



Syracuse London Symposium

Women in Diplomacy

‘Diplomacy’ refers to the management of foreign affairs. Formal diplomats are officially named by governments: they’re people like ambassadors, and are the traditional focus of international political scholars. But more recently, theorists have begun thinking about the *informal* ways that everyday people interact...and how those more local interactions help to shape international relations. ‘Tracks’ of diplomacy refer to different levels and sectors through which global issues are impacted. Whatever sector you’re interested in, that field has an effect on international relations — and so do gender issues within it. *Choose your track to explore more.*

Track Pass: **BUSINESS**

Business & Economic Diplomacy

The business sector interacts with diplomacy in many ways. Corporations hold a great deal of sort power, and their employees are often unofficial representatives of home countries when working abroad. States also use economic tools as part of their toolkit for official diplomacy.

- The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) sponsors a “Work and Opportunities for Women” (WOW) programme to support gender equity and stability around the world.
- Many major international treaties deal with economic and trade policy.

Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



In 2021, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala became Director-General of the WTO: the first woman and first African to hold the role.

She worked as a development economist at the World Bank, served twice as Nigeria’s Finance Minister, and was on Twitter’s Board of Directors.

Economic Diplomacy Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

Apple's market cap is bigger than ____'s GBP.

- a. Australia
- b. Indonesia
- c. Mexico

The first woman elected as president of the European Commission began her term in ____.

- a. 1958
- b. 1993
- c. 2018

Which business has had a female CEO?

- a. Best Buy
- b. Dick's Sporting Goods
- c. CVS
- d. General Motors

The North American Free Trade Agreement is an economic diplomacy measure currently in force.

- a. True
- b. False

International Careers Panellists

Becca Farnum is an environmental peacebuilding specialist. Past projects have involved drafting legal articles with Ambassador Marie Jacobsson for the International Law Commission; running a training program on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and serving a stint in the Obama White House.

Alison Hook is the co-founder of Hook Tangaza, a consultancy on global business infrastructure. Alison has previously served as Director of International at the Law Society of England and Wales; before that, she worked in multiple countries for the European Commission and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Carol M. Graham has a long career in international education. Carol was the first woman, first American, and first ethnic minority Executive Director of UK Fulbright Commission. She was later appointed by the Foreign Office to the Marshall Scholarships Commission, where she served for six years.

Shiva Marvasti is an Economic Officer at the US Embassy in London covering British fiscal and monetary policy issues. She has previously focused on Mexico, Ecuador, and Turkey. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Shiva worked in corporate finance for General Electric. She speaks fluent Farsi and Spanish.

Brainstorm a question for our panel about their experiences in international careers and/or gendered issues in global affairs.
