

## Symposium examined Armenians in psychology

On 9-10 April 2022, the Armenian American Mental Health Association (AAMHA) convened a global Conference, to bring together many experts on “Mental Health in Armenia and the Diaspora.”

In this conference, a one-hour invited symposium on “A global overview of Armenian-ancestry psychologists,” featured four experts in different regions.

**Hrant Avanesyan** is Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Yerevan State University. He offered an illustrated history of psychological science and practice in the Republic of Armenia from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21 Centuries.

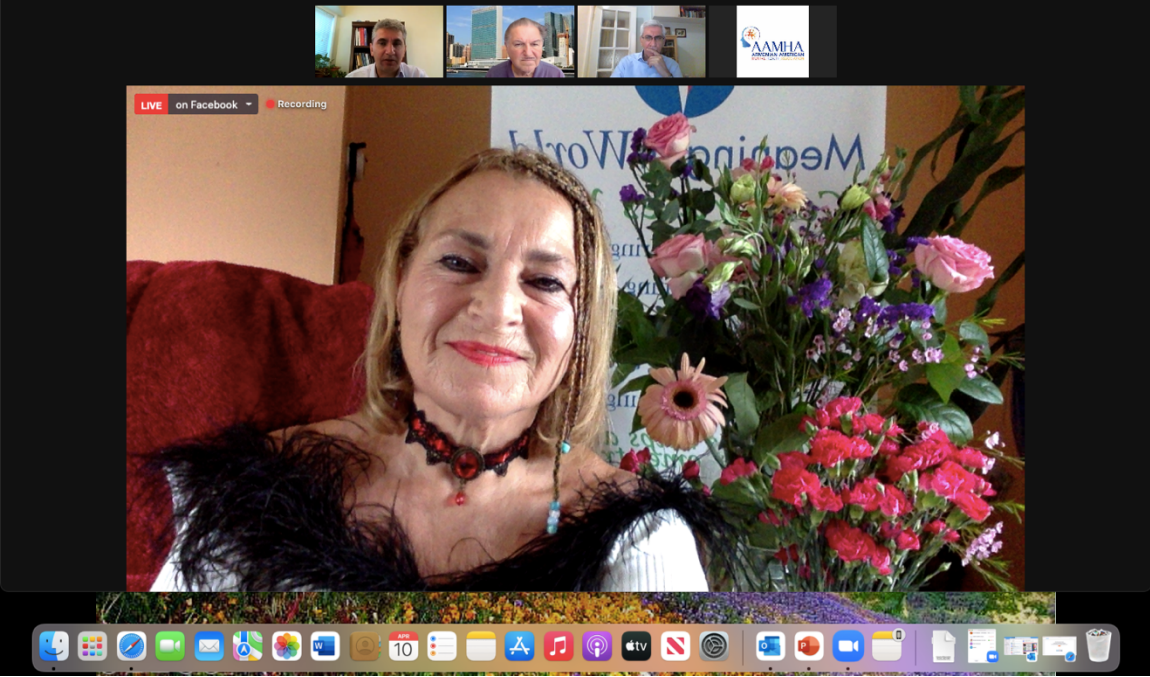
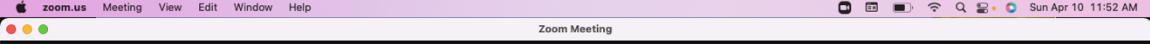
**Harold Takooshian** is Professor of Psychology at Fordham University, and an officer in the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations. He reviewed the origin, growth, and activities of the Armenian Behavioral Science Association (ABSA), formed in 1987, which now links over 500 Armenian-American behavioral scientists.

**Ani Kalayjian** is Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, and the founding President of ATOP MeaningfulWorld. She reviewed the global activities of Meaningful World in 51 nations since 1988, including its current suicide prevention program in Armenia. She focused on the Horizontal Violence rampant in Armenia, its referred to “Armenian disease” and “its in our DNA” which is a myth, need to be mindfully dispelled.

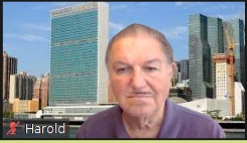
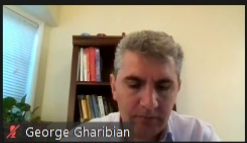
**George Gharibian** is a professor on the core faculty of Alliant International University, and Co-Chair of the Education Committee of AAMHA. He served as chair and discussant of this symposium, raising a few issues for discussion. One issue was progress to form a new psychology association in Armenia. Another issue was more frequent use of webinars to bring closer together the many disconnected psychology organizations and individuals in Armenia and the Diaspora.

Address any inquiries directly to the four speakers (below). Recordings of this AAMHA conference symposia appear on its Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/aamhawest.org](https://www.facebook.com/aamhawest.org)  
[www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

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