



Seminar

**RACHA KIRAKOSIAN**

Fellow, SCAS.

Associate Professor of German and the Study of Religion, Harvard University

*Discrete Archives:  
Untold Stories from the Past*

Tuesday, 4 February, 2020, 2:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall  
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala  
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## ABOUT RACHA KIRAKOSIAN

Racha Kirakosian received her DPhil from the University of Oxford, where she was a Marie Curie Research Fellow from 2010 to 2013. Prior to arriving at Harvard, she was Lecturer at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages in Oxford, Lecturer at Somerville College, Oxford, and Director of Studies for German at Oriel College, Oxford. She has enjoyed scholarships from the European Commission, Le conseil régional d'Île-de-France, Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, and the German History Society, among others.

Kirakosian was awarded Harvard Medical School's William F. Milton Award for her research on Gertrude the Great, and she has obtained numerous other stipends such as the Herzog Ernst Research Scholarship of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, a Gerda Henkel Research Fellowship, and a Huntington Library Mayers Fellowship. In March and April 2017, she was invited to a research residency as the Director's Visiting Scholar at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C.

Kirakosian's publications include studies on medieval German mysticism, female sanctity, and medieval law. Her first monograph, *Die Vita der Christina von Hane: Untersuchung und Edition* (De Gruyter, 2017), deals with the biography of a thirteenth-century Premonstratensian mystic. She is also the translator of *The Life of Christina of Hane* into English (forthcoming). Another forthcoming book explores the German reception of the visions of Gertrude of Helfta's *Legatus divinae pietatis*. Kirakosian and her students are currently developing digital editions of medieval legends of Mary Magdalene (<http://digital-editing.fas.harvard.edu>).

At SCAS, Kirakosian will conduct research on women's history in medieval Europe and the theatricality of visions.

## ABSTRACT

How can we tell stories that form a counterweight to master narratives? How can we access what has been thought to be inaccessible, uninteresting, unworthy, and even lost? This project aims to tackle the countercurrents of historiography by discovering and/or reassessing archival material in a series of publications on original topics. To exemplify the methodological implications of "Discrete Archives" I am going to present the life of the fugitive countess and canoness Katharina of Württemberg (07.12.1441–28.06.1497).