

Post-Genocide Armenian Identity as Reflected in Artistic Literature” as the subtitle of this monograph to emphasize this shift.

I intend to complete the trilogy with a volume on the study of the reflections of the historical memory of the Armenian Genocide in Soviet Armenian literature, in which the Genocide was a forbidden subject. I will demonstrate that, despite the hostile atmosphere in which not only writing about the past and the Turkish atrocities but also speaking about them was a punishable crime, the memory of the Genocide was transmitted in the stories of grandparents in the confines of their homes. This memory subtly but unmistakably resounded in literary works, which interestingly also incorporated the collective memory of subsequent persecutions during the Soviet era. In this final volume of the trilogy, I will highlight the impositions of Soviet ideology and state policies upon the treatment of Armenian history and the collective memory of the traumatic past. To tie in with the thesis I develop in the present volume, I will draw a comparison between the prevailing atmosphere of fear in then-Soviet Armenia and the state of mind that governs contemporary Turkish society.

The basis of the focus in the present volume—from literary responses to the transgenerational sense of Armenianness—is twofold. First, in my readings of genocide literature and my study of the effects of the Armenian Genocide on generations of survivors, I came to realize that the nation’s past traumatic experience had a definite role in the formation of the Armenian sense of ethnicity and identity through time. This realization necessitated an approach with a different angle, with an emphasis on the construct of identity—ethnic identity