



The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
presents

DR. ÜMIT KURT

FIFTEENTH HENRY KHANZADIAN KAZAN VISITING PROFESSOR

THREE PUBLIC LECTURES -

Lecture II-Tuesday, October 21

• 7:30 PM •



**“PROACTIVE LOCAL PERPETRATORS:
MEHMET YASIN (SANI KUTLUĞ) AND ALI CENANI”**

University Business Center • Alice Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

*Free Admission. Parking is free on Friday evenings.
Use permit code-273913-Park in Lot P6 or P5 near the UBC.*

While there is an extensive body of literature addressing the Armenian Genocide, significant gaps persist. The events and processes of the genocide have been unearthed and examined, but genocide is not a phenomenon set in motion by a force of nature; on the contrary, the systematic destruction of Ottoman Armenians was designed and executed by a cadre of individuals, most of whom are little known today. The aim here is to recover the stories of two such actors in a particular town, Aintab, modern-day Gaziantep, and in the surrounding district, where both were actively involved in the destruction of Armenians. In this destruction, they were supported by the citizenry of the town, who—whether or not they approved of the actions these two operatives—did not criticize them and did profit from their activities. This lecture hopes to do this by highlighting the human element: the actors, their motives, and their actions, which ultimately bore responsibility for the catastrophic loss of life. The lecture focuses on the life stories of two leading players in Aintab, Mehmet Yasin (Sani Kutluğ) (1889–1973) and Ali Cenani (1872–1934): their backgrounds, deeds, and involvement in the 1915 Armenian deportation and genocide, as well as their careers in postgenocide Turkey.

Dr. Ümit Kurt received his Ph.D. from the Department of History at Clark University in 2016. He is currently working as a Polonsky Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He is the author of The Great, Hopeless Turkish Race: Fundamentals of Turkish Nationalism in the Turkish Homeland, 1911-1916 (Istanbul: İletişim Publishing House, 2012) and the author, with Taner Akçam, of The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2015).

**For more information about upcoming events contact
the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.
<http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies>**

