



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Marketing and Communications

Press Release

October 12, 18

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Author to Discuss New Book on Talaat Pasha and the Armenian Genocide

MAHWAH, N.J. – Dr. Hans-Lukas Kieser, associate professor in the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle in Australia and adjunct professor of history at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, will discuss his recently published book, *Talaat Pasha: Father of Modern Turkey, Architect of Genocide*, on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion at Ramapo College. The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Armenian National Committee of New Jersey are sponsoring the event. It is free and open to the public.

Talaat Pasha (1874–1921) led the triumvirate that ruled the late Ottoman Empire during World War I and is arguably the father of modern Turkey. He also was the architect of the Armenian Genocide, which would result in the systematic extermination of more than a million people, and which set the stage for a century that would witness atrocities on a scale never imagined. Here is the first biography in English of the revolutionary figure who not only prepared the way for Atatürk and the founding of the republic in 1923, but who shaped the modern world as well.

In this explosive book, Kieser provides a mesmerizing portrait of a man who maintained power through a potent blend of the new Turkish ethno-nationalism, the political Islam of former Sultan Abdulhamid II, and a readiness to employ radical "solutions" and violence. From Talaat's role in the Young Turk Revolution of 1908 to his exile from Turkey and assassination--a sensation in Weimar Germany—Kieser restores the Ottoman drama to the heart of world events. He shows how Talaat wielded far more power than previously realized, making him the de facto ruler of the empire. He brings wartime Istanbul vividly to life as a thriving diplomatic hub, and reveals how Talaat's cataclysmic actions would reverberate across the twentieth century.

In this major work of scholarship, Kieser tells the story of the brilliant and merciless politician who stood at the twilight of empire and the dawn of the age of genocide.

A historian and Australian Research Council Future Fellow with the University of New Castle's Centre for the History of Violence, Professor Kieser's research focuses on the demise of the Ottoman Empire, marked by the First World War. He is an author of books and articles in several languages.

He has held guest professorships at Stanford University, University of Michigan, and in universities of Germany, France and Turkey. He received fellowships and awards from academic institutions in Basel, Zurich and Freiburg, and from the Swiss National Science Foundation.

For information or to request disability-related accommodations for this event, please contact holgen@ramapo.edu or call 201-684-7409.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for 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 eight 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.