

Les sciences sociales en Arménie aujourd'hui

JOURNÉE D'ÉTUDE organisée dans le cadre du partenariat Erasmus + MIC

18 mars 2026 | 9h - 17h30

Campus Saint-Germain-des-Prés
45 rue des Saints-Pères 75006 Paris
Salle Margaret Maruani - 5e étage du Bâtiment Jacob



Inscription obligatoire

Journée d'étude

Les sciences sociales en Arménie aujourd'hui

*Organisée par Lusine Gevorgyan, Choukri Hmed, Razmig Keucheyan et Cécile Lefèvre
UFR Sciences Humaines et Sociales*

Si l'Arménie contemporaine est aujourd'hui au coeur des débats géopolitiques, elle reste relativement méconnue du grand public mais aussi de la plupart des chercheurs en SHS. Les travaux existants se concentrent surtout sur la reconnaissance du Génocide de 1915 et sur l'histoire de la diaspora arménienne, en France et plus largement dans le monde occidental. Mais que sait-on de la société arménienne contemporaine, et en quoi les sciences sociales peuvent-elles nous aider à mieux comprendre les enjeux qui la caractérisent ? Le titre de cette journée d'étude « Les sciences sociales en Arménie » doit être entendu en un double sens. D'une part, des chercheurs et des chercheuses en sciences sociales - sociologues, anthropologues, politistes, historiens... - exerçant pour la plupart en Arménie, viendront présenter leurs recherches récentes, montrant comment les sciences sociales arméniennes contemporaines analysent les transformations sociales et politiques du pays : comment comprendre la trajectoire de l'Arménie, et plus généralement du Caucase du Sud, depuis la chute de l'URSS ? Quelles perspectives sociologiques des migrations, de la ville, de l'environnement, des religions ou de l'Etat développe-t-on à Erevan ? D'autre part, cette journée donnera à voir les spécificités des sciences sociales en Arménie. Quels paradigmes et méthodes sont mobilisés ? Quels dialogues thématiques mais aussi épistémologiques peuvent s'engager ? Cette journée inaugure ainsi un croisement collaboratif scientifique dans le domaine des sciences sociales franco-arméniennes.

Cette journée d'étude s'inscrit dans le cadre du projet Erasmus + établi entre l'UFR des Sciences humaines et sociales de l'université Paris Cité et l'université d'État d'Erevan, avec l'appui du PHILÉPOL (URP 75038) et du CERLIS (UMR 8070).

Conference

Social Sciences in Armenia Today

*Organising committee: Lusine Gevorgyan, Choukri Hmed, Razmig Keucheyan, Cécile Lefèvre
School of Humanities and Social Sciences*

Although contemporary Armenia is currently at the heart of geopolitical debates, it remains relatively unknown to the general public and to most researchers in the social sciences and humanities. Existing work focuses mainly on recognition of the 1915 genocide and the history of the Armenian diaspora in France and more broadly in the Western world. But what do we know about contemporary Armenian society, and how can the social sciences help us to better understand the issues that characterise it? The title of this conference, 'The Social Sciences in Armenia', has a double meaning. On the one hand, social scientists - sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, historians, etc., most of whom work in Armenia, will present their recent research, showing how contemporary Armenian social sciences analyse the country's social and political transformations: how can we understand the trajectory of Armenia, and more generally of the South Caucasus, since the fall of the USSR? What sociological perspectives on migration, the city, the environment, religions and the state are being developed in Yerevan? On the other hand, this day will highlight the specificities of social sciences in Armenia. What paradigms and methods are at work? What thematic and epistemological dialogues can be initiated? The conference marks the beginning of a collaborative scientific exchange in the field of Franco-Armenian social sciences.

This study day is part of the Erasmus+ project established between the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Université Paris Cité and Yerevan State University, with the support of the PHILÉPOL (URP 7538) and the CERLIS (UMR 8070).

PROGRAMME

9H ACCUEIL

9H15-9H45 Ouverture et objectifs de la journée

Ouverture par **Michela Marzano**, directrice de l'UFR SHS, Université Paris Cité

Introduction : **Lusine Gevorgyan, Choukri Hmed, Razmig Keucheyan, Cécile Lefèvre**, Université Paris Cité

9H45-10H45 Actualité de la situation géopolitique de l'Arménie

séance présidée par **Razmig Keucheyan**, sociologue, Université Paris Cité, PHILÉPOL

Taline Papazian, politiste, Sciences Po Aix et Directrice de la fondation Armenia Peace Initiative

L'Arménie, sur une ligne de crête : de la guerre de 2020 aux accords de Washington

10H45-12H45 Une Arménie post-soviétique

séance présidée par **Claire Mouradian**, historienne, directrice de recherche émérite au CNRS, Cercec-EHESS

Alexandre Agadjanian, Anthropologue, Université d'État d'Erevan

Le passé soviétique dans le palimpseste de la mémoire culturelle : l'Arménie dans une perspective comparative

Yulia Antonyan, Anthropologue, Université d'État d'Erevan

Engineers, Machines, and Communist Utopia: An Anthropology of the Soviet Armenian Technical Intelligentsia

12H45-14H PAUSE

14H-17H Approches sociologiques de l'Arménie depuis la Révolution de 2018 et l'exode du Haut Karabakh de 2023

séance présidée par **Kathy Rousselet**, sociologue et politiste, directrice de recherche à Sciences Po, CERI

Nvard Melkonyan, sociologue, Université d'État d'Erevan

The "Firehose of Falsehood" Propaganda Model in Russian Media Coverage of the 2023 Nagorno-Karabakh Developments

Aram Vartikyan, sociologue, Université d'État d'Erevan

Between Altar and State: Hegemony Crisis, and the Armenian Church in Post-Revolutionary Armenia

Harutyun Vermishyan, sociologue, Université d'État d'Erevan

Between House and Home: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh Displacement and Liminal Housing in Yerevan

17H-17H30 Conclusions et perspectives

RÉSUMÉS

Taline Papazian, politiste, Sciences Po Aix et Directrice de la fondation Armenia Peace Initiative

L'Arménie, sur une ligne de crête : de la guerre de 2020 aux accords de Washington

Après cinq années durant lesquelles chocs extérieurs et crises intérieures se sont succédé, l'Arménie entrevoit une stabilisation grâce aux accords de Washington d'août 2025. En ignorant le contentieux originel du Haut-Karabakh et en réorientant le règlement du conflit arméno-azerbaïdjanais vers l'économie, les infrastructures et le désenclavement régional, la diplomatie du président Trump fonctionne comme une « chirurgie de guerre », imparfaite mais efficace. Elle fait pencher la balance régionale vers une pacification des relations avec l'Azerbaïdjan, et par suite, la Turquie. La stabilisation ainsi permise accompagne une mutation diplomatique de l'Arménie reposant sur la délégitimation de l'alliance traditionnelle avec la Russie et la recherche de diversification. Cette mutation vient en soutien de la démocratisation de la société, l'interdépendance entre ces deux dynamiques résidant dans la décolonisation. Impulsée par la révolution de velours de 2018, la trajectoire démocratique, réelle, reste cependant fragile.

Alexandre Agadjanian, Anthropologist, Yerevan State University

Le passé soviétique dans le palimpseste de la mémoire culturelle : l'Arménie dans une perspective comparative

This paper provides a conceptualization of the current state of research of the Soviet legacy as a complex, multi-level phenomenon that includes a set of ideas, symbolic traces, social structures and practices. It then defines how this complex legacy is reflected in the cultural memory landscape of the Republic of Armenia. The paper draws upon existing literature and the author's empirical material that includes observations, interviews, and surveys. The paper concludes that the "Soviet" is de-ideologized, dissolved in a broader historical perspective, identified with the longer Armenian-Russian entanglement, and contains a contradictory image of both safety and restricted freedoms. It also shows how the collective memories vary with generations and produce a complex palimpsest of remembering and forgetting.

Yulia Antonyan, Anthropologist, Yerevan State University
Engineers, Machines, and Communist Utopia: An Anthropology of the Soviet Armenian Technical Intelligentsia

This presentation explores anthropological perspectives on the Soviet Armenian technical intelligentsia. Soviet industrial and cultural modernization profoundly reshaped the social structure of Soviet society and, in particular, Armenian society by producing a new urbanized and educated group of technical specialists, commonly referred to as the “technical intelligentsia.” The 1960s and early 1970s marked a period of major achievements for Armenian industrial institutions and scientific centers, many of which supplied the Soviet defense system.

The presentation focuses on narratives surrounding the Armenian Soviet technical intelligentsia, examining its relationships with the Soviet ideological apparatus and administrative regimes of control, as well as systems of social privilege and material reward. It analyzes concepts and forms of intellectual and physical freedom, intellectual cosmopolitanism, and the ways in which professional identities intersected with cultural and national imaginaries.

Nvard Melkonyan, Sociologist, Yerevan State University
The “Firehose of Falsehood” Propaganda Model in Russian Media Coverage of the 2023 Nagorno-Karabakh Developments

This presentation examines how Russian state television—Rossiya 1 and Channel One Russia, both broadcast in Armenia—represented the 2022–2023 blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), the military escalation of September 19, and the subsequent displacement of the Armenian population. Based on qualitative content analysis of political talk shows, the study identifies dominant frames, narrative omissions, and ideological patterns shaping Russian media discourse.

The analysis draws on key theories of propaganda and media power, including the “Firehose of Falsehood” model (Paul & Matthews), agenda-setting and framing theory, and media-geopolitics approaches that highlight the alignment between state narratives and geopolitical interests. These perspectives provide a conceptual basis for understanding how high-volume messaging, selective visibility, and discursive asymmetry structure public interpretations of conflict.

Empirically, the coverage displayed a consistent logic: minimal reporting during crucial humanitarian phases of the blockade; the personalization of blame toward the Armenian government; recurrent anti-Western and anti-Armenian narratives; and the normalization or legitimation of Azerbaijani actions. Simultaneously, Russian actors were portrayed as stabilizing or external to responsibility, despite the presence of Russian peacekeepers.

The findings illustrate how propaganda functions through both explicit narratives and strategic silences, offering insight into the mechanisms through which media systems reproduce geopolitical agendas in times of regional crisis.

Aram Vartikyan, sociologist, Yerevan State University
Between Altar and State: Hegemony Crisis, and the Armenian Church in Post-Revolutionary Armenia

The 2018 Armenian revolution resulted in an unexpected and largely non-violent transfer of power, widely framed as a democratic and modernization-oriented rupture. This political transformation, however, was quickly followed by a series of structural crises that destabilized post-revolutionary legitimacy. The COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia’s defeat in the Second Artsakh War, the geopolitical isolation of remaining territories, and the irreversible loss of Artsakh produced a profound crisis of authority, meaning, and collective self-consciousness.

Despite these disruptions, the post-revolutionary government has maintained power by consolidating legitimacy through accusatory narratives directed at former elites and by progressively homogenizing the political field. This process increasingly encompassed the Armenian Apostolic Church—an institution historically endowed with exceptional symbolic, moral, and existential authority. Long perceived as politically untouchable, the Church appeared in a direct confrontation with the state following the Prime Minister’s “New Armenia, New Catholicos” campaign, framed as a project of moral and institutional purification.

Drawing on Gramscian theories of hegemony, this paper conceptualizes the Armenian case as a multi-layered hegemonic crisis. It argues that neither the modernization-oriented political elite nor the clerical-conservative authority succeeds in articulating a coherent hegemonic project. Instead, power is reproduced through mutual delegitimation, symbolic confrontation, and the absence of viable hegemonic alternatives.

Harutyun Vermishyan, sociologist, Yerevan State University,
Between House and Home: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh Displacement and Liminal Housing in Yerevan

This presentation examines the blurred boundary between “house” and “home” among forcibly displaced Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh now living in Yerevan. Grounded in contemporary housing theory, it draws on qualitative fieldwork conducted between 2023–2025, including narrative interviews, participant observation in temporary accommodations, and thematic coding of lived-experience accounts. The study argues that home extends beyond material shelter, encompassing emotional security, social ties, symbolic ownership, and place-based belonging. Evidence from dormitories, rented apartments, and family homes shows that adequate physical housing does not necessarily generate a sense of home. In this context, Armenian state housing policies, largely framed as logistical or economic responses, overlook deeper existential and relational needs. The analysis reflects broader debates within Armenian sociology on post-war urban transformation, inequality, and welfare infrastructures, suggesting that housing interventions must support social rootedness, dignity, and meaningful emplacement.



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