

# REMNANTS: EMBODIED ARCHIVES OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**Join MEMEAC for the Second Anny Bakalian Lecture with Professor Elyse Semerdjian, who will be discussing her Stanford University Press book with Distinguished Professor Beth Baron.**

12 September 2023  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

9100: Skylight Room  
The Graduate Center  
365 5th Ave, New York

*With this book, Elyse Semerdjian offers a feminist reading of the*

*Armenian Genocide. She explores how the Ottoman Armenian communal body was dis-membered, disfigured, and later re-membered by the survivor community. Gathering individual memories and archival fragments, she writes a deeply personal history, and issues a call to break open the archival record in order to embrace affect and memory. Traces of women and children rescued during and after the war are reconstructed to center the quietest voices in the historical record. This daring work embraces physical and archival remnants, the imprinted negatives of once living bodies, as a space of radical possibility within Armenian prosthetic memory and a necessary way to recognize the absence that remains.*

**Elyse Semerdjian** is Professor of Islamic World/Middle Eastern History at Whitman College and President of

the Syrian Studies Association. A specialist in the history of the Ottoman Empire and Syria, she authored *"Off the Straight Path": Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo* (Syracuse University Press, 2008) as well as several articles on gender, law, violence, and Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

**Beth Baron** is Distinguished Professor of History at The City College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Director of the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at the CUNY Graduate Center. A former editor of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* and former president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, her most recent book is *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood* (Stanford University Press, 2014). Her current research focuses on the history of childbirth, the body, and colonialism in Egypt.

Hosted by the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center - Open to the Public  
Please register at: [https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcu6prT4rGdePDxA6uWgXYwG2K9\\_WlgBW#/registration](https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcu6prT4rGdePDxA6uWgXYwG2K9_WlgBW#/registration)

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