

EWIS 2019 Call for Papers

Science-diplomacy nexus: what theory and what practice?

Workshop convenors:

Luk Van Langenhove, Institute for European Studies, VUB (Luk.Van.Langenhove@vub.be)

Michał Łuszczuk, MCSU in Lublin (mluszczuk@gmail.com)

Workshop summary

Although the linkage between knowledge and power can be studied in the fields of the philosophy of science or the sociology of knowledge, it also belongs to the International Relations (IR) domain (Wojciuk 2016). And within this discipline, this relationship should be perceived not only as an interesting phenomenon but primarily as an increasingly important element of international relations (Mayer et al. 2014a). While cooperation between scientists and diplomats and decision-makers is not a new phenomenon in the history of the international relations, its current characteristics – scope, importance, dynamics, and even institutionalization – are truly unprecedented (Davis, Patman 2015). A large part of international challenges cannot be resolved by political entities only, the participation of scientists is necessary e.g. threats related to climate change (Łuszczuk, 2017), health threats, hunger, and malnutrition. Moreover, the development of Big Science requires international research cooperation which is a *sin qua non* condition of large, long-lasting and expensive scientific endeavors such as already finalized Human Genome Project. These unique drivers have caused this phenomenon to be identified as ‘science diplomacy’ and a process of its conceptualization has started.

As van Langenhove explains, science diplomacy „is a concept used in either labelling on-going activities as being of a diplomatic nature or as a label used to qualify certain policy actions in a certain way. In other words, science diplomacy can refer to both practices and discourses” (van Langenhove 2016, p. 20). It is widely accepted that three forms of science diplomacy can be distinguished: science in diplomacy, diplomacy for science, science for diplomacy (The Royal Society 2010).

This workshop seeks to further these perspectives in rethinking the essence and features of the contemporary relations between the science and the diplomacy. Exploring theoretical and empirical perspectives on the specificity of cooperation of diplomats, decision-makers and scientists the workshop will bring together IR scholars specialising in diplomacy studies, foreign policy analysis as well in the sociology of knowledge. The practitioners of science diplomacy e. g., science attachés, members of the science promotion agencies are also invited. Stimulating scholars with divergent backgrounds into the conversation with each other, the workshop will explore broader questions concerning, e.g. relationship(s) between international power and knowledge; the links between diplomacy world and science; national or supranational concepts and tools of science diplomacy. To that end, the papers should engage with, and move beyond, existing works in IR and Foreign Policy Analysis that have sought to conceptualize politics and science nexus. Therefore, we particularly encourage proposals that examine the new interplay between science and diplomacy to unravel and understand the institutional settings and dynamics that constrain or reinforce the impact of scientific knowledge on foreign policies. Doing this we will work on an innovative research agenda and stimulate research cooperation in Europe.