

Ani Garabed Ohanian

Ohanian is the recipient of generous support from the Armenian community including the Nishan and Margrit Atinizian Family Foundation. Her dissertation project, *Bolshevik-Kemalist Reconfigurations of the Caucasus, 1917-1923*, examines Bolshevik-Kemalist relations through the lens of the Armenian genocide. The triangular relationship between Turkey, Russia, and the South Caucasus reflects the effects of imperial decline and the rise of nationalist ambition in the aftermath of the Great War. To date, no major scholarly work looks at Bolshevik-Kemalist relations through the lens of the Armenian Genocide, nor through the tumultuous period of 1917 to 1921 as the Transcaucasian states struggled for independence. Ohanian's dissertation aims to shed light on the entangled histories of Bolsheviks and Kemalists in the region that have continued consequences in the ongoing inter-ethnic conflict and instability of the region today.

With the support of a short-term research grant from the New York Public Library, Ohanian gained access to collections that pertain to the South Caucasus. She discovered the Jacques Kayaloff collection, which contains original documents and reports focusing on Armenia and its bordering nations. This collection provides insights into the historical circumstances during the tumultuous period of 1917 to 1921 and further elucidates the relations between Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan vis-à-vis the larger Bolshevik, Kemalist, British, French, and German forces in the region. Additionally, she was able to read unique first-person sources, including memoirs of soldiers and missionaries in the region, such as Zareh Melik-Shahnazarov's *Sketches of a Karabakh Soldier*, *Memoirs of a participant in the events of 1918-1920 in Nagorno Karabakh*, and L. Dartigue's *La Mission sanitaire chirurgicale française du Caucase (premier juillet 1917 – 13 juillet 1918)*.

As Unionist-Bolshevik relations are central to her dissertation, the Turkish Communist Party's correspondence, in Russian, will be very useful for the assessment and understanding of these relations. During a research trip to Istanbul, she plans to access other Russian-language materials from the Turkish Communist Party archives and from the Social History Research Foundation of Turkey (TÜSTAV – Türkiye Sosyal Tarih Araştırma Vakfı), which operated in Baku.