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Between policy and globalization : cultural exchanges between France and Israel

This paper will analyze the mechanisms and actors of international cultural relations, through the case of the cultural exchanges between Israel and France. It will focus on the different types of factors and their evolution : political and diplomatic relations, economic interest, identity stakes, cultural dimension, role of mediating agents (not only those formally in charge of cultural relations as state representatives and the economic actors, but also cultural producers, translators, etc.)

Through this case study, we will examine the characteristics of cultural exchanges between a central country, endowed with a dominant cultural tradition, with a small one, recently founded, the culture of which is also young in spite of its old roots in the Jewish tradition, and which occupies a rather peripheral position in the global cultural space. This case is also interesting because of the fact that the intensity of cultural exchanges does not correspond necessarily to periods of favorable diplomatic relations. The paper is based on an empirical research on the circulation of books between the two countries through translation.