



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: FILM & TV

# Cultural Diplomacy

Cultural diplomacy is a form of soft power. Artistic exchange can foster mutual understanding. Film and TV are particularly powerful in shaping stories.

- A huge number of people, including refugees, learn a language by watching television.
- Hollywood ‘exports’ American values and ideas through its domination of global media. Many countries try to regulate this influence by blocking certain films and/or creating their own, but internet streaming makes it much harder for states to have full control.
- Famous actors and actresses often use their celebrity status to campaign for various global issues, at home and abroad.

## Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



Eva Perón (Evita) was an Argentine actress and politician who used her fame to call for labor rights and women’s suffrage.

In 1947, Eva met with various dignitaries on her “Rainbow Tour” around Europe to improve her country’s relations with the UN and US.

# Cultural Diplomacy Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

Even when playing 'boss' characters, women are \_\_ times more likely to be naked on screen than men.

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4

The first female director to win an Oscar was awarded for which war-time movie?

- a. Dunkirk
- b. The Hurt Locker
- c. War Horse

*Lightyear* (yes, the *Toy Story* Buzz movie) was banned in \_\_\_ countries for its lesbian kiss.

- a. 3
- b. 8
- c. 15

Which actress has served as a US Ambassador?

- a. Melissa Gilbert
- b. Cynthia Nixon
- c. Shirley Temple

# 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.

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