

# THE RICHARD G. HOVANNISIAN CHAIR IN MODERN ARMENIAN HISTORY

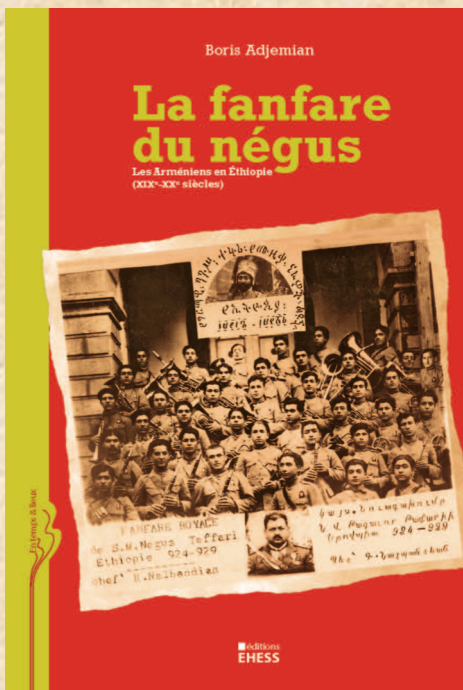
Presents

## The King and the Forty Orphans: The Invention of an Armenian Homeland in Ethiopia

*A lecture by Boris Adjemian*

Thursday, October 12 • 6:30-8:00pm • Rm 1420, UCLA School of Law

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



*In 1924, the Crown Prince and Regent of Ethiopia Ras Tāfāri Mākonnen (the future Emperor Haile Sellasie) recruited forty young Armenian orphans to found the first Ethiopian royal brass band. Kevork Nalbandian, the director of this band, was asked by the Crown Prince to write the first Ethiopian national anthem. Boris Adjemian interrogates the meaning of such an event in the history and the memory of Armenian immigration to Ethiopia.*

*Armenian immigration to Ethiopia started in the late nineteenth century, although Armenian travellers had already benefited in the past centuries from the close relationship existing between the Ethiopian and Armenian Churches. Throughout the twentieth century, Armenian immigrants and their descendants in Ethiopia demonstrated their deep integration into the host society. Focused on the leitmotiv that Armenians were, among all the foreigners, the closest to Ethiopia and Ethiopian rulers, the idealized great narrative of*

*Armenian immigration remaps Ethiopia as a genuine homeland of substitution for a people in exile.*

**Boris Adjemian** is a historian and the director of AGBU Nubar Library (Paris). He is also the editor-in-chief of the bilingual academic journal *Études arméniennes contemporaines*. He defended his Ph.D. in 2011 at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Università degli Studi di Napoli. His book, *La fanfare du négus : les Arméniens en Éthiopie (19<sup>e</sup>-20<sup>e</sup> siècles)*, was published by Editions de l'EHESS in 2013.

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