



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:

FASHION

Fashion Diplomacy

From royals to presidents, political leaders have often been fashion icons. And fashion industry supply chains rely on good international relations.

- Sartorial choices can express political ideas. Elizabeth II created quite a stir with an outfit featuring EU colours during the Brexit drama.
- Human rights abuses in the textile industry are a huge concern; some countries are using diplomacy to try and improve conditions.
- War ('failed diplomacy') influences fashion at least as much as peace. The First World War disrupted a lot of social norms, including gender roles. As part of that, women started wearing trousers to work for the first time!

Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



Emma Watson has used her fame to campaign for sustainable fashion, and leveraged those roles for further political action.

In May 2014, she was appointed a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador; she later began consulting for the G7 on foreign policy and women's rights.

Fashion Diplomacy Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

In which year did Chanel name its first Black fragrance ambassador?

- a. 1910
- b. 1997
- c. 2023

The Harry S. Truman Building in DC (home to the US Dept of State) hosted a fashion show in ____.

- a. 1941
- b. 1997
- c. 2018

Which fashion leader has been criticised for her liaison with a German diplomat in the Nazi era?

- a. Coco Chanel
- b. Jeanne Paquin
- c. Elsa Schiaparelli

Sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine are also hurting Italian fashion brands.

- 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.
