Unfolding an Unacknowledged Written Cultural Heritage: Armeno-Turkish Manuscripts Prints and Newspapers 6 - 8 August 2025 University of Vienna

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The Mekhitarist Congregation in Vienna, founded in 1811, is a key repository of Armenian cultural heritage. Beyond its architectural and spiritual significance, the Congregation holds more than 2,600 Armenian manuscripts, 150,000 books, and the world's largest collection of Armenian newspapers and periodicals.

Among these holdings is a remarkable corpus of Turkish-language texts written and printed in Armenian script between the late seventeenth and early twentieth centuries. These include manuscripts, printed books, and newspapers authored by members of Apostolic, Protestant, and Catholic communities. Despite their cultural and historical importance, these Armeno-Turkish materials remain largely unstudied.

A preliminary survey has identified at least 62 Armeno-Turkish manuscripts, approximately 50 of which are written entirely in Armeno-Turkish or in a bilingual format with Armenian; 12 are in Armeno-Kipchak. The library also holds over 800 printed Armeno-Turkish volumes from the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries, as well as numerous newspapers and periodicals, including major publications from the Tanzimat period (1839–1876).

In response to the lack of scholarly engagement, a project under the FWF Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations" (https://eurasiantransformations.univie.ac.at) is currently working to document and analyze these texts both synchronically and diachronically. The project draws inspiration from landmark contributions such as Friedrich von Kraelitz-Greifenhorst's early study on Armeno-Turkish (1911/12), and Andreas Tietze's 1991 edition of Akabi Hikâyesi (1851), the first Turkish novel written in Armenian script.

To date, 51 Armeno-Turkish newspapers and journals—amounting to approximately 165,000 pages—have been digitized, with the support of the Congregation's Fathers and University of Vienna students trained in both Armenian and Turkish. The digitization of Armenian newspapers and periodicals from 1794 up to 1925, also featuring Armeno-Turkish prints and newspapers, is made possible through the generous support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Digitization of the manuscripts and books is ongoing, laying the groundwork for future research. The digitization of manuscripts and books made possible by Wien Kultur is progressing and laying the foundation for future research work.

In this spirit, the conference brings together over 40 scholars from across the globe – from Los Angeles to Osaka – for the first international gathering dedicated exclusively to Armeno-Turkish manuscripts, prints, and newspapers. The conference was made possible by the generous support of the following organisations: The City of Vienna's Department of Culture; the Cluster of Excellence EurAsian Transformations; the ÖFG // Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft (Austrian Research Association), and Ruhr University Bochum.

The Organising Committee

Hülya Çelik (Ruhr University Bochum)

Yavuz Köse (University of Vienna)

Ani Sargsyan (University of Hamburg)

Kübra Uygur (Brunel University of London)

Wednesday, 6 August 2025

09:30 - 09:45 Opening and Welcome

Claudia Rapp (Co-Director of Research, Cluster of Excellence EurAsian Tranformations)

Father Narek-Georges Dadourian (Prior and General Administrator of the Vienna Mekhitarist Monastery)

Yavuz Köse (University of Vienna)

09:45 - 11:15 Panel I: Archives, Scripts, and Language

Chair: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (IMAFO, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Talin Suciyan (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

The Imperial Language of the Empire: The Use of Armeno-Turkish in Archival Documents

Orhun Yalçın (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Script and Governance: Armeno-Turkish and Diplomacy in the Ottoman Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Flora Ghazaryan-Abdin (Central European University, Vienna)

"The Richest and Most Favoured Rayahs of the Sultan": The Armeno-Turkish Accounts of the 1819 Düzoğlu Execution in Ottoman Istanbul

Naira Poghosyan (Yerevan State University)

Upholding Toros Azatyan's (1898-1955) Armeno-Turkish Literary Archive

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee Break

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11:45 - 13:15 Panel II: History and Historiography

Chair: Sona Grigoryan (Central European University, Vienna)

Lusine Khachatryan (Yerevan State University)

Armenian-Script Turkish Medical Manuscripts and the Fusion of Medicine and Tradition in the 18th-19th Centuries

Gayane Ayvazyan (Harvard University)

The First Translation of Armenian History by Movses Khorenatsi into Armeno-Turkish

Johann Strauss (University of Strasbourg)

Vartan Pasha's "History of Napoleon Bonaparte"

Yaşar Tolga Cora (Boğaziçi University)

An Armeno-Turkish Source for Labour History: The Culfa Epic (1899)

14:45 - 16:15 Panel III: Multilingualism and Translation

Chair: Sebouh Aslanian (UCLA)

Anna Ohanjanyan (Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan)

Encountering Languages: Armeno-Greek, Armeno-Latin, and Armeno-Turkish in the Ottoman Armenian Apologetic and Polemical Literature: The Case of Georg Mkhlayim Ōghlu (1681/85–1758)

Hasmik Kirakosyan (Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan)

Transforming Adab in Another Light and Script: Tracing the Armeno-Turkish Translations/Tradaptations of the $T\bar{u}t\bar{t}n\bar{a}me$ ("Tales of a Parrot")

Gunvald Axner Ims (University of South-Eastern Norway)

John Bunyan's A Pilgrim's Progress in Translation

Betül Bakırcı (Aras Publisher, Istanbul)

Re-reading Akabi Hikâyesi After 173 Years

16:45 – 17:45 Preserving Armenian Cultural Heritage in Vienna and Armenia Chair: Kübra Uygur (Brunel University London)

Tigran Zargaryan (Fundamental Scientific Library of the National Academy of Sciences of RA)

Digital Library of Armenogram Turkish Printed Materials: Resource Locator and Research Starting Point

Yavuz Köse (University of Vienna) / **Dilara Kaplan** (University of Vienna) Transcribing Armeno-Turkish Heritage with Al. Challenges & Opportunities

Jeanette Kilicci (University of Vienna) / **Christoph Reuter** (University of Vienna) Armenian Congregations in Vienna: Preserving Cultural Heritage (360°)

17:45 - 18:45 Keynote Address

Sebouh Aslanian (Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History, UCLA) Armeno-Turkish as a heterographic literary field: Complicating Ottoman Convivencia
With an introduction by **Yavuz Köse** (University of Vienna)

18:45 Reception

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Thursday, 7 August 2025

09:30 - 11:00 Panel IV: Sociolinguistics, Language, and Script Discourses

Chair: Ani Sargsyan (University of Hamburg)

Cağdaş Acar (University of Chicago)

Armeno-Turkish: An Intersection Between Political and Linguistic Landscapes

Ozan Çömelekoğlu (Hacettepe University, Ankara)

"The Plaintiff is Lisan-ı Osmani": A Debate Through Letters to the Editor Between Arakel Karamadtiosian and Hagop Pashayan

Hasmik Khalapyan (American University of Armenia)

Language, Nation, and Gender: The Role of Women in Shaping Armenian Linguistic Identity in the Late Ottoman Empire

Vahé Tachjian (Houshamadyan, Berlin)

Armeno-Turkish: A "Language with an Armenian Character" or Not? Reviewing Catholicos Papken's Articles on the Use of Turkish as a Spoken and Written Language by Armenians

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 Panel V: Music Traditions

Chair: Claudia Römer (University of Vienna)

Jacob Olley (Cambridge University)

Armenian Transimperial Networks and the History of Music Printing in the Ottoman Empire

Nejla Melike Atalay (University of Münster)

Armeno-Turkish Vocal Manuscripts in Ottoman Musical Heritage: Methodological Approaches and Challenges in the Critical Edition Process

Arpi Vardumyan (Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan)

Komitas Vardapet's Armeno-Turkish Songs Manuscript

Jeanette Kilicci (University of Vienna) / Christoph Reuter (University of Vienna)

Exploring Intangible Cultural Heritage in Shared Folk Songs: A Comparative Perspective on Armenian and Turkish Traditions

14:30 - 16:00 Panel VI: Printing Cultures and the Press

Chair: Hülya Celik (Ruhr University Bochum)

Hülya Eraslan (Ankara University)

The First Example of the Armeno-Turkish Press in the Ottoman Empire: Takvim-i Vekayi

Günil Özlem Ayaydın Cebe (Samsun University)

The Press and the Persona: Vicen Tilkiyan's Self-Fashioning in Ottoman Print Capitalism

Kübra Uygur (Brunel University London)

A Comparative Analysis of the Construction of Taste Through 19th-Century Armeno-Turkish and British Newspaper Advertisements

Samuel Chakmakjian (INALCO, Paris) / **Onur Özsoy** (Leibniz Centre General Linguistics, Berlin) Word-final devoicing in Armeno-Turkish cookbooks

16:30 - 18:00 Panel VII: Literary Genres

Chair: Gisela Procházka-Eisl (University of Vienna)

Azra Çelik (Boğaziçi University)

A Romance Translation in Armeno-Turkish: Hikâye-i Faris ve Vena - What Kind of Genre?

Beyza Kaya (Boğaziçi University)

Hybridization of Literary Genres and Cross-Tradition Encounters in 19th-Century Literature

Hülya Çelik (Ruhr University Bochum) / Ani Sargsyan (University of Hamburg)

Making the Invisible Visible: A Close Reading of Viçen Tilkiyan's Gülinya (1868) Using Digital Humanities

Feyza Kırkoğlu (Istanbul University) / Zehra Hamarat Yardımcı (Istanbul University)

Armeno-Turkish Anna Ross: An Analysis Among Ottoman Children's Books

18:30 Dinner

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Friday, 8 August 2025

09:30 - 10:45 Panel VIII: Morality and Theatre

Chair: Aysan Sönmez (Université Paris 8, IFG, IFEA, CETOBAC)

Melis Hafez (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Rectifying the Moral Condition of the Ottomans: A Connective Reading of Dadiryan's Mulahazat-i Ahlakiye

Emre Görkem Onur (University of Vienna)

Performing Identity? Hagop Ayvaz's "I Love You" and its Contribution to the Armeno-Turkish Theatrical Landscape

Murat Cankara (Social Sciences University of Ankara)

On the Uses and Roles of Language in Armeno-Turkish Plays from the Turn of the 19th Century

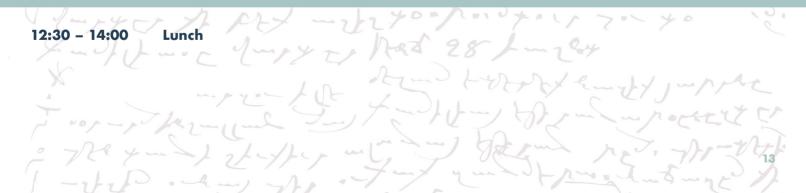
11:15 – 12:30 Panel IX: Printing and Writing Cultures in the Post-Ottoman Era Chair: Benedetta Contin (University of Vienna)

Talin Suciyan (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich) / **Orhun Yalçın** (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Preserving and Transmitting Knowledge in Exile: Hripsime Topdjian's Armeno-Turkish Notebook of Medical Remedies

Christopher Sheklian (Mississippi State University)

Ottoman Religious Afterlives in America: Ḫelas (Խէլաս) and the Continuing Role of Armeno-Turkish in Fresno



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14:00 - 15:00 Book Discussion

Masayuki Ueno (Osaka Metropolitan University)

Millet in Ottoman Documents

15:00 - 15:30 Closing Remarks

15:30 – 17:00 Visit to the Museum and Library of the Mekhitarist Congregation of Vienna (Optional)

For further information about the project and abstracts, see:

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Cluster of Excellence EurAsian Transformations

ÖFG // Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft

Ruhr University Bochum

Chair of Ottoman and Turkish Studies University of Vienna

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Hülya Çelik, Ruhr University Bochum

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Kübra Uygur, Brunel University of London

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