



The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
and the Leon S. Peters Foundation
present

“AN ARMENIAN NARRATIVE ON EARLY ISLAM: GHEVOND’S *HISTORY*”

by

Dr. Sergio La Porta and Dr. Alison Vacca



With the fall of the capital Dvin to caliphal armies in the seventh century, Armenia became a province of the Islamic Caliphate. In the following century, the caliphs integrated the region within the Caliphate by stationing armies, minting aniconic Arabic coins, extracting taxes, and placing Muslim governors in Armenia. Around 788, an Armenian vardapet, Ghevond, who witnessed the circumstances of caliphal rule in Armenia wrote a history of early Islam from the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 up to his own time. It is the only work of its kind that illuminates how Armenia was transformed during a century and a half of caliphal rule. In this talk, Dr. Sergio La Porta and Dr.



Alison Vacca take an interdisciplinary look at this history by situating it in relation to the Armenian Christian and Arabic-Islamic historical tradi-

tions. They not only address Armenian perceptions of the circumstances of Islamic rule in Armenia, but also speculate on the relationship between Armenian and Arabic historical texts.

Sergio La Porta is the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Fresno. His areas of research include medieval Armenian intellectual and political history, philology, and apocalyptic literature.

Alison Vacca is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Tennessee and author of Non-Muslim Provinces under early Islam: Islamic Rule and Iranian Legitimacy in Armenia and Caucasian Albania (2017). She is interested in early Islamic rule over Armenia, intercommunal conflict, and the relationship between Arabic and Armenian texts.

Friday, January 26, 2018 • 7:30PM

University Business Center • A. Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

Free admission. Free Parking in Lots P6 and P5 near the UBC.
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