



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Communications and Public Affairs

Press Release

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TURKISH-ARMENIAN RELATIONSHIP IN WAKE OF HRANT DINK ASSASSINATION TO BE PROBED

(MAHWAH, NJ) – New York University Professor Ayda Erbal will discuss “Hrant Dink’s Assassination: Its Legacy Across the Turkish-Armenian Divide” at Ramapo College of New Jersey on March 25 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges of the Robert A Scott Student Center (SC137).

Erbal will examine the political discourse at the state and societal level in the wake of the assassination in 2007 of Turkish-Armenian editor, journalist and columnist Hrant Dink. She will try to shed light on how different segments of the Turkish political spectrum used Dink’s assassination for their own purposes. Erbal’s talk is a cautionary tale about the limits of establishing and consolidating human rights in a society in which there has been a lack of post-conflict institutional change.

Ayda Erbal teaches two advanced undergraduate classes, "International Politics of the Middle East" and "Democracy and Dictatorship" as an adjunct professor of politics in the College of Arts and Sciences at New York University. She is interested in democratic theory, democratic deliberation, the politics of "post-nationalist" historiographies in transitional settings, mass violence and the politics of apology. She is a published short-story writer and worked as a columnist for the Turkish-Armenian newspaper *Agos* from 2000-03.

Additionally, Erbal is the lead singer and second percussionist of the polyglot Middle-Eastern band NOUR (<http://www.myspace.com/nourmusic>). She is also in the process of writing her second narrative short film "Meligone". Her first narrative short "Harvest" was invited to Cannes Short Film Corner.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is often viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In

addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.