

A New History-Writing
on Late Ottoman-Turkish History:
The Impact of Memoirs



Members of the Committee of Union and Progress

Conference organizers: Barlow Der Mugrdechian (Fresno State) • Ümit Kurt (Univ. of Newcastle)
Sponsored by: The Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation, the Leon S. Peters Foundation, the Ralph Shapazian Memorial Fund, and the Florence Hamparson Memorial Fund

Friday, October 17, 2025
6:00PM-7:00PM-Reception • 7:00PM- Conference
University Business Center, Fresno State
5245 N Backer Ave.

Keynote Speaker:
Taner Akçam (UCLA)
“Beyond Fragmented Narratives: The Necessity of an ‘Integrated’ History: The Case of Malak Barşom and the Sheikh Said Rebellion”

Panel 1-Moderator: Ümit Kurt

Janet Klein (University of Akron)
“Reading Against the Grain of Memoirs and Diaries in Researching Late-Ottoman Kurdish and Armenian Histories”

Michael Provence (UC, San Diego)
“How Damned Defenders of Doomed Empires Become Heroes of the Nation”

Saturday, October 18, 2025
Panel 2-10:00AM-11:20AM

Smittcamp Alumni House, Fresno State
2625 E. Matoian Way

Moderator: Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Ümit Kurt (University of Newcastle)
“Republic of Perpetrators: Talat Pasha’s Genocide Technocrat Mustafa Reşat Mimaroglu”

Yiğit Akın (Ohio State University)
“Local Politics, Intellectual Periphery, and the End of the Empire: The Diaries of Yusuf Cemil Bey of Simav”

Duygu Tasalp (University of Louvain)
“The Father Figure in the Memoirs of Unionist Young Turks: Between Victimization, Betrayal and Regeneration”

Saturday, October 18, 2025
Panel 3-11:30AM-12:50PM

Moderator: David Zakarian

Kent Schull (Binghamton University)
“Reassessing the Role of Ottoman Prison Convicts in the Armenian Genocide: Triangulating CUP Memoirs and Trial Proceedings with Ottoman Prison Statistics”

Merisa Sahin (Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
“Ahmed Riza and Selma Riza: An Ittihadist Glance on Women’s Rights”

Ekrem Yener (Bilgi University)
“An Examination of Mehmed Cavid Bey’s Newly Disclosed Diary for Insights into the Thoughts and Relationships of Unionist Leaders”