

## **Dr. Sergio La Porta**

Hi, my name is Sergio La Porta and I am the Haig and Isabel professor of Armenian studies at Fresno State.

I was really excited to come to Fresno particularly because the Armenian studies program here has had such an active and distinguished history. Professors Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Dickran Kouymjian did a wonderful job in laying the groundwork for the program over the past several decades.

There is such a large student population that is active in the Armenian studies program that it is a challenge – but a welcomed challenge – to take it to another level and to continue with the progress that has been made. In particular, what I would like to do is to greater enhance the department's interdisciplinary nature and framework as well as hopefully to be able to get a graduate degree program started that has a significant Armenian component to it.