

Hasmik Grigoryan

B.A., Yerevan State University, Department of Cultural Studies, 2008

M.A., Yerevan State University, Department of Cultural Studies, 2010

Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow, Grigoryan held the Asbed B. Zakarian and Margaret M. Zakarian research award during her first year of doctoral study. Her dissertation project is a micro-historical study that focuses on the Van and Bitlis provinces of the Ottoman Empire during the pre-genocidal period from 1913 to 1914. She explores the tensions between the ethno-religious communities in this region as negotiations on Armenian reforms unfolded between the Great Powers and the Ottoman Empire. Looking at Armenian socio-political developments in the immediate pre-genocidal period, both within the Ottoman Empire and abroad, she aims to understand the extent to which these developments were related to the Armenian Genocide.

During summer 2020, Grigoryan conducted preliminary research in the Armenian National Archive in Yerevan, Armenia that will help to shed light on the situation in the Van and Bitlis provinces in 1912-1914. These materials include letters about the murder and plundering of Armenians by the Muslim population of those provinces sent from the Van and Bitlis Prelacies to the Catholicos of All Armenians, the chief bishop and spiritual leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Additionally, she found materials on the 1914 Kurdish uprising in Bitlis that researchers have not yet studied.

Issues of land ownership and disputes with the Kurdish population are central to Grigoryan's research. Over the summer months, she concluded work on a paper, "Kurdo-Armenian Land Disputes in 1908-1914: The Province of Bitlis," that includes a historical review of land ownership in the Ottoman Empire, "land policy" under the Young Turk regime, and the confiscation of

Armenian lands. There has been limited research, up to now, on how land policy and the laws adopted after the restoration of the Ottoman Constitution affected Armenian-Kurdish relations, which will be an important aspect of her doctoral project. Another resource for her rproject are the memories of the Armenian ARF (Armenian Revolutionary Federation) members.