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**Genocidal Disruption of Johannes Jakob Manissadjian's (1862 – 1942) Lifework: A Biographical Approach to Mass Violence and Indigenous Knowledge Production**

Abstract:

Relying on a biographical approach that reconstructs the life and work of Johannes [Hovhanness] Jakob [Hagop] Manissadjian [Manisacıyan] (1862-1942), a highly successful scientist at the Anatolia College (Merzifon/Marsovan), who established a meteorological station and a natural history museum with an extensive collection of specimens, the chapter traces the routes of disappearance, dispersal and ruination of indigenous lives, people, and knowledge within the context of the Armenian genocide. Drawing on archival material from Ottoman, German, and American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) archives, I stress the potential of biographical methods to study the processes and structures of mass violence targeting the Ottoman Armenians, as well as to foreground the agency and subjectivity of genocide survivors. The article also focuses on post-genocide scientific (dis)engagements of Manissadjian in light of Theodor W. Adorno's 'after Auschwitz' discussions and from the perspective of indigenous knowledge production.

Bio:

Nazan Maksudyan is Senior Researcher and head of the Centre Marc Bloch research team in the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funded research project, "Ottoman Auralities and the Eastern Mediterranean: Sound, Media and Power, 1789-1914". Her research mainly focuses on the social and cultural history of the late Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey, with special interest in children and youth, gender, sexuality, humanitarianism, sound, and the history of sciences. Among her publications are *Ottoman Children & Youth During World War I* (Syracuse UP, 2019), *Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Syracuse UP, 2014), *Women and the City, Women in the City* (ed., Berghahn, 2014), *Urban Neighborhood Formations* (ed. with Hilal Alkan, Routledge, 2020).