



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:

GOVERNMENT

Official Government Diplomacy

Diplomacy is the main instrument of foreign policy with a wide variety of tools. Formal diplomacy is carried out by sanctioned state representatives attempting to influence international events. The 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations laid out a framework for professional diplomacy.

- Diplomatic missions (like embassies and consulates) are a key platform for countries to hold influence around the world.
- Treaties are the most formal kind of friendly agreement between countries; official diplomats help to negotiate their contents.
- Coercive tools like sanctions are also used to shape other states' actions, though there is disagreement over how 'diplomatic' they are!

Spotlight: Women in Diplomacy



Susan Rice was the US Ambassador to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. She also served as National Security Advisor to Obama.

During her time as a Rhodes Scholar, Rice earned degrees in International Relations from Oxford.

Track 1 (Official) Diplomacy Quiz

Try to answer without Googling!

Hint: there might be some trick questions. 😊

Who was the first female ambassador in Europe?

- a. Catherine of Aragon
- b. Gertrude Bell
- c. Mary Boleyn

A 'marriage bar' prevented married women from roles in the UK Foreign Service until ____.

- a. 1944
- b. 1957
- c. 1973

~ ____% of the women's ambassadors are women.

- a. 10
- b. 20
- c. 40

Which of these countries has named the greatest percentage of official women ambassadors?

- a. France
- b. Germany
- c. South Africa
- d. United Kingdom

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.
