

Acknowledgements

This monograph is based on the results of a long-term exploration (2006–2021) and I ought to thank a number of people and institutions that made this book possible. I am deeply thankful to all those who supported and inspired me with intellectual support at different stages of conceptualisation and production of this book. First, my thanks go to Wolfgang Kaschuba (Humboldt University Berlin) for his insightful vision and engagement in supporting the idea to include Armenia into the research programme at the Institute for European Ethnology. The membership at the interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Centre ‘Changing Representations of Social Orders’ at Humboldt University enabled me to conceptualise and to discuss preliminary results of multi-cited ethnographic research in Armenia and in the US. At this point, I would like to acknowledge the generous guide and support of my colleagues in the Republic of Armenia. In particular, I thank Levon Abrahamian, Elza-Bair Guchanova, Eduard Melkonian and Artur Mkrtchyan for their intellectual hospitality, warmth and accepting me as part of their intellectual community in Yerevan. Thanks should be extended to many Armenian Americans from Watertown (MA) for being open, for their advices and supporting my research interests, in particular my thanks go to Sossi Tovmajian and Jeff Masarjian. Finally, I am deeply indebted to my friends, Sarah LeVine and Robert LeVine, emeritus professor for anthropology at Harvard University, who provided a generous encouragement, welcoming support and insightful conversations during my research in the Boston area. I have been fortunate in having the opportunity to stay at their house in Belmont during my fieldwork in the Boston area. I would like to thank Robert and Sarah LeVine for being such wonderful colleagues and friends.

In the process of working on this project, I had privilege to discuss my ideas not only at workshops and conferences, but also in a continuous personal exchange with Nina Glick Schiller and Steve Reyna. I am thankful for

their vivid interest and helpful comments in developing earlier versions of the chapters. I appreciate Nina Glick Schiller's challenging feedback she provided me by reading the first draft of my manuscript proposal. I am grateful to the colleagues who shared their professional expertise by reading the entire manuscript as habilitation thesis, which I submitted in 2020 to Humboldt University, especially Ingeborg Baldauf, Otto Habeck, Manja Stephan-Emmerich and Jesko Schmoller. I wish to thank Andy Byford, Olga Bronnikova and Alisdair Rogers for their constructive comments on various parts of the chapters. Excerpts from Chapter II and III were reprinted with kind permission of the publishers, Global Networks, a Journal of Transnational Affairs (2016) and *Revue d'études comparatives Est-Ouest* (RECEO, 2018). I would like to thank my colleagues and friends in Germany, who offered me insightful critiques and input in the process of writing, in particular I am thankful to Krisztina Kehl for her thoughtful and valuable comments to earlier drafts of the chapters, Gwendolyn Sasse and my immediate colleagues at ZOIS in Berlin. On each occasion, I benefited from their insights and advices.

This research was only possible thanks to financial support of German Research Foundation (DFG), which funded the Collaborative Research Centre at Humboldt University. Several organisations provided additional travel grants for following up research trips to the US and travel grants to conferences, among them Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and VolkswagenStiftung. Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, where I spent three fruitful years at the Department for Slavic and Caucasus Studies, offered a productive atmosphere for developing two chapters. I am thankful to Florian Mühlfried and Kevin Tuite for their comments to my earlier ideas on mobility and identities in the Caucasus area. Finally, without support from the Centre for East European and International Studies in Berlin (ZOIS) at its final stage of the project, this monograph would not exist. Student assistants were of amazing help at different stages of producing this manuscript, in particular – Franziska Fischer, Sina Giesemann, Richard Schmidt, Philipp Türmer and Anahit Meliksetyan. In addition, I had a professional assistance in English editing provided by Matthew Blackburn and Anne Boden.

Finally, I would like to thank my transnational family. This monograph would not have been possible without enthusiastic support, humour and patience of my partner, Jens Liebchen and the members of my family: Ursula Liebchen, Baira Darieva and Ayana Pak.