

# Confessionalization and Reform: The Mkhit'arist Enterprise from Constantinople to Venice, Trieste, and Vienna



*A Conference in memory of Father Sahak Djemjemian and on the Occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Congregation in Venice*

Over the last few decades, historians have come to refer to the period from the Protestant Reformation in Europe to the late seventeenth century as the era of “confessionalization.” Confessionalization has come to be understood as a global process marking the birth of early modern religious revival and reform movements that affected societies, states, and cultures across Eurasia, including in the Ottoman and Safavid empires. This conference seeks to place the birth of the Mkhit'arist congregation of erudite Catholic-Armenian missionaries and monks within the larger wave of confessionalization that was sweeping the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean in the late seventeenth century. Bringing together an international cast of scholars, the conference commemorates the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Abbot Mkhit'ar's reformist order on the island of San Lazzaro in the Venetian lagoon. Scholars will explore and analyze the pivotal role played by this Order in the remaking of early modern Armenian confessional and national identity through their interventions in print culture, Armenology, Armenian lexicography, grammar, and literary translation.

*Organized by the Richard Hovannisian Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA*

*With the co-sponsorship of the Narekats'i Chair of Armenian Studies (UCLA), the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the USC Armenian Studies Institute, and the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies (CNES)*

*UCLA Faculty Center, California Room, 16 and 17 December 2017*

## Program

**Saturday, 16 December 2017** (California Room, UCLA Faculty Center)

9:20-10:00am

*Opening Remarks:* Conference organizers and co-sponsors

*Welcome Address:* His Excellency Archbishop Levon Zekian

*Conference Introduction:* Sebouh David Aslanian: "Mkhit'ar and His Flock in the 'Age of Confessionalization'"

10:00-11:30am

*Panel 1: Confessionalism, 'Communicatio in Sacris,' and the Mkhit'arist Congregation*

- Paulo Lucca (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): "Neither Fowl nor Fish? The Venice Branch of the Mkhit'arists and the Roman Hierarchy in the Early Nineteenth Century"
- Cesare Santus (École française de Rome): "Mkhit'ar's Doubts: The Problem of 'Communicatio in Sacris' among the Armenian Catholics in the Ottoman Empire."
- Benedetta Contin (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): "Mkhit'ar and the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: The Challenge of Mkhitarist Ecumenism"

**Coffee Break:** 11:30-11:45am

11:45am-1:15pm

*Panel 2: Mkhit'ar Sebastats'i, Rome, and Print Culture: Eighteenth-Century Confessionalization in a Diaspora*

- Raymond Kévorkian (Paris): "The Origins of the Editorial Vocation of Mkhit'ar Sebastats'i"
- Jesse Arlen (UCLA): "'In Creation of Readerly Taste': Paratextuality in the 'Publishing Mission' of Mkhit'ar of Sebastia"
- Anna Sirinian (University of Bologna): "The Birth and the Early Years of *Bazmavep*"

**Lunch for Presenters:** 1:15-2:45pm

2:45-4:15pm

*Panel 3: The Mkhit'arists in the East: Trieste, Vienna, and Transylvania:*

- Sebouh David Aslanian (UCLA): "The Great Schism of 1773: Venice and the Creation of the Armenian Community of Trieste"
- Meline Pehlivanian (Berlin): "The Mkhit'arists' Vienna Branch and the Advent of German-Speaking Armenology"
- Bálint Kovács (Leipzig University): "The Mkhit'arist Missions in Transylvania"

**Reception for Presenters:** 7:30-8:30pm

(Sponsored by NAASR)

8:30-10:30pm (Bridges Theater, UCLA)

(Light Refreshments)

**Keynote Address** (in Armenian)

- Krikor Beledian: "Մխիթարեան առնությունը եւ արեւմտահայ բանաստեղծությունը" (The Mkhit'arist Tradition and Western Armenian Poetics)
- Hakop Papazyan (director) and Nver Mnatsakanyan (producer) *screening of Documentary on Oscan Yerevants'i*

**Sunday, 17 December 2017** (California Room, UCLA Faculty Center)

**Lunch for Presenters: 1:00-3:00pm**

3:00-4:30pm

*Panel 4: The Mkhitarist Congregation During Its Nineteenth-Century Heyday*

- S. Peter Cowe (UCLA): “Beauty, Nobility, and Harmony: The Mkhitarist Aesthetic in Relation to Ethics and Politics, the Impact of this Nexus on the Western Armenian Awakening, and its Place in Eighteenth-Nineteenth-Century Intellectual History”
- Hagop Gulludjian (UCLA): “The Mkhitarist Project and Lessons on Language Revitalization”
- Reverend Vahan Ohanian (San Lazzaro): “Հայր Ղևոնդ Ալիշանը իր նամակներու լուսարձակին տակ” (Father Ghevond Alishan in Light of His Correspondence)

4:30-5:30pm

*Panel 5: The Mkhitarist Manuscript Collection and the Legacy of the Order during the Twentieth Century:*

- Gevork Ter Vardanian: “Մխիթարեանց Վեներիկի ձեռագրական հաւաքածուի կազմաւորումը եւ գիտական մշակումը” (The Formation of the Manuscript Collection of the Mkhitarists in Venice and Its Scholarly Development)
- Agop Manoukian (Venice and Milan): “The Mkhitarist Presence in Milan c. 1923-1933 and the Emerging Armenian Community of Italy”

**Reception for Presenters: 7:30-8:30pm**

(Sponsored by NAASR)

8:30-10:30pm (Bridges Theater, UCLA)

(Light Refreshments)

*Keynote Address* (in Armenian)

- Marc Nichanian: “1810-1820: հրաշալի տասնամեակ մը» (1810-1820: An Astonishing Decade)
- Hakop Papazyan (director) and Nver Mnatsakanyan (producer) *screening of documentary on Mkhitar Sebastats'i*