

The dissertation titled *The Depiction of Others in Armenian Sources of the 16th – 18th Centuries* is conceived as scholarly research at the boundary between two disciplines – ethnology and history. The introductory chapters devoted to the formation of the stereotypical images of Others and to the fundamental attributes of the Armenian identity served as a sort of springboard for my analysis of Armenian historical texts. Secondly, they permitted me to tackle the question of the traditional “Us against Them” dichotomy, taking as an example the local Armenian communities and their chief “enemies” – Muslims, heretics and converts. My effort has been to capture the relations between the Armenians and their Muslim neighbors before ethnic stereotypes had been codified during the period of growing nationalism. The main part of the dissertation, titled *We and They: Categories of Others in the Eyes of Armenian Chroniclers from the Frontiers*, is based mainly on the study of primary sources – period Armenian chronicles and colophons. It is a probe into regional history; a microhistory of the Lake Van region in the 17th and 18th centuries. Reflected in its example is the history of all of the Ottoman Empire and its gradual decline, the deterioration of the standing of the dhimmi and the growing tensions between farmers and nomads, between populations of subjugated reaya and the ruling sultan’s kuls, and finally between Muslims and non-Muslims. These chronicles are particularly valuable in several respects – they are still little known among scholars, they have not been translated into any languages other than Armenian, and they come from a region where a high degree of religious and social tension has traditionally been prevalent. Also involved is the transition between the Middle Ages and the reforms of the modern age.