks (ca. 1050-1375)

20:00 Dinner