International Association of Genocide Scholars

Witnessing the Past, Confronting the Present, Safeguarding the Future

American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia

July 5-9th 2027

Call for Papers

In an era marked by the resurgence of authoritarianism, the weaponization of historical memory, and the rapid transformation of the technological environments in which violence is perpetrated, recorded, circulated, and denied, genocide studies faces a changing set of challenges. Recent and ongoing genocides and mass atrocities, alongside other gross violations of human rights, have made evident the limits of existing approaches to prevention, justice, and remembrance. They have also renewed fundamental questions about witnessing and fact documentation: who is able to testify; whose testimony is recognized as credible; what forms of evidence are preserved or suppressed; and how individuals, states, human rights institutions, and international organizations respond when such knowledge and evidence become available in real time. This conference asks the following: how evidence gathered in real time is authenticated, contested, and acted upon; how generative AI is changing both the perpetration and the documentation of atrocity; and how the field struggles to confront silences.

Evidence of atrocity now reaches the public as events unfold, as do its denial and distortion. Existing frameworks of prevention and accountability are under strain: denial and historical distortion persist in mainstream discourse; the legal and human rights advocacy mechanisms built in the aftermath of the twentieth century's worst atrocities are being tested in new and consequential ways; and survivor communities continue to confront organised silencing, impunity, and erasure. At the same time, the field is expanding its reach, drawing on new methodologies, new archives, and new voices to address cases and communities that have long been overlooked. The silences within genocide scholarship are themselves a subject of urgent inquiry, as are the technologies that are reshaping how atrocity is recorded, contested, and remembered and how evidence of gross violations of human rights is collected, analyzed, and preserved.

This conference brings together scholars, practitioners, educators, human rights activists, and artists to examine these challenges across disciplinary and geographic boundaries. We welcome contributions that engage with the legal, historical, human, social, cultural, political, technological, and scientific dimensions of genocide, mass atrocity, and crimes against humanity, as well as work that connects the past with contemporary contexts of violence, displacement, resistance, accountability, and prevention.

Theme: This conference critically examines how the past is witnessed, how the present is understood and documented, and how that witnessing shapes our capacity to safeguard a

future with protected rights. We invite papers that explore silenced and forgotten genocides; the relationship between truth, denialism, and disinformation; the risks and opportunities that generative artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies present for the documentation, fact-based analysis, prevention, and remembrance of genocide and mass atrocity, as well as their use in perpetration and in sustaining impunity; and multimodal approaches to genocide education.

Topics of Interest: Papers are invited on, but not limited to, the following topics:

1. Silence as a political and cultural force in the perpetration, denial, and remembrance of genocide;
2. Forgotten or under-recognised genocides and the conditions that produce historical erasure;
3. The recognition, documentation, and interpretation of gross violations of human rights, including mass violence and displacement;
4. The ethics of representation and the possibilities and limits of testimony in the aftermath of atrocity;
5. Mechanisms, strategies, and consequences of genocide denial and impunity across historical and contemporary cases;
6. Disinformation, denialism, and the distortion of historical truth in contemporary political discourse;
7. The risks and possibilities of generative artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies for the preservation, interpretation, and transmission of survivor testimony, as well as for historical memory, education, and the denial or distortion of genocide and mass atrocities;
8. The role of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in facilitating human rights violations, genocide, and mass atrocities, as well as their potential for early warning, prevention, documentation, investigation, and accountability;
9. The rights and protection of targeted groups in situations of genocide and mass atrocity, including children, women, elderly, and other at-risk communities;
10. Genocide and mass atrocity through the targeting of religion and religious identity: the instrumentalization of religion to incite hatred, target, and persecute, as well as avenues for accountability through religious, political, and legal mechanisms;
11. Use of mass and social media in mass atrocity: the abuse of freedom of expression as a pretext for propaganda, incitement to hatred, dehumanization, persecution, and the denial or distortion of atrocities;
12. Multimodal and innovative approaches to genocide education across formal and informal settings;

13. The role of art, photography, film, literature, performance, museums, archives, and digital tools in building awareness, fostering empathy, and shaping collective memory;
14. Connections between historical genocide and present-day contexts of violence, displacement, persecution, resistance, accountability, and impunity;
15. The role of grassroots movements, civil society, human rights activists, and survivor communities in the fight against denial, silencing, erasure, and forgetting; and
16. Legal, human rights advocacy, institutional, and transitional justice mechanisms in the prevention of and response to genocide and mass atrocity.

Submissions on any topic in the field of genocide studies broadly are welcome.

We welcome abstract proposals for both traditional scholarly presentations and innovative or creative formats (e.g. short films, artistic works, poetry readings). IAGS is committed to diversifying prevailing understandings of all aspects of genocide, and we encourage proposals that employ novel methods and address a wide variety of cases, concepts, theories, practices, and topics relevant to genocide studies, genocide education, memory, justice and prevention. We strongly encourage submissions from the Global South, from minoritised and marginalised communities, and from emerging scholars working on under-researched issues, comparative analyses, and critical and creative work that addresses gaps in the field.

There will be a number of excursion opportunities in and around Yerevan for conference attendees. More details will be available closer to the conference dates.

Submission Guidelines

The conference submission portal will open on **1 November 2026**, with a deadline for proposals of **15 December 2026**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **15 February 2027**.

Further details about the submission process, including access to the portal, will be shared shortly. We look forward to receiving your proposals.

Individual proposals should be no longer than 250 words and include a presentation title, abstract, and 3 to 5 descriptive keywords.

Panel proposals (comprising three to four presentations) require an overarching panel description (250 words) and an individual abstract (250 words) from each panel presenter. Consistent with IAGS's commitment to diversity, the programme committee considers

diversity and inclusivity as a selection criterion; presenters are strongly encouraged to ensure that proposed panels reflect diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, career stages, and/or geographic representation wherever possible. Panel proposers must nominate a chair or discussant.

Proposals for artistic or other creative installations, readings, public performances, screenings, exhibitions, and workshops will also be considered. Creative proposals should include a description of no more than 250 words, provide links to samples of the proposed work, and specify any technical, spatial, or other requirements.

Workshop proposals should include a description of no more than 300 words covering the rationale, intended audience, format, goals, and intended impact, and must identify at least two workshop leaders with relevant expertise or experience.

All proposals will undergo anonymous peer review. Accepted presenters must be members of IAGS in order to register for and participate in the conference. Regardless of format, all presenters should plan to present for a maximum of 15 to 20 minutes. Although multiple submissions are permitted, the organisers reserve the right to accept only one presentation per submitter.

The conference language is English. Presentations will be in person only.