



Abstract

This dissertation deals with the figure of the german-french mediator Gilbert Badia (1916-2004) and his cultural networks within the conflict-ridden German-German-French relations after 1945. To this end, in addition to the literary-cultural field around Badia, his personal environment is also examined as well as which economic, political, and social entanglements influenced him.

As a translator, University professor, Germanist and historian, a diachronic network of people and texts has been established around him since the 1940s, in which specific discourses and images circulate. The example of Badia highlights the problematic that numerous (intellectual) mediators faced in the 20th century: the effort to reconcile critical reflection and fidelity to a (political) ideal. An analysis of Badia's engagement beyond normative categories shows, that within the historically conflictual complex context, individual predispositions lead to engagement and interest in the "other" – with quite fruitful effects. In addition to the construction of a textual universe, intellectual and sometimes friendly exchange takes place despite – or precisely because of – the difficult foreign policy context.

The example of Badia illustrates that aspects such as conflicts, ambivalences and political influence should not be rejected, but rather understood as necessary and important components of any cultural transfer.

The results can be applied to contemporary mediators and their situation, as well as to other conflictual socio-political and socio-cultural settings beyond the german-french context.

Keywords: *cultural transfer, German-German-French relations, rapprochement through conflict*