

CALL FOR PAPERS

Practices of Public Diplomacy 1500 - 2020

International conference
KNAW Humanities Cluster
18-20 October 2023
Amsterdam

With keynotes by
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(Berlin), Nick Cull (USC)
and Tracey Sowerby
(Oxford)

DEADLINE
21 JANUARY
2023



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

In the history of diplomacy, public diplomacy emerges as a field of study only in the twentieth century. While many scholars would agree that diplomacy has always had a public element, thinking about ‘public diplomacy’ and related concepts is still very much intertwined with modernity, with the rise of democracy and modern media. Historians working on premodern diplomacy often study practices that are similar to those studied by scholars of modern public diplomacy, but use different concepts and terminology. Periodical and disciplinary divides have therefore hampered our understanding of the long-term development of a practice that is so crucial to the history of diplomacy at large.

THE CONFERENCE

This conference aims to explore the long history of public diplomacy by bringing together scholars from a variety of academic disciplines, working on different periods. We invite papers on any aspect of public diplomacy, and will strive towards an equal representation of different periods, long-term perspectives and case studies. Questions that may be addressed include:

- How did media revolutions in the past transform public diplomacy practices?
- How did specific media and/or genres function as instruments of public diplomacy in any given period?
- How do modern concepts such as nation branding compare with premodern practices?
- What are the gains and losses of adopting modern concepts to understand historical practices?
- How did attitudes towards public diplomacy develop within and without the diplomatic corps in the past centuries?
- Which actors were involved in practices of public diplomacy throughout time?
- What might current public diplomats learn from past practices?

By asking these and similar questions, we seek to stimulate the dialogue between different disciplines, to highlight and discuss (dis)continuities and developments in practices of, and ideas about, public diplomacy.

PROPOSALS

We welcome both individual paper proposal (abstract of 250 words) and panel proposals (abstract of 750 words). Please send your abstracts before 21 January 2023 to: PublicDiplomacy2023@gmail.com