

# MICHAEL BEDROSIAN PIFER

Department of Near Eastern Studies  
University of Michigan  
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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, 2014**

**Certificate in World Literature, Institute for World Literature, Bilgi University, 2013**

**B.A. in Near Eastern Studies and Creative Writing, University of Michigan, 2007**

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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**2016 - 2017    National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow**  
University of Michigan

**2014 - 2015    Manoogian Simone Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Book Manuscript in Preparation:**

*Kindred Voices: A Literary History of Medieval Anatolia, 1250-1350.*

### **Refereed Journal Articles:**

“The forgetful figure: Armenian representations of trauma in Arak’el of Tabriz and Shahan Shahnur.” *The Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies*. 5:1, 2017.

“The diasporic crane: Discursive migration across the Armenian-Turkish divide.”  
*Diaspora: a Journal of Transnational Studies*. 18:3, 2009/2015.

### **Edited Volumes:**

*An Armenian Mediterranean: Words and Worlds in Motion*, Kathryn Babayan and Michael Pifer, editors (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Forthcoming.

### **Book Chapters:**

“The age of the gharib: Otherness in the medieval Mediterranean,” in *An Armenian Mediterranean: Words and Worlds in Motion* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Forthcoming.

### Articles in Preparation:

“The rose of Muhammad, the fragrance of Christ: Liminal poetics in medieval Anatolia,” currently under peer-review at Medieval Encounters.

### Translations:

“Exit without exodus” and “Aleppo, Aleppo,” contemporary poems by Maroush Yeramian (translated from Western Armenian). Absinthe: A Journal of World Literature in Translation. Vol. 23, Summer 2017.

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### AWARDS AND HONORS

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<b>2016 - 2017</b>	National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
<b>2015</b>	ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award
<b>2011 - 2014</b>	Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship
<b>2012</b>	Agnes H. and R. A. Yarmain Research Fellowship
<b>2010</b>	K. Allin Luther Award in Persian, University of Michigan
<b>2009</b>	Foreign Language and Area Studies Award in Farsi
<b>2007</b>	George and Celeste Hourani Award in Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish and Islamic Studies, University of Michigan
<b>2007</b>	Helen J. Daniels Prize for Best Essay, Hopwood Awards
<b>2007</b>	University of Michigan Hopwood Award, Essay Division
<b>2006</b>	University of Michigan Hopwood Award, Essay Division
<b>2004</b>	University of Michigan Hopwood Award, Essay Division

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### INVITED TALKS

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- 2017** “**Armenian riddles: Learning how to read with medieval poetry.**” Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan. September 20.
- 2017** “**The age of the gharib: Strangers and estrangement in the pre-modern Mediterranean.**” Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles. March 2.
- 2017** “**The age of the gharib: Strangers and estrangement in the pre-modern Mediterranean.**” Department of History, University of California, Irvine. March 1.
- 2014** “**Community formation and cosmopolitan poetics in Middle Armenian literature.**” International Institute, University of Michigan. October 15.

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## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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### Papers Presented:

- 2017 “Doing Other Literary History.”** Speaker at workshop, Literature and Liminality: Exploring the Armenian In-between, University of Michigan. December.
- 2017 “The in-between aroma: Liminal poetics in medieval Anatolia.”** Invited participant at Traveling Texts and Inter-Religious Exchanges and Encounters, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. October 17-19.
- 2016 “Translating sound and voice: Persianate poetics in a Middle Armenian romance?”** Invited speaker at After Alexander: Classical Texts in Arabic, Persian, and Armenian. The University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. April 18-19.
- 2015 “Literary adaptation in medieval Armenian poetry.”**  
Invited speaker at the Sixth Annual Armenian Studies Program International Graduate Student Workshop. The University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. April 17-18.
- 2014 “Jalal-ad-Din Rumi and Soltan Walad’s engagement with Turkish and Greek communities in Konya.”** 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI. May 8-11.
- 2013 “Strange epistemologies: the master-student relationship of Jalal-ad-Din Rumi.”**  
52nd annual meeting of the Midwest Medieval History Conference. Augsburg College. Minneapolis, MN. October 18-19.
- 2013 “Oral literature and the de-figurement of cross-cultural interaction.”** Workshop on Armenian Folklore and Mythology sponsored by the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes, the Society for Armenian Studies, and Harvard University. Boston, MA. August 30 - September 1.
- 2012 “The heteroglossic stranger: literary ‘interaction’ in medieval Armenian, Persian, and Turkish literature.”** Middle Eastern Studies Association 2012 annual meeting. Denver, CO. November 17-20.
- 2012 “Exile and the formation of early modern Persian and Armenian selves.”** Early Modern Migrations: Exiles, Expulsion, & Religious Refugees 1400-1700. Victoria College in the University of Toronto. April 19-21.
- 2011 “The limits of reason: early modern Armenian print culture and the occult.”** 166th American Historical Association annual meeting. Chicago, IL. January 5-7.

- 2011 “Whence the crane: envisioning Armenia through a global optic.”** Symposium: “The World in Armenian History, Armenia in World History.” In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. October 15.
- 2011 “The threshold of dignity: performing the human in medieval Armenian and Persian wandering.”** 23rd Annual Medieval Studies Symposium. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN. April 1.
- 2011 “The study of books, the fear of the Lord: The early modern Armenian book market.”** 165th American Historical Association annual meeting. Boston, MA. January 6-9.
- 2009 “Encounters with the ineffable and the role of the senses in the gardens of Armenian medieval poetry.”** University of Michigan: Graduate Workshop on Armenian Literature. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. April.

Workshops Organized:

- 2017 Literature and Liminality: Exploring the Armenian In-between.** December 2017. Sponsored by the International Institute at the University of Michigan. Co-organized with Maral Aktokmakyan.
- 2014 “Memory, Texts, Film,”** workshop with Marie-Aude Baronian, Multidisciplinary Workshop for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan. Co-Organized with Dzovinar Derderian.
- 2014 “The Kurdish Frontier and Ottoman-Qajar Relations,”** workshop with Sabri Ateş, Multidisciplinary Workshop for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan. Co-Organized with Dzovinar Derderian.
- 2013 “Decline and Fall of the Sasanian Empire,”** workshop with Parvaneh Pourshariati, Multidisciplinary Workshop for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan. Co-organized with Alison Vacca.

Panels Organized:

- 2012 “Armenia in dialogue with the Near East, 8-15th centuries.”** Middle Eastern Studies Association 2012 annual meeting. Denver, CO. Co-organized with Alison Vacca. November 17-20.

Discussant:

- 2016 “Medieval Armenian Literature, Translated.”** Seventh Annual Armenian Studies Program International Graduate Student Workshop: “Translating Armenians, Armenians Translated.” The University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI. April 22.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Graduate courses designed and taught as instructor of record:

**2017            Classical Armenian Language and Literature**  
Dumbarton Oaks and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library

Undergraduate courses designed and taught as instructor of record:

**2018            On the Move: Armenian World Literature**  
Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan

**2017            Modern Western Armenian**  
Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan

**2017            How to be Armenian: Culture in a Global World**  
Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan

**2015            Global Apocalypse**  
Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

**2015            Life Between Borders: Travel and Transgression in World Literature**  
Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

**2010 - 2011   Writing World Literature: Beyond Disaster**  
Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

**2009 - 2010   Writing for an Academic Audience**  
English Department, University of Michigan

Relevant professional development:

**2013            University of Michigan Graduate Teacher Certificate**  
Pedagogical enrichment program: <http://crlt.umich.edu/um.gtc/description>

**2013            Facilitator of Practice Teaching Sessions**  
Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan

**2008 - 2010   Western Armenian Language Tutor**  
Modern Languages Building, University of Michigan

**2008 - 2009   Grader**  
Near Eastern Studies: Issues in Race and Ethnicity  
Near Eastern Studies: An Introduction to Modern Armenian Literature

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2017-2018**     **Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan**  
Executive Committee Member
- 2017-2018**     **Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean**  
European Research Council, Advisory Member
- 2010 - 2017**     **Society for Armenian Studies, California State University**  
Co-Editor of the Society for Armenian Studies newsletter
- 2012 - 2016**     **International Institute, University of Michigan**  
Editor of the Armenian Studies Program newsletter
- 2012 - 2014**     **Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshops, University of Michigan**  
Co-Founder of the Multidisciplinary Workshop for Armenian Studies

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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American Comparative Literature Association  
Middle Eastern Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
Society for Armenian Studies

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**LANGUAGES**

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Primary research languages:	Modern Western Armenian, Eastern Armenian, Middle & Classical Armenian, New Persian, Modern Turkish
Secondary languages (completion of 2+ years):	Modern Standard Arabic, Ottoman Turkish
Beginning languages (completion of 1 year):	Latin, German