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STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF JEWISH EDUCATION IN ISRAEL AND IN THE DIASPORA

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Monograph # 37

The Educational Shaliach 1939-2009

A socio-history of a unique project in formal and informal Jewish education

By **Erik H Cohen**

School of Education, Bar Ilan University

This monograph offers a broad and rich picture of one of the most ambitious and innovative projects in Jewish education of the last century—educational *shlichut*. For more than seven decades representatives from Israel have been dispatched by the Jewish Agency to work, teach and organize activities in Jewish schools, community centers, and youth movements around the world. Thus the case of the educational shaliach is interesting and unique in that it presents characteristics of both formal and informal Jewish education.

Thousands of educational emissaries have served *shlichut* missions lasting several years, thus impacting countless children and adults. The book begins with a historical analysis based on archival research. This traces the development and evolution of shlichut, and presents an overview of its challenges and achievements. Additionally, an empirical study surveyed a wide variety of relevant populations: active and alumni shlichim, Israeli elected officials, Israeli decision-makers and professionals and Diaspora community leaders. In-depth analyses of the data portray the characteristics, functions, problems and goals of contemporary shlichut. Finally, the report offers a policy analysis and forecast for shlichut into the 21st century.

This book is relevant for Jewish education researchers, historians, sociologists and policy experts as well as professionals in Israel and in the Diaspora.

Price of the book: 40 NIS (not including VAT) [334 pages]

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