

Joking on Problems, Laughing at “Others”: Case Study of Armeno-Turkish Satirical Magazine “Zvarcahos”

Abstract

Satirical journals had been published in large European centers such as London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna since the first half of the nineteenth century. Researchers dealing with humour magazines in the Ottoman Empire in their introductions most often refer to Teodor Kasap’s “Diyojen” (Diogenes) as the pioneering satire journal “Diyojen”, being published in Constantinople from 1870 initially in Armenian/Armeno-Turkish and later Ottoman Turkish, Greek and French, could be considered an extremely important milestone for the development of the Ottoman satire. However, over fifteen years before that, in 1855, the Armeno-Turkish journal “Zvarcahos” was initiated in the Ottoman capital and, for a period of one year, was regularly published every Tuesday.

The presentation will shed light on the main topics covered in “Zvarcahos”. There will be a specific focus on how the European Countries and the Russian Empire were portrayed in the magazine. The publishers’ attitudes towards different groups inside the Empire (e.g., Muslims, Catholic, and Apostolic Armenians, Greeks) will be examined. Benefitting from the methodological approaches of imagology, Naira Poghosyan will outline the boundaries of “otherness” represented in “Zvarcahos”.

Short Bio

Naira Poghosyan received her Ph.D. in Turkic Studies from Yerevan State University, Republic of Armenia. Her dissertation focused on the reflection of social and cultural problems of “Gastarbeiters” (Turkish migrants in Germany) in Turkish literature. Currently, Naira Poghosyan holds the position of Associate Professor pursuing both academic and research work in the Department of Turkic Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Yerevan State University. N. Poghosyan’s research focuses on the history of modern Turkish literature, Turkish historical novels, the Armenian subject in Turkish literature