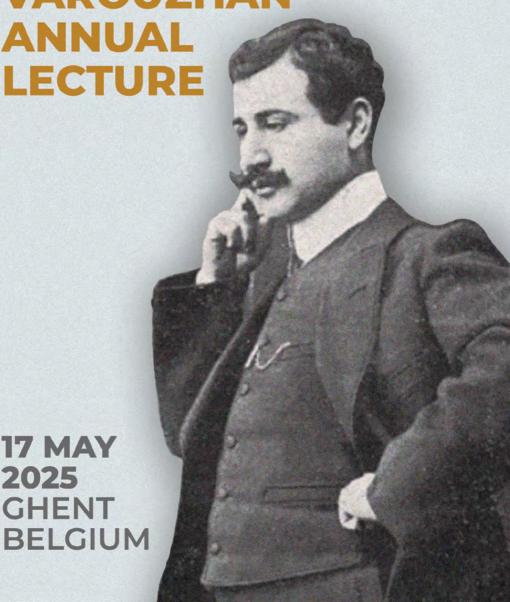




**TANIEL VAROUZHAN ANNUAL** 

**17 MAY GHENT** BELGIUM

2025



The Centre for Western Armenian Studies and Ghent University are delighted to present this year's Taniel Varouzhan Annual Lecture, which will be held at Ghent University.

Please note that this lecture will be delivered in English.

## **Annihilating Leadership:** The Destruction of Elites in the Armenian Genocide and Beyond

Prof. Uğur Ü. Üngör

Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Amsterdam

cultural, economic, religious, and political and its enduring implications. leadership, aiming to dismantle resistance, documentation, and lecture explores the motives behind this Genocide, foundations. Üngör underscores the critical 2022).

This lecture examines the systematic role of leadership in maintaining societal targeting of elites as a defining feature of identity and stability, as well as the profound genocidal campaigns, with a particular long-term impacts of its eradication for the focus on the Armenian genocide of 1915. victimized community. This exploration offers Genocides often begin with the deliberate an opportunity to deepen our understanding assault on the victim group's intellectual, of the strategic logic of genocidal violence

erode Uğur Ümit Üngör is Professor of Holocaust communal cohesion. The Armenian case and Genocide Studies at the University vividly demonstrates this pattern: on 24 April of Amsterdam and the NIOD Institute. His 1915, hundreds of intellectuals, politicians, main areas of interest are genocide and clergy, and community leaders were mass violence, with a particular focus on arrested and later executed, inaugurating the modern and contemporary Middle East. the broader campaign of annihilation. This He has published widely on the Armenian including Confiscation strategy, its execution, and its devastating Destruction: The Young Turk Seizure of consequences for the victimized groups. Armenian Property (Continuum, 2011), and Using the Armenian genocide as a central the award-winning The Making of Modern case study, it also incorporates comparative Turkey: Nation and State in Eastern Anatolia, analysis of other genocides, to highlight the 1950-1913 (Oxford University Press, 2011). His recurring nature of elite destruction in mass other publications include the monograph violence. By analysing a range of primary Paramilitarism: Mass Violence in the Shadow sources, including perpetrator records and of the State (Oxford University Press, 2020) survivor testimonies, this lecture elucidates and its follow-up monograph Assad's Militias how the removal of elites not only accelerates and Mass Violence in Syria (forthcoming, the physical destruction of a group but 2025). He is also co-author of Syrian Gulag: also obliterates its cultural and institutional Inside Assadys Prisons, 2020-1970 (I.B. Tauris,

## Full programme

Welcoming remarks: Prof. Peter van Nuffelen

Expression of thanks Dr. Krikor Moskofian

Speaker Prof. Uğur Ü. Üngör Date 17 May 2025

5 PM (local time)

Paviljoen Charles Vandenhove, Universiteit Gent, Rozier 1, 9000 Gent

This event will be livestreamed.

Registration link -

https://event.ugent.be/registration/Varouian2025