

# MEMORY AFTER GENOCIDE:

## FROM ARMENIAN MEMORIAL BOOKS TO YIZKER BOOKS TO FACEBOOK

• FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 12:30PM • MUNROE HALL 203 •

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THE 'ETHNIC CLEANSINGS' AND GENOCIDES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES have resulted in the destruction of people and of entire communities and of their history and culture. In this presentation, we will jointly explore attempts by exiled survivors

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to recover and preserve the memory of their loved ones and of the landmarks and histories of their lost home towns and villages. We will look at a number of examples of such efforts, ranging from communal memorial books (*houshamadyan*) produced by survivors of the 1915-1918 Armenian genocide, to the memorial books (*yizker-bikher*) published by hometown associations of Jewish Holocaust survivors, to the memorial blogs and websites created by refugees from the Bosnian genocide in the early days of the Internet, to the Facebook pages that seek to preserve the personal and communal memories of people fleeing the current carnage in Syria. All of these raise questions about the nature of history and memory and of the permanence of the historical record.

