

UCI Armenian Studies

THE VAHE & ARMINE MEGHROUNI LECTURE SERIES IN ARMENIAN STUDIES



New Testament illuminated by Mkrtych Naghash. Photo courtesy of John Hodian and the Mekhitarist Library at San Lazzaro

The Age of the Gharib: Strangers and Estrangement in the Pre-modern Mediterranean *with* **Michael Bedrosian Pifer**

The trope of the wandering stranger, the outcast with secret prestige, can be found in pre-modern literatures around the world. This lecture will shed light on an intersecting discourse about strangers across Jewish, Muslim, and Christian societies, with the intention of illuminating the peregrinations of the restless outcast known as the *gharib* in Middle Armenian poetry in particular. As it will argue, the mobile figure of the *gharib*, which performatively travels across multiple cultural systems, suggests an alternative manner of parsing what is 'native' and 'foreign,' indigenous and exogenous, in the societies through which it moves.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017

RECEPTION | 6:00 P.M.

LECTURE | 7:00 P.M.

**HUMANITIES INSTRUCTIONAL BUILDING 135
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE**



Michael Bedrosian Pifer received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan in 2014. His dissertation, "The Stranger's Voice: Integrated Literary Cultures in Anatolia and the Premodern World," received the ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award at University of Michigan in 2015. He was a Manoogian Simone Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program during the 2014-2015 academic year and has served as co-editor of the Society for Armenian Studies newsletter for the last six years. His current research, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, examines the mobility of Armenian literary cultures in the premodern world. His scholarship has appeared in *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* and will appear in *The Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies* this spring.

Event is free and open to the public
Complimentary parking available in Lot 7
Email JoAnn Jamora at jjamora@uci.edu with any questions