

**THE RICHARD HOVANNISIAN CHAIR OF  
MODERN ARMENIAN HISTORY AT UCLA**  
[ESTABLISHED BY THE ARMENIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION]

*Invites you to attend*

**Between Historical Explanation and Narrative Understanding:  
The Story of *Menk* and the Burden of Representation**

**Dr. Talar Chahinian**

**California State University, Long Beach**

From the late 1920s to the mid-1940s, Paris served as the nucleus of intellectual life for dispersed Armenians who survived the genocide, producing an explosion of literary groups and publications. Following WWII, the center of diaspora's political, intellectual, and literary activity shifted to the Middle East, which presented itself as the connecting thread to the pre-1915 literary tradition. This new cultural center overshadowed the brief but important initiation of Armenian culture in Paris. Dr. Chahinian's presentation will overview the work of a group of orphans, who, in 1931, launched a short-lived, diasporan literary movement called *Menk* in Paris. The works of these French-Armenian writers, though devoid of explicit memory of the catastrophic events of the past, characterize the crisis of survival in the aftermath of the genocide, both for the survivor living in exile and the displaced culture's prospects of reproduction. *Menk's* literary archive is often overlooked as a viable response to the genocide, for unlike diaspora's grand cultural narrative that emerged from the Middle East following WWII, it does not seek to historicize and contextualize the story of genocide and dispersion in a coherent, chronological fashion. Dr. Chahinian makes a case for *Menk's* approach and argues that the aesthetic representation of genocide's trauma must be informed by notions of interrupted time, impossible testimony, and displaced loss.

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

**6:00-7.30 pm**

**Haines A25 UCLA**

(Self-pay Parking is available in Lots 2 & 3, which are walking distance to lecture hall)