

Diplomacy between Crisis and Cooperation
Fourth Conference of the New Diplomatic History Network

26-28 May 2021

Aarhus University
School of Culture and Society
Denmark

Speakers

Tracey Sowerby: Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Crisis

Rebecca Adler-Nissen: International Negotiations in the Age of Covid-19

The New Diplomatic History network focuses broadly on the historical study of diplomats, their methods, and their cultural, political and social networks, sites, and milieux. New diplomatic history involves the study of individuals and groups who perform diplomatic roles (but who have so far often been ignored), and the use of perspectives and methodologies from across the social sciences to bring their significance into focus. The network reasserts diplomatic actors as important subjects of historical study and encourages innovations in the understanding of evolving international society.

In the context of globalization, diplomacy has become a complex field of activity involving a host of state and non-state actors at multiple levels and forms of global, regional, and local governance. While the nation-state continues to function as the cornerstone of international order, an increasingly crowded environment has forced adaptations and alterations to all levels of diplomatic practice. New levels of complexity have now been added to this picture, as existing forms of international order have been disrupted by major economic, ecological and health crises, while

zero-sum geopolitics and the rhetoric of putting the national interest "first" are firmly back on the international agenda.

At this moment, therefore, it seems pertinent to explore how diplomacy and diplomats have been shaped by and contributed to the development of international orders and connections as well as crises and conflicts across history. How have institutional frameworks altered the poise of diplomacy? How have diplomats juggled tensions between obedience to their state, professional norms and personal moral beliefs in times of crisis? What are the precedents for the condition of diplomacy in the early 21st century?

As the main meeting point for the New Diplomatic History network, this conference aims to bring together scholars working on diplomacy from different historical periods and from different disciplines across the social sciences and humanities. It links the study of diplomacy across the early modern, modern and post-modern eras, and tests the application of investigative concepts across space and time, inviting comparisons across both geographical regions and historical periods.

All proposals exploring the study of diplomacy from historical, theoretical, emotional, sensory, artistic, spatial and temporal perspectives are welcome. Please send a draft title and 500-word (max.) synopsis to NewDH4@cas.au.dk

Deadline for proposals: 1 November 2020

Conference fee: 130 euro (covers lunch, coffee, tea and conference dinner)

Note on COVID-19: We want to go ahead with our conference as originally planned. However, due to ongoing uncertainties regarding COVID-19, the conference organizers will decide in January 2021 whether to continue with an on-location conference, whether to go digital or postpone the conference till May 2022. Everyone will be informed of the decision at that point. No fees are payable before a decision has been reached. Thank you for your patience! Should the conference be postponed

till 2022, all paper submissions will be carried over to the new date and all participants will have the opportunity to update/adapt/cancel their participation.

www.newdiplomatichistory.org

Follow us on Twitter at @NDH_Network

The New Diplomatic History network launched its own journal, *Diplomatica: A Journal of Diplomacy and Society*, in 2019. The journal welcomes submissions from all scholars active in the study of diplomacy from a historical perspective. More details can be found at: <https://brill.com/view/journals/dipl/dipl-overview.xml>

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