Once a great medieval capital on the Silk Road, Ani had been reduced to a ghost city until its rediscovery by modern travelers, artists and scholars in the mid-19th century. Since then, it has been the site of projects of great cultural and political importance, culminating in its current status as a cultural heritage site, tourist destination and even possible candidate for inclusion on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Some of these projects have been instigated by states, like the imperial Russian excavation, or the current preservation campaign conducted by the Turkish Ministry of Culture in partnership with the World Monuments Fund. In addition, numerous parties like the Armenian Church leadership, political parties, museums, non-governmental organizations in Turkey, international heritage groups, as well as individual activists, artists and intellectuals have made Ani a crucial site and symbol. Reviewing some of these interventions and their local and global resonance, the paper argues that cultural heritage can and should play a privileged role in the exploration of difficult pasts. Complex and contested sites like Ani prompt questions that are critical to the theory and practice of contemporary cultural heritage.

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Wednesday, January 13, 2016
12:00pm - Seminar Room

Location: Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Room 106

If you have any questions regarding our events, please contact:

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