



# Transmitting Jewish Traditions: Orality, Textuality, and Cultural Diffusion (Studies in Jewish Culture and Society)

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This book examines the impact of changing modes of cultural transmission on Jewish and Western cultures over the past two thousand years. The contributors to the volume survey some of the ways -- conscious and subconscious -- in which cultural elements are selected, shaped, and transmitted, and some of the ways they in turn shape the future of their cultures. Focusing on a range of Jewish cultures from late antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the modern period, the authors consider both the transformation of traditions in their travels from one contemporaneous cultural context to another and their transformation within a single culture overtime. Some of the studies in the book deal with the transition from mixed oral-written cultures to ones in which written-print is nearly exclusive. Other chapters deal with the processes of transmission such as anthologizing, translating, teaching, and sermonizing. By contextualizing Jewish culture within Western culture and including a comparative perspective, the book makes an important contribution to Judaic studies as well as to other areas of the humanities concerned with questions of textuality and culture.

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#### **From the Inside Flap**

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#### **About the Author**

Yaakov Elman is associate professor of Judaic studies at Yeshiva University and co-director of the Friedberg Genizah Project. Israel Gershoni is professor of Middle Eastern history at Tel Aviv University. University of Pennsylvania Studies in Jewish Culture and Society

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